

CURIOSITY AT HOME

REACTION TIME



Our reflexes help us stay safe and alert. Measure your reaction time with this simple activity.

MATERIALS

- one ruler per pair of people
- a wall that is completely flat

PROCEDURE

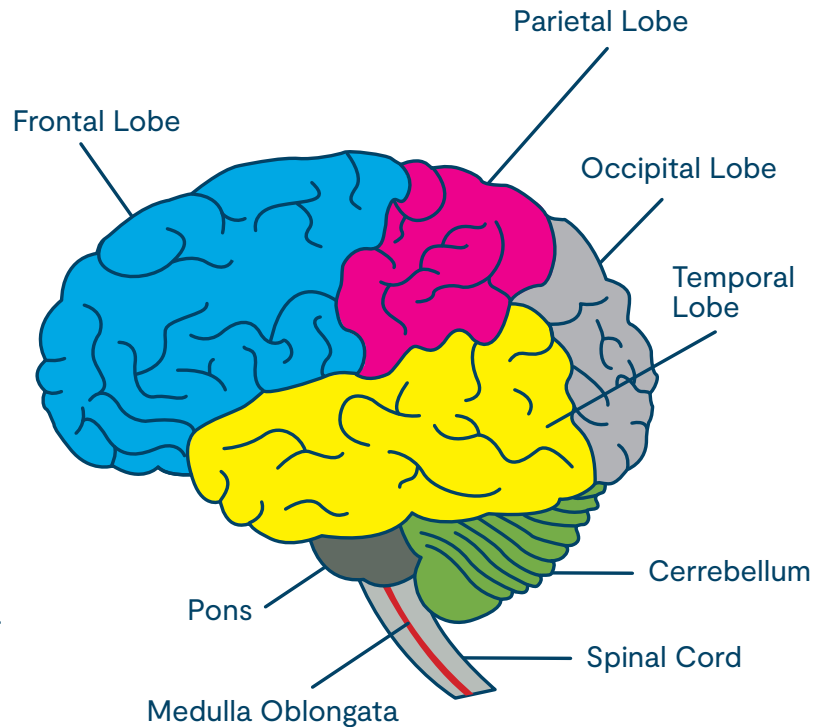
- Have one person place the ruler flat against the wall with the 12" side at the top.
- The second person should hold their finger level with the bottom of the ruler, about half an inch from the wall.
- When the first person lets go of the ruler, the second person should try to stop it between the wall and their finger.
- The shorter the distance the ruler falls, the quicker your reaction time.

TRY THIS

Swap hands, does using your less dominant hand make it harder? If you practice a few times does your reaction time speed up? What happens if you hold your finger farther away from the ruler?

DID YOU KNOW

Human brains are divided into many parts that all work together. A part of the brain called the cerebral cortex is divided into four lobes. These lobes work together to perform many functions. For this activity you must use your occipital lobe to see where the ruler is, your frontal lobe to process where how the ruler is moving, and your parietal lobe to feel the ruler.



Show us how you're being curious! Share your results with us.

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