

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2004 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0308

Project Title

Remember... What?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

To determine who has superior short term memory, boys or girls between the ages of 11 to 14.

Methods/Materials

I first designing the short-term memory test devised of 20 random pictures. I set the test up by allowing the experimental subjects to view the random pictures for only 30 seconds. After that they would have to rely on their short-term memory to recall what they had just seen. I then set out to put the test in action. My goal was to have 100 girls and 100 boys take the test to determine who had superior short-term memory. I felt that a random sample of 200 children would be sufficient data to base my conclusion on. Therfore, my materials included 200 short-term memory test answer sheets, 10 short-term memory tests, 10 pens, a stop watch and of course 200 children.

Results

Girls averaged 9.87 pictures remembered Boys averaged 7.52 pictures remembered

Conclusions/Discussion

Girls from the ages of 11 to 14, on the average, have superior short-term memory, compared to boys. Girls remembered 12% more pictures than boys. Although the pictures amount of viewing time, 30 seconds, remained constant, the location of where the randomly chosen 200 children varied. From the park, to the shopping center, to their homes, the results concluded that the surrounding environment didn't change the majority remembered pictures for boys and girls. Although girls did have superior short-term memory, on the average, the children only remembered half of the pictures presented.

Summary Statement

My project is to determine who has superior short-term memory, boys or girls, between the ages of 11 to 14.

Help Received

My mother took me to the varying locations to administer the experiments. She also helped me keep organized and helped with the title of the project.