



Lesson Logistics

Learning Outcomes

Grades 7-9	Grades 10-12
Atoms and Elements	Chemical Reactions
	Thermochemistry

Class Organization

As a class or in groups of three to five.

Notes

The activity itself is fairly short and can easily be done several times in a single class period.

The activity itself can be done as a whole class or students can take turns setting up and setting off the chain reaction in groups of three to five.

If students are involved in the construction of the mouse trap set-up, have them break into groups of three to five and have each group construct one of the play-mats.

Further Exploration

This activity can be expanded to incorporate multiple play-mats to show how large and rapid the growth of a chain reaction is.

The reaction can contain a delayed portion by adding a section of tubing between the tiles rather than linking the tiles together directly. This would demonstrate that each step in the reaction may not occur simultaneously.