



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2005 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Sarah H. Roberts	Project Number J1127
Project Title Is Sunscreen SPF for Real?	
Abstract Objectives/Goals Evaluate the amount of UVA penetration when using different sun protection factor (SPF) sunscreens. Methods/Materials Using a UVA monitor, the UVA reduction was measured as four different SPF sunscreens were applied to glass plates. Results The greater the sunscreen SPF, the less UVA penetrated the glass plate. Lower SPF sunscreens (SPF 8 and 15) did not perform as well as their SPF rating would suggest. The higher SPF sunscreens (SPF 30 and 50) met or exceeded the expected UVA reduction. Conclusions/Discussion All tested sunscreen products did provide some degree of UVA protection. SPF 30 and 50 sunscreens performed as their labels advertised, providing the best protection against UVA penetration. The difference in UVA reduction between SPF 30 and 50 was minimal.	
Summary Statement This project evaluated which sun protection factor (SPF) sunscreen best protects your skin from ultraviolet A radiation.	
Help Received Science teacher provided precision scale; parents purchased materials and assisted with trials; father assisted with spreadsheets; mother assisted with board assembly.	