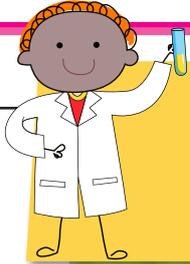




Name ..... Date .....



## Let's Investigate Your Sense of Touch

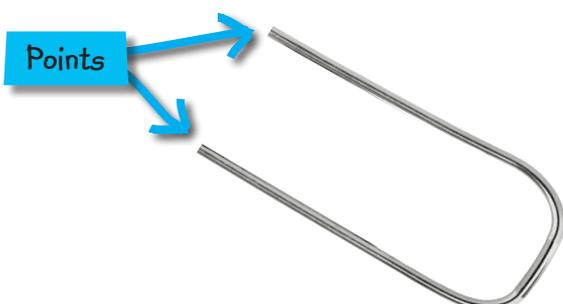


Your sense of touch allows you to feel things with your skin.

Beneath the outer layer of your skin are millions of tiny cells called touch receptors.

**Are some parts of our bodies more sensitive to touch than others? Do we have the same number of touch receptors all over our bodies? Let's investigate!**

**All you need to do this investigation is a paperclip and a friend.**



1. Carefully unbend the paperclip and make it into a U shape.



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2. Ask your friend to close his or her eyes.
3. Gently press the two points of the “U” on different parts of your friend’s body.

Each time you press, ask your friend to tell you how many points (one or two) he or she feels. (Don’t tell your friend that you’re pressing with two points each time.) Record the results on the chart.

### Sense of Touch Test

Body part	Number of points detected
Forehead	
Cheek	
Back	
Thigh	
Inside of arm	
Back of hand	
Fingertip	



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4. Even though you pressed with two points each time, did your friend only feel one point in some places? If so, why do you think this is? .....

.....  
.....

5. Which body parts do you think are most sensitive to touch?

.....  
.....

6. Which body parts are least sensitive to touch?

.....  
.....

**Answers:** Different parts of your body have different amounts of touch receptors in the skin. Your friend probably felt two points on his or her hands. That's because each hand has about 17,000 touch receptors and they are close together. On other parts of our bodies we have fewer touch receptors so they are spaced further apart. This is why your friend might only feel one point on his or her back or leg. The skin on our hands and face is very sensitive, but the skin on other parts of our bodies is less sensitive.