



Parallax Error - Teacher's Notes

Parallax Error

When reading a thermometer, or any other graded instrument, the student's eye has to be level with the part being read. If the eye is above the reading will be too low and vice versa. Always raise or lower the thermometer to be easily and correctly read at eye level. Students working in pairs can quickly observe this error.

Materials per pair

- A ruler

Method

1. Students face each other
2. One student holds the ruler upright and does not move
3. The other holds one hand so that their index finger appears to be pointing at the 15cm reading
4. Without moving their pointing finger, the second student moves their head so their eyes are about 5cm higher and lower than the original position and notes the apparent new readings

