



10 Tips for Creating a Virtual Heritage Fair Project:

The Virtual Heritage Fair is slightly different from in-person Heritage Fairs. Please remember that the judges cannot ask questions directly and that they can only see what you give them.

Any student in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 can do a Heritage Fairs project. This Tip Sheet is for anyone who wants to create a Heritage Fairs project.

- 1 You can pick any topic relating to Canada!** You can decide to research anything relating to Canada: famous people, history, your family, sports, arts, nature, politics, favourite places, etc. You can also choose to do a project on a country that you/your ancestors came from, or the connections between another country and Canada. ***Check out [photos of past years' projects for ideas!](#)***
- 2 Do not be afraid to research online!** There are many reputable sites online that share information about Canadian heritage, culture, people, etc. Many museums and historic sites have online content as well. Feel free to cite these as sources. However, be careful about what websites you use! It is very easy to get published online. ***Always check out multiple sources and check the publication dates, both online and off. Check out [Heritage Saskatchewan's resources at the bottom of this list.](#)****
- 3 You can use whatever you have at home to create your project!** You do not need to have a backboard. You can build a model or construct your display at home. You can use a bookshelf, kitchen counter, bed, stairs, or anything else as a backdrop for a display. If you want to keep your project firmly in the virtual realm, you can create a presentation using PowerPoint or other similar software.
- 4 Have fun building models!** (If you want to and if you think it works with your topic.) You can use LEGO, dolls/action figures, stuffed animals, etc., as well as making it out of homemade materials. If you have cardboard boxes, you could use these. Be creative! Remember to be respectful of your topic.
- 5 You can be yourself!** You can decide how formal you want your project to be. If you are not comfortable creating a video, you do not have to do so (unless your teacher makes it a requirement). You can choose not to appear in your video. You can dress up as much as you want. You can be funny or whimsical as well, as long as you respect your topic.
- 6 You do not have to have things working perfectly.** Your video might be jittery. There might be a messy kitchen or a pet in the background of your photo. Your model might not be how you initially designed it. You can make stick-figure drawings.
- 7 You can choose how much you want to do!** There are a variety of categories for the Virtual Heritage Fair. If you just want to create a display, you can enter in the "Photo Only" category. If you want to write a paper, you can enter in the "Written Work Only" category. If you want to do a mix of both or include other non-video elements, you can enter in the "Non-Video Presentation" category. If you want to create a video presentation, you can enter in the "Video Presentation Category".

8. **Do not be intimidated by other projects!** This is a good rule for any type of Heritage Fair. Everyone has access to different things. Everyone has different skills. Some topics are easier to make fancier than others.
9. **You can still work in partners!** You can work in pairs or by yourself. Keep in mind that you will have to coordinate doing the project together, especially if you are not doing it as part of your class. You do not both have to appear in your video. You can split the work so that one person does a paper and the other does a display. Make sure to keep the work as equitable as possible. Partners can be in different grades and can even attend different schools!
10. **You can do a project as a family!** Siblings and/or cousins can choose to each do their own project or work together as partners. You can collaborate on each other's projects as well. Please note: each project will be evaluated at the grade level of the oldest student involved.
11. **Bonus Tip - You could do a family history project!** Even if you cannot visit relatives, you can interview them by phone. You might have old photo albums (physical or online). Maybe someone in your family has started an online genealogy project. This would be a great project for a family to do together.

You can also do things that you would not be able to do for the regular Heritage Fairs! Your project can be as large or small as you want – no size restrictions! You can make food with your family and include a photograph of it. Your whole family can be involved as helpers, especially younger or older siblings. You can also do artwork, poetry, or a short story along with your project.

****Heritage Saskatchewan has the following resources on our website (heritagesask.ca):***

- *Heritage Fairs Toolkit Booklet* (available for [free download](#))
- Flickr albums of past projects (keep in mind that these were not done entirely from home)
 - o <https://www.flickr.com/photos/heritagesk/albums>
- List of resources and links
 - o https://heritagesask.ca/heritagefairs/research_resources
- Tip Sheets for Researching, Designing, and Presenting a Heritage Fairs project (intended for the traditional Heritage Fairs program, but much of the advice is applicable virtually as well)
 - o <https://heritagesask.ca/heritagefairs/teachersandstudents/resources>