



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2004 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> Shanley K. McDonald	<b>Project Number</b> <b>S0317</b>
<b>Project Title</b> <b>Color? Black and White? Which One Do Children Recall the Best?</b>	
<b>Abstract</b> <b>Objectives/Goals</b> This project tested the short-term visual memory of children at the elementary school level. The purpose of this experiment was to determine how well children recall color or black and white pictures and if this is affected by age or gender. <b>Methods/Materials</b> I tested both boys and girls from grades first through fifth. Each child looked at ten black and white images for twenty seconds. I then took the pictures away and had them write down as many images they could recall. The process was then repeated with color pictures. <b>Results</b> Older age didn't affect the results. Fourth grade boys and girls remembered both color and black and white pictures the best, instead of the fifth graders. Gender did seem to affect the results. Girls remembered both black and white and color pictures better than boys. Color images were, overall, remembered the most, in comparison to the black and white pictures. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> I believe that color pictures were remembered better due to all of the color detail. The details, according to my research, help the individuals retain information about each image. I also think that girls remembered more images overall because they tend to be, sometimes, more focused in school than boys are. But, lastly, I'm not sure as to why fourth graders remembered more pictures than other grades.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> My project is about short-term visual memory in elementary school aged children.	
<b>Help Received</b> Mother drove me to and from the Elementary school to perform surveys	