

Number Recognition

Teacher's notes

Aim

To compare the accuracy of estimating the numbers of dots arranged in a random pattern to those arranged in a regular pattern.

Objective

Pupils have a go at guessing the number of dots they are shown for a short time. The dots may be arranged in an easily recognisable pattern or may be unpatterned.

Pupils can then retrieve their data and compare their guesses about the two different arrangements of dots.

Carrying out the online experiment

Click on the experiment icon to start.

Login to the online experiment by entering the LEA and school code. (These are available from your school or can be requested from us.)

'Submit'. 'Next'.

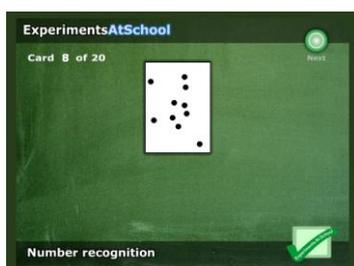


Pupils then complete a pop up page with their age and gender. **'Next'.**

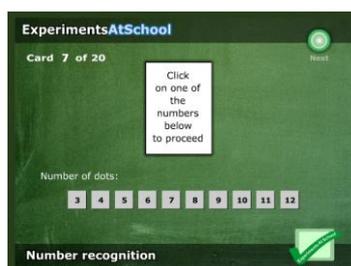
It is a good idea to give pupils a project code. This will enable you to retrieve your pupils' data. **'Next'.**

Now you are ready to start. Follow the instructions on the website.

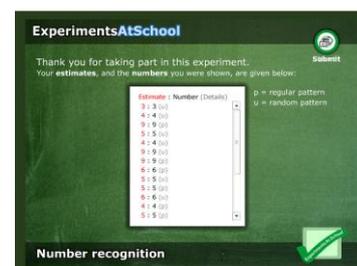
The data is recorded as the number of correct guesses for patterned (P) and unpatterned (U).



Dots are shown for a short time.



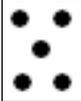
Pupils click on the number of dots they think they saw.



Results will be shown in a table

Possible investigations

Is it simpler to recognise dots in a pattern?

e.g.  as 5 dots rather than unpatterned dots e.g.  as 5 dots?

Is it harder when given larger numbers?

Compare versions of 1-10 with 3-12 (make sure they have the same time lapse).

Are girls better at recognising patterns of numbers than boys?

Compare data from any version of the experiment done by boys and girls.

Are younger people better at recognising numbers than older people?

Compare data from any version of the experiment done by people of different ages.