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|  | After thirteen days of subjecting the mice to trial runs in the maze, our results showed that our hypothesis was in fact wrong. Contrary to our belief, the fat group in fact performed the best on the average. Their times were the quickest and most consistent. The protein group followed the fats with the next best overall average times. Their consistency level, though not as commendable as the fats, remained between certain boundaries. After the first two days of adjustment their times never went beyond the two minute mark and went as low as the ten second mark. The balanced group finished third based on the groupings. The group was definitely more inconsistent timewise. They started off slow as the days past. As for the carbohydrates, the group showed a strong lack of motivation and self-initiation. They often dawdled around, aimlessly searching for nothing. Content with finding nothing, they proceeded to rest in the corner for the remainder of the allotted time (five minutes).  After analyzing our results, we came to several conclusions. The data showed that in the first few days of testing, the overall times of the mice were significantly high. The reason for these higher times comes from the fact that mice are extremely cautious upon arrival in a new environment. They took time to familiarize themselves with their surroundings, and for every three steps forward they probably took two steps back. This is the precision in which they learned their way through the maze, tracing their own footsteps. As the days progressed, the data shows the gradual improvement of time it took for completion of the maze. This parallels the fact that over time mice grow bolder and begin to exploit their new territories.  In England, a few years after the last war, a man by the name of Dr. Crowcroft conducted an experiment that researched how mice went about occupying a house and then organizing the territory. From his experiment, he found that the mice would mark the pathways as well as the limits of their territory with their urine in order to acquire a perfect knowledge of the area. Similar to Dr. Crowcroft's findings, a couple of our mice urinated in the maze to mark their pathways.  As our results started to improve over a succession of a few days, we considered changing the maze, but then on days nine and ten, we were faced with inconsistent results. More than half of the mice more than doubled their average times. We were shocked to find on the tenth day that they had, in fact, regressed. In the end we learned that this was common behavior for certain animals. Evolution has not yet fully programmed their brains to comprehend the object of the maze-in order to leave the maze and return to their cage, they needed to find the cheese.  Even though our results did not concur with our prediction, we can now understand the reasoning behind our results. The carbohydrate group performed the worst because they were given little and or no protein and fats. The result was decreased mental alertness and endurance due to excessive amounts of carbohydrates. The balanced group came in a close second to last because a large amount of their diet was based on carbohydrates. The same conclusions can be mad with the exception of a little more protein and dietary fat, their times were slightly improved. The proteins ended up being the second best group and this might be related to the fact that they were receiving their essential amino acids which allowed for quicker chemical responses. We believe the fats group performed the best because fats have twice the energy of the other groups. With this balance of stored energy combined with a small amount of protein, they were able to reach the optimum nutritional balance of all the groups. The diet of the fat group consisted largely on high-energy foods which stimulated the hormones in the body which in turn improved the neurological responses in the brain. |

*This Web Site is Best viewed with 256 or more colors.*

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