

Exploring Learned and Innate Behavior

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Use websites found on the Exploring Learned and Innate Behavior student E-Sheet to respond to the following questions.

Exploring Learned and Innate Behavior E-Sheet:

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/Esheet.cfm?DocID=168>



And Baby Counts Three... Baby Got Math

The researchers sat some babies down in front of two video screens. In one video, two women were saying the word “look.” In the other video, three women were saying the word “look.” How did the babies respond? What did the researchers conclude from the babies’ reactions?

The researchers conducted a similar study with monkeys as subjects. How was this study different from the one with babies? What did the researchers conclude from this experiment?

Do you think the monkeys would have responded the same way if they had been watching the videos with women saying “look”? Why?

What is the difference between innate behavior and learned behavior? What are some examples of each?

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Tool Use

What was so unusual about Jane Goodall's discovery on that October day in 1960?

Would you say the chimpanzee's use of tools was innate or learned behavior? Why?

Communication

What are some of the ways chimpanzees communicate in a group? When have you seen humans communicate this way?

What are some of the ways you have seen humans communicate in order to maintain agreement and assurance within the group?

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So Like Us

List some behavioral similarities between chimpanzees and humans and note which behaviors are innate and which are learned.

What does studying chimpanzees and other animals teach us about ourselves?

Blurring the Line

Why were ethologists so shocked at Jane Goodall's research with chimpanzees?

What does it mean for science that chimps and humans are so much alike?