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| LT4: Core StudyHaber and Levin (2001) |
| AO1:Aim: To investigate whether perception is the result of top down or bottom up processing.Procedure:* Nine male college students, who had been tested for good eyesight, were driven out to a large grassy field surrounded on three sides by trees. The field had been divided and prepared into four separate sections.
* The first section was the arrival area and was empty.
* In the second section, the experimenters had placed, at random distances, fifteen real-world objects which have a known size (e.g. a milk bottle, a door).
* In the third section, they placed fifteen real-world objects which could be different sizes (e.g. a Christmas tree and a teddy bear).
* In the fourth section, they had placed upright fifteen cardboard cut-outs of three geometric figures (i.e circles, rectangles, triangles).
* Haber & Levin used a repeated measures design. The students were taken in line to the centre of the field through the empty section and asked face to face one or other section of the field, in groups of three. They had been given clipboards to record their estimates about how far away the objects were. When they had all made their estimates the groups turned in a new direction and repeated the task until they had looked at all 45 objects in all three directions.

Results:* They found the participant’s estimates of distance were most accurate for the real-world objects, which were a standard size. Their estimates were good for both near and far objects. However, their estimates for the other real-world objects and for the cut-out shapes were not so accurate.

Conclusion:* Haber & Levin concluded that it was easier to estimate the distance of familiar objects because the participants were relying on their past experiences. They expected objects such as milk bottles and doors to be certain sizes, and so could work out how far away they were based on their relative size. However, with the other objects they could not use their prior knowledge in the same way. They could not be sure of their size and so could not be sure of their distance.
 | Diagram of Field: |