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|  | **EXPERIMENT:**  We bought eight young, female mice from the pet store and separated the mice into four different groups of two mice that would listen to different music. Two mice were put into a cage and listened to classical music for twelve hours in the daytime. Two more mice were put into a cage and listened to jazz music during the same time. Another pair listened to hard rock, while the fourth group was the control and listened to natural sounds of a home. After doing some research on mice care, we placed the cages in four different rooms of two different houses. In doing this, we had to be especially careful on maintaining a similar room temperature, between 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. 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 results. Unbeknownst to us, two of our mice were already impregnated in the pet store. The fact that two of our mice were mothers was an obvious variable we had to include in our conclusion. Also, female mice tend to live more peacefully with one another in comparison to more aggressive male mice. Each pair listened to their music from seven in the morning to seven at night. This was to ensure that their environments were exactly the same except for the music that they listened to.  Mice are nocturnal so we chose to perform the maze trials at night. With their sensitive white whiskers, the mice could feel objects and find their way through the narrow passageways of the maze, even at night. Before we began the experiment we read that the mice need to be comfortable with their surroundings before accurate results can be obtained. They were allowed one week to establish themselves and then we ran all the mice through, before the music, so that we would know how much they were improving. Every other night, between 8 and 8:30pm we would put each mouse into the maze and record the time it took each mouse to complete the maze. A plastic cover was placed over the maze so that the mice could not climb out, forcing them to explore the maze. As an incitement to reach the finish, the mice were not given food to eat an hour before the maze runs. The pattern of the maze was consistent throughout the 20 days of 10 trials. After the mice completed the maze, a juicy piece of cheddar cheese awaited the hungry creatures as their reward. The mice rested for 48 hours and listened to 12 hours of music a day (or natural sounds for the control) before running the maze again. This process continued for a total of 10 trials. |

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

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