

Sustrans School Programme

Raise Your Heart Rate



Suitable for: KS2

You will discover what activities you can do at home to raise your heart rate and help keep your heart healthy.

You will need

- Pen
- Paper
- Timer eg clock, watch or phone.

You can do this activity with other people from your household to compare your heart rates.

Extra Activity

You could turn your results into a graph or poster, or take time to research more about how the heart works.



Heart Rate

One thing that you can do to keep your heart healthy is to make it beat faster for around 60 minutes each day.

Your heart is about the size of a pear and it sits in the middle of your chest just to the left. The walls of your heart are made of very strong muscles that pump blood all around your body. Your blood carries all of your oxygen, food, vitamins and minerals that your body needs to move, think, grow and repair itself. At the same time your blood also takes the waste from your body to your lungs, kidneys and liver.

To find out how fast your heart is beating you need to take your pulse and there are two simple ways to do this.

How To Take Your Pulse

1. Take two fingers of your left hand and gently push them against the side of your Adam's Apple (lump on the front of your neck under your mouth).



2. Turn your hand side wards with the thumb at the top. Place two fingers below the thumb onto your wrist.

Use a timer to count how many beats you feel in 30 seconds and then multiply by 2 to get 1 minute. This is your pulse.

Number of beats in 30secs = _____ X 2 = _____ (your pulse)

If you can not find your pulse after a few tries, ask an adult to help you.



Raise Your Heart Rate Activities

Do each of the activities in the table below one at a time for **1 minute**. When you complete each activity take your pulse and record it in the table.

Take a 1 minute break between each activity to let your heart rest. There are some blank spaces for you to come up with your own activity.



ACTIVITY	PULSE
STAND ON ONE LEG FOR 1 MINUTE	
SITTING STILL FOR 1 MINUTE	
DOING STAR JUMPS FOR 1 MINUTE	
SITTING PLAYING A GAME FOR 1 MINUTE	
RUN ON THE SPOT FOR 1 MINUTE	
LIE DOWN FOR 1 MINUTE	
DO PRESS UPS FOR 1 MINUTE	
STAND STILL FOR 1 MINUTE	
HOP ON THE SPOT FOR 1 MINUTE	
DO FORWARD ROLLS FOR 1 MINUTE	

Once you have finished, you can compare the results. Is it what you expected to see? Which activity raised your heart rate the most and the least?



Extra Activity

Here are some things you could do with your results.

Make a poster showing your results

You could choose an activity to help encourage others to keep active. Which activity would you promote to help raise people's heart rate? Can you think of a great slogan?

Produce a graph showing your results.

Mark your X-axis as activity and the Y-axis as your pulse rate.

Keep your heart rate up

Each day that you are at home, do the five activities that raise your heart rate the most

Find out more

Do a research project to find out more about how the heart works. Can you find out any fascinating facts about the heart?

