

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2010 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Reiley A. Akkari

Project Number

J0602

Project Title

What's Your Reaction?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My objective was to find out if colored paper, as a background, affects the speed of kindergartners' identification of pictures on the paper.

Methods/Materials

I drew pictures on 4 different colored papers (white, sky blue, red and neon green). Then, I timed 70 kindergartners' reactions on each colored sheet and recorded their time. I did 3 trials on each student (4 sheets, 3 trials and 70 kindergartners) totaling 840 recordings. I used a stopwatch, a table, a graph sheet, pencil, a quiet room and 2 chairs.

Results

I found that white (my control) was the fastest in the students' reaction times.

Sky blue was next fastest, then red then neon green was the slowest.

Conclusions/Discussion

My hypothesis was incorrect. The background colored paper did affect the speed of the kindergartners' reaction. I found in my research that neon green and red were the slowest because they are both distracting colors. Sky blue was not the fastest either because it is a relaxing color. White was my control, and I compared the other colors to it. Now, I know why teachers use white paper for worksheets.

Summary Statement

My project is about how background colored paper affects kindergartners' speed in identifying pictures.

Help Received

My mom helped me by getting signatures and the use of her students and classroom.