



IN TOUCH: THE CHALLENGE



Challenge yourself and others while learning about the sense of touch and completing a secret mission.

YOUR MISSION:

Today you are going to conduct some important scientific research. As you know, we have 5 senses: vision, smell, taste, hearing, and touch.

TOP SECRET INFORMATION BELOW!

At the SyMoN lab, we have created a superhero - PsyMan. PsyMan has supersenses. The problem is, we need to know how human senses work so we can make him superhuman! This means that we need information about your sense of touch. PsyMan has completed some challenges below. Can you beat PsyMan in the touch challenge? Can you beat the other people you live with? Do you have superhuman senses?

STEP 1.

Find an adult that you trust and ask for their help. Make sure they can keep this secret though!

STEP 2.

Prepare your instruments. You need:

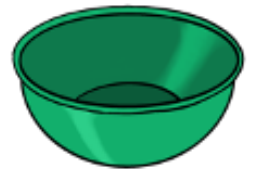
2 bowls

1 cup of uncooked dry rice

1 pair of gloves each

1 stopwatch

Nerves of steel



STEP 3.

Go to the instructions at the end of this document.

THE TOP SECRET RESULTS:

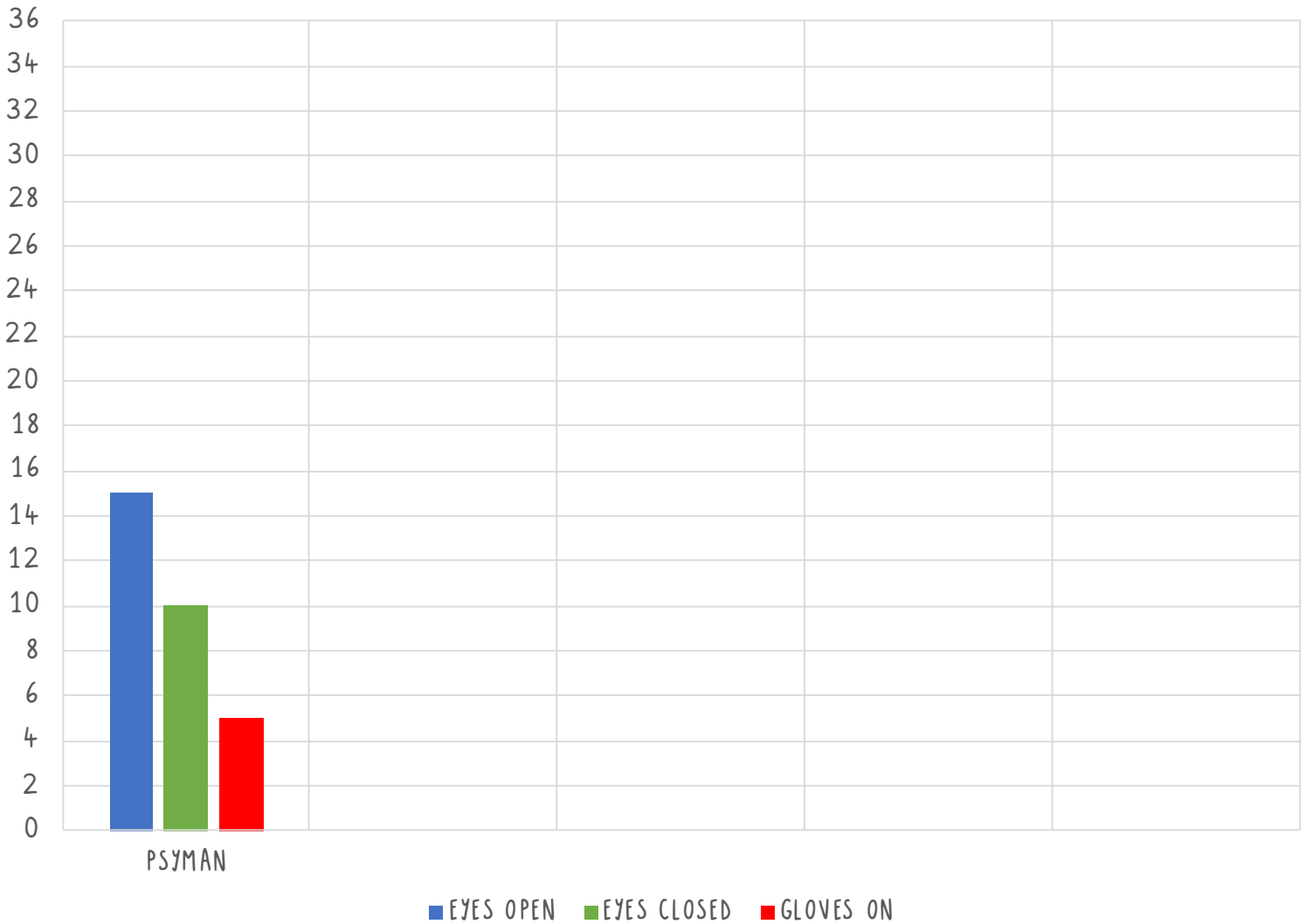
Fill in your results in the table below. Plot these numbers on the blank graph on the next page and see how your sense of touch compares to PsyMan!

