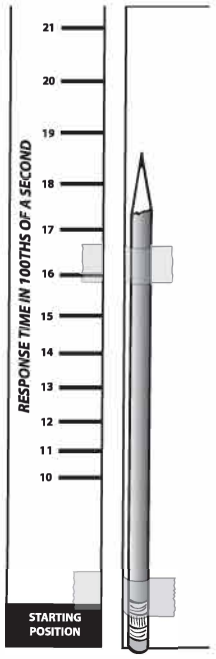
HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION A

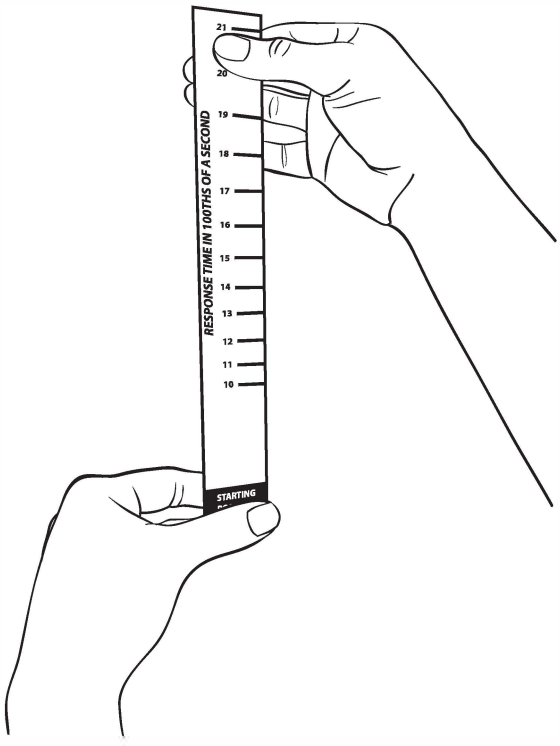
Investigation 4: Sensory Systems



It is possible to find out how quickly you can respond to a visual stimulus by using a response timer. Tape a pencil to the back of the response timer (paper/strips), as shown in the illustration. The eraser end of the pencil should be flush with the starting-position end of the strip.

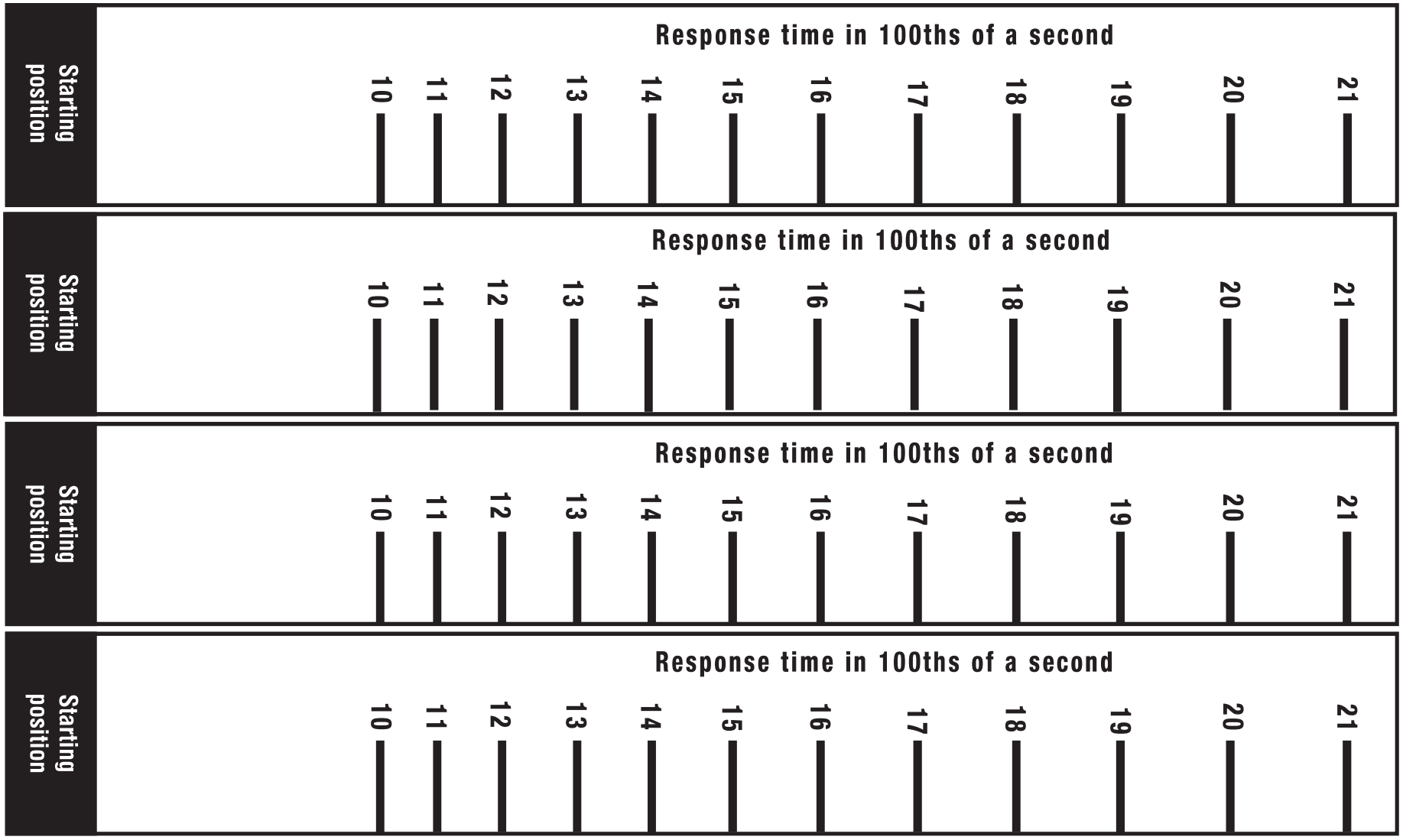
To use the timer, you need two people.

1. One person holds up the timer by the top of the paper strip.
2. A second person, the catcher, positions her or his fingers over the words "starting position," ready to catch the response time the instant it begins to fall.
3. When the catcher sees the strip start to fall, he or she catches it and notes the number under his or her thumb. The number represents the number of 100ths of a second it took to respond.
4. Record on the record sheet your response times for five trials with both your left and right hands. Average the results to get your average response time.
5. Compare the response times for your left and right hands. Explain why you think one hand responds faster than the other.



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION B

Investigation 4: Sensory Systems



HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION C

Investigation 4: Sensory Systems

Find out how fast your hand can respond. Start with a visual stimulus. Test your left and right hands five times. Record your response time after each drop.

Stimulus _____

Response _____ hand

Drop	Time
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Average _____

Stimulus _____

Response _____ hand

Drop	Time
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Average _____

Calculate the average response time for each hand. Write the averages on the lines under the totals.

Which hand had the faster response time? _____

Explain why you think that hand responded faster.

_____

_____

_____