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|  | **Set-up**  We bought twelve young, female mice from the pet store and separated the mice into four different groups of three mice each that would be fed different diets. Three mice were put into a cage and fed a diet of carbohydrates which consisted of corn, alfalfa, and dried fruits. Three more mice were put into a cage and fed a diet which consisted of fats: peanuts, and black and white sunflower seeds. Another group of three mice were fed proteins, which included: lab blocks, barley, dog food, and dog biscuits. The remaining three mice were fed a balanced diet. After doing some research on a mouse's digestive system, we learned that it was necessary to give the mice at least one week to adjust to their new diets before subjecting them to maze trials. We chose to work with only female mice because it would serve as a control, and there would be no risk of pregnancy that might affect our reults. In addition, female mice tend to live more peacefully with one another in comparison to male mice. Each group was given one half a tablespoon of balanced food and two and one half tablespoons of either carbohydrates, fats, proteins, or more balanced. This was to ensure that our mice would not be malnourished. By controlling the amounts of each type of food the mice received we were able to affect their dietary patterns, thus producing different results.  Mice are nocturnal so we chose to perform the maze trials at night. Every night between 8 and 8:30p.m. we would put each mouse into the maze and record the time it took for each to complete the maze. A plastic cover was placed over the maze so that the mice could not climb out, forcing them to run through the maze. The pattern of the maze was consistent throughout the thirteen days of trials. After all the mice had gone through the maze once, we cleaned and fed the cages which took place between 9 and 9:30p.m. every night. After a full 24 hours of play and rest the mice were once again taken to the bathroom where they were put to work in the maze. |

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

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