

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____

Is Homework Good for You?

Note for Teachers

Purpose:

This activity introduces students to concepts of short- and long-term memory. It allows them to interpret brain imaging data from two studies. These studies demonstrated that, in humans, the hippocampus is involved in spatial memory and that tissue density in this region increases with learning. Studies of other organisms support the conclusion that this region of the brain is involved with spatial memory.

Level:

Introductory biology if students have strong reading comprehension and data interpretation skills; Honors/AP

Time:

About 45-50 minutes for students to complete.

Accessing or modifying the activity:

The Harvard website (<http://outreach.mcb.harvard.edu/resources.htm>) offers a version of the activity that your classes can access directly. Alternatively, you can adapt the .ppt version provided and upload it to your own website, or you can have students download the .ppt version from the Harvard website and run it on their own machines.