

Reaction Time

Activity Objectives

- Understand the concept of reaction time
- Understand how various factors can affect an individual's reaction to a stimulus

Instructions

1. Ask students, "What is reaction time?" Give some examples of when we can observe reaction time.
2. Have students hold their hands in front of them, palms facing each other.
3. Explain that they are to clap their hands as close as they can to when you clap yours.
4. Do a few claps.
5. Instead of clapping, reach for your ear or make some other unexpected move.

Observation

How did the students react when you clapped your hands?

How did the students react when you made an unexpected move?

How many students clapped their hands when you made the unexpected move?

Questions

How long did it take you to react appropriately?

Why were some students slower to react than others?

When is quick reaction time important?

When does a pilot need to have fast reaction time?

What can slow down reaction time?