

Lab: Trigger Timing and Speed of Trap Closure in the Venus Flytrap

Name _____ Per _____ Date _____

Purpose: to determine if trigger timing affects the speed of Venus Flytrap closure

Materials: Venus Flytrap plants, pencil, stopwatch

Procedure:

1. Examine a Venus Flytrap carefully and locate the trigger hairs on the trap.
2. You will be given a time interval to wait between touching a trigger hair twice. Touch one trigger hair once, then wait the correct time and touch the trigger hair again. As soon as you touch the trigger hair the second time, use a stopwatch to measure the time it takes the trap to close. Repeat this with as many traps as possible. Record your results.

Trigger Time Delay: _____

Trial #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Closing Time										

3. Find the average closing time from your results.
4. Collect the data from your classmates and make a class data table of Trigger Time versus Closing Time.

Class Results

Trial #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Closing Time										

5. Prepare a graph of the class results on the next page.

Graph:

Questions:

1. What relationship do you find between trigger time and closure time for Venus Flytraps? Explain.
2. What is the trigger time for the fastest trap closing?
3. What survival advantages might this trigger time have for the Venus Flytrap?
4. Did you conduct a fair test? Explain.
5. Describe another question you could explore about a Venus Flytrap and how you could go about testing it.