



## Open-Ended Inquiry Question(s)

How many different sets of information can you collect?

What patterns do you see?

## Process Skill(s)

Measuring, recording, calibrating, comparing, analyzing

## Instructions

Paint sticks are easy to get and often, are free. They are not marked usually so students must transfer centimeter markings to the paint stick from their rulers. Start with 0 at the bottom of the paint stick and have them mark in centimeter intervals to the top of the stick. Stress the importance of doing each test three times to get good results. You can provide or they can make their own data collection table.

Have them do a second test but using their other hand instead. At this point you can discuss all of the different ways that the reaction time test can be done. To give you a few ideas; are girls better than boys? Are older people better than younger people? Etc, etc.

Look for whether students keep a data table for each kind of test and that they do a minimum of three trials each time. And, of course, they must average the three trials to get a good scientific result.

## Curriculum Connections

Investigating the characteristics of parts of the human body, exploring the world around us, collecting information and recording it, looking for patterns.

## The Scenario

Have you ever wondered how fast your reflexes are? Here's a neat activity that you can do to see how fast you can catch a falling paint stick. Have a friend drop the stick three times. Keep track of your average time and then think of ways of measuring different groups of people and compare their average times.