



Challenger's Morning Science Segment:

November 6, 2017

Topic: Depth Perception

Build: Test your eye

Credit:

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/thread-needle>

Materials Needed: pencil / washer with a center diameter slightly bigger than a pencil / modeling clay

Test your eye: Using the modeling clay, make a small handle for the washer to easily hold the washer on its edge. While extending your arms, hold your washer assembly in one hand and the pencil in the other hand. The washer edge, not the center hole, should be facing you. Next, close one eye and try to thread the pencil through the washer hole. Open both eyes and try to thread the pencil again. Did you succeed with one eye open or with two?

The science: [<https://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/thread-needle>]

The use of two eyes helps your brain process living in a 3D world. Your brain uses "the very slight difference between what your left eye sees and what your right eye sees" to determine distance and depth. That is why you are more likely to thread the pencil thru the washer with both eyes open versus using only one eye.

Upcoming at the Challenger Learning Center of Maine: Challenger's December Vacation Camp is open for registration. Camp will run Dec 27-29 and is open for grades K-5. Don't miss out on this awesome science camp! Sign up now to secure a spot. FMI- www.astronaut.org