This activity provides a simulated experiment on weight regulation in rats.

The Hypothalamus
  • What are the two techniques used to study hypothalamic dysfunction? How do they differ?

Experimental Simulation
  • What conclusions were you able to draw about the effects of the following procedures on the experimental rats:
    • Stimulation of the lateral hypothalamus (LH)?
    • Destruction of the LH?
    • Stimulation of the ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH)?
    • Destruction of the VMH?
    • What did you learn from this experiment about these two regions of the hypothalamus?

Some Cautions
  • What are the two problems with a simple conclusion to this research question?