QUICK_STEPS
SMALL LEARNING UNITS - QUICK SUCCESS

Small Learning Unit (SLU)

Easy Distance Guessing at an Arm's Length

Learning outcomes:

Participants will learn to fairly accurately guess distances from them to any object in less than five seconds. Source: http://www.lomography.de/magazine/245882-easy-distance-guessing-at-an-arms-length

Step 1 / Attraction

Make a bet that you can measure distances without a measuring tape. Pretend that all you need are two eyes, one arm, and one thumb; preferably a thumb that is attached to the same arm.

Step 2 / Content and Conditions

Derived from the general physical features of almost all human beings, your arm is roughly 10 times longer than the distance between your two eyes. By applying this distance scaling factor to some simple trigonometry, you can quickly and easily calculate distances from you. All you have to do is wink each eye while sighting your distant object along your extended arm and thumb.

Step 3 / Action

1. Chose an object
2. Hold your arm out in front of you. Make a fist and point your thumb up in the air.
3. Close the eye that is opposite your extended arm, sight down your arm, and align one edge of your thumb with the side of the object.
4. Don't move your head, thumb, or arm and now open your closed eye and close the other eye. Your thumb should move or "jump" sideways from the sighting that you made in Step 2.
5. Now make a judgment of how far your thumb travelled away from the object`s side. E.g. 40cm
6. Multiply that distance by our previously stated arm length-versus-eye distance value of 10. The result is 400cm or 4 metres.

Step 4 / Feedback and Response

Take a measuring tape and check whether you are close to what you have guessed

Step 5 / Resume and Share

Try again or make a bet with a friend. Find out who is closest to the actual result

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