

TAP 320 - 1: Overlapping ripples



A simple story about one circular set of ripples, frozen in time becomes more complex and challenging when several sources produce overlapping patterns.

Practical advice

This set of images is provided to connect all the theorising about superposition to everyday experiences.

Alternative approaches

Images such as these are not too hard to capture and students might derive considerable pleasure in making some moving images, perhaps in order to discuss superposition.

Social and human context

It may have been images such as these, or more likely raindrops on puddles, that set Huygens off on his train of thought.

External reference

This activity is taken from Advancing Physics chapter 6, display material 40S