

Thought Lab 14.2: Testosterone and Male Development

Purpose: Plot and analyze blood testosterone data for male children and young adult males.

Procedure

1. Examine the data in the table below. Graph these data using the type of graph you think is most appropriate.

Normal Blood Testosterone Levels in Males

Age (years)	Blood testosterone level (ng/dL)
1 to 7.9	40
8 to 10.9	42
11 to 11.9	260
12 to 13.9	420
14 to 17.9	1000
18 to 29	1100

2. Based on the data, at what age does puberty begin? Mark this on your graph.
3. Use print or Internet resources to research the physiological changes that take place during male puberty. Write a brief description of the changes that are associated with changing levels of testosterone. Identify which of these changes are directly related to reproductive function.

Analysis

1. Is it possible to use blood hormone data to identify the end of puberty? Explain your answer.

