

Biology Bricks Activity

Opposable Thumbs

We pride ourselves on our ability to do things with our thumbs. For example, and in this experiment, tying a shoelace.

Let's experiment with that for a moment and see what we can figure out.

You will need:

- *Duct tape*
- *Shoelace*
- *Stopwatch*



Instructions

1. Place the shoelace on a table in front of you. Use the stopwatch to time you when you tie the shoelace. Tie it in a bow, and place it back on the table.
2. Use the duct tape to tape your thumbs to the rest of your hand. This simulates not being able to use the thumb as we do.
3. Repeat step 1 without using your thumbs. How long is the difference in time?

Extension

How many activities would we not be able to do without the help of the opposable thumb? How about eyesight? Try using just one eye at the time to see if that is any different. Scientists have proved that we have better hand-eye co-ordination with our eyes situated with a little gap. Without one of them, we have poorer vision.