

Animals Including Humans

Growth, life stages & reaction time



1. What are the stages of a human life, from birth to old age?

Humans pass through **infancy**, **childhood**, **adolescence**, **adulthood** and **old age** as they develop.

- Unlike most animals, humans have a long period of childhood before adulthood.
- Each life stage brings different changes to the body.



3. What changes happen during adolescence and adulthood?

Adolescence (which includes puberty) is one stage of change on the way to **adulthood**.

- The body keeps changing throughout adult life, not just in childhood.
- Every human body follows this same broad sequence of stages.

2. How do we grow and change during infancy and childhood?

Growth is fastest in **infancy**, then continues more steadily through **childhood**.

- We can survey and compare heights across our class to see this variation.
- Growth rates vary between individuals, even at the same age.

Child	Age (years)	Height (cm)	Change since last year (cm)	What we notice
Ava	8	126.5	4.5	Ava has grown 4.5 cm since last year.
Ben	8	129.0	5.0	Ben has grown 5.0 cm since last year.
Chloe	9	134.5	4.0	Chloe has grown 4.0 cm since last year.

4. What is a reflex, and how is it different from reaction time?

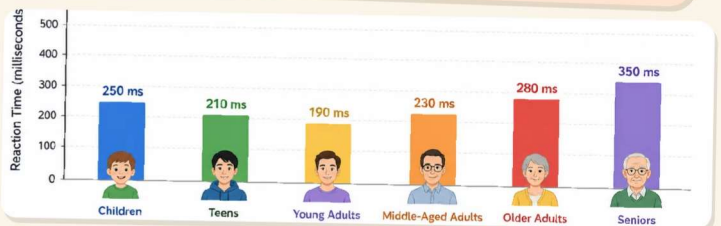
A **reflex** is an automatic response we can't control; **reaction time** is how fast we respond to something on purpose.

- Blinking or pulling your hand from something hot are reflexes.
- Catching a dropped ruler tests your reaction time.

5. Our Big Question: how does age affect a human's reaction time?

We test **reaction time** across different age groups to look for a pattern.

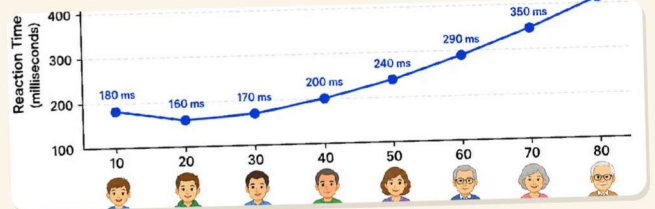
- We keep the test method identical for every age group — that makes it a **fair test**.
- We only change the age of the person being tested.



6. Greater Depth: why might reaction time change with age?

Our nervous system and muscles develop through childhood, then can gradually slow in older age.

- This is why reaction time often improves through childhood, then can decline later in life.
- Practice and alertness can also affect an individual's reaction time.



7. TAPS: How do we write up growth & reaction time?

FAIR TEST

Our TAPS write-up combines our **growth survey** with our reaction-time **fair test**: does age affect a human's reaction time?

- Question → **prediction** → variables (independent / control / dependent).
- Materials → **method** → carry out the test → **results** → **conclusion**.

Reaction Time vs Age

We tested our reaction time using a ruler drop test. Each person tried it three times and we calculated their average.

Results Table

Age (years)	Average Reaction Time (seconds)	What we noticed
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Graph: Reaction Time vs Age



What did we find?

KEY VOCABULARY

infancy childhood adolescence adulthood old age growth reflex reaction time fair test
independent variable conclusion

SKILLS I'LL USE

- Survey & measure growth data
- Plan & carry out fair tests independently
- Record data in tables & graphs
- Report findings with scientific evidence
- **GD**: explain results across different age groups