<u>CHALLENGER</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GRAINS WITH EYES OPEN AND NO GLOVES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GRAINS WITH EYES CLOSED AND NO GLOVES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF GRAINS WITH EYES OPEN AND GLOVES ON</u>
PSYMAN	15	10	5

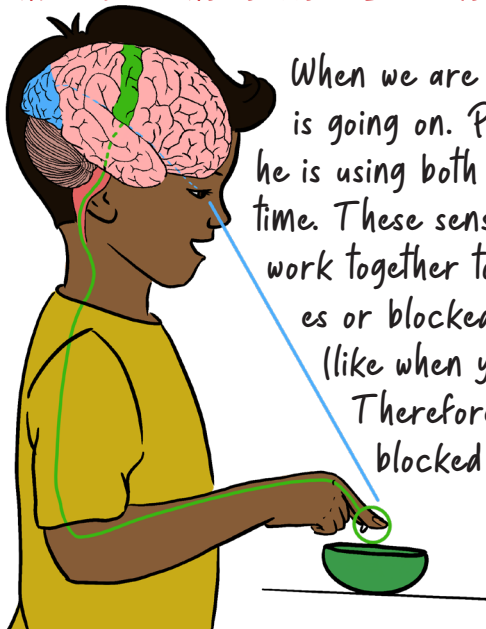
SUPER SECRET SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS

Now you have collected your data for PsyMan. Plot it on the graph below and colour in the bars to see who is better with their eyes open, with their eyes closed, and with gloves on.

NUMBER OF GRAINS PICKED UP IN 30 SECONDS



WHAT DO THESE RESULTS MEAN?



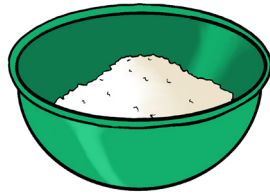
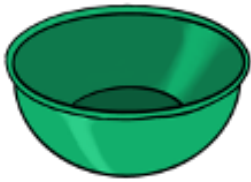
When we are touching things, we use vision as well as touch to decide what is going on. PsyMan picked up more grains with his eyes open because he is using both touch and sight to carefully pick up the rice one grain at a time. These senses are processed by different parts of the brain. These parts work together to make our actions fast and smooth. When one of these senses is blocked (like your sight when you had your eyes closed), or masked (like when you were wearing gloves), you are not as good at the task.

Therefore, we need to make sure that none of PsyMan's senses can be blocked or masked so he can use all his senses at the same time.

YOUR MISSION: INSTRUCTIONS

Hi. My name is Al and together we are going to do an experiment to investigate your sense of touch.

1. Put your bowls side-by-side and put a handful of uncooked dry rice in the one closest to your dominant hand.



2. Get the stopwatch and an adult ready to time you for 30 seconds

3. As quickly as you can pick up one grain of rice at a time (yes, just one) and transfer them one at a time to the empty bowl.

Make sure you only pick up one at a time - it's super hard!



4. Count how many grains you got and put the result in the table on page 1.

5. Repeat steps 1-4 but this time make sure your eyes are closed.



6. Repeat steps 1-4 again but this time with your eyes open and wearing gloves. Now this will be really hard to make sure you only get one grain at a time!

7. Plot your data on the graph and see who can beat psyman!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING PSYMAN!