CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
J2201

Project Title
Can Chickens See Color?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
My objective was to determine if chickens see color.

Methods/Materials
Method-
Step 1: paint three different feeding areas;one red, one blue, and one green
Step 2: set up the feeding areas in a large space
Step 3: put a food bowl in each area with some type of chicken food(each bowl has the same type of food in it)
Step 4: release chicken into large space with feeding areas in it
Step 5: observe which color the chicken goes to and record data
Do this every day for three weeks, making sure to move the colors around for each trial
Step 6: after three weeks, look over data to see which color the chicken went to most and if there is a pattern

Materials:
-a chicken
-food bowls
-three separate feeding areas
-blue paint
-green paint
-red paint

Results
At first, the chickens were unsure of their new feeding environment, but by the end of the experiment, the chickens had established a preference for the red colored feeding area. Out of forty-five trials, they chose red twenty-six times, green ten times, and blue nine times.

Conclusions/Discussion
In this project, I tested to see if color affects a chicken's appetite. My hypothesis was that color would affect their appetite and that they would like red the most. My hypothesis was correct. The chicken's appetite was affected by color and they liked red the best.

Summary Statement
The purpose of my project was to determine if chickens see color.

Help Received
Dad helped build feeding areas, Mother helped with supplies for board, and science teacher, Lynn Macy, helped find research on chickens