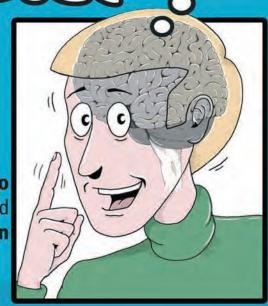
## Biological Psychology

An Illustrated Survival Guide

Paul Aleixo and Murray Baillon



WILEY

## Biological Psychology: An Illustrated Survival Guide

## Biological Psychology An Illustrated Survival Guide

Written by

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and

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(Lettering by Alex Oh!)

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## **About the Authors**

#### **Paul Aleixo**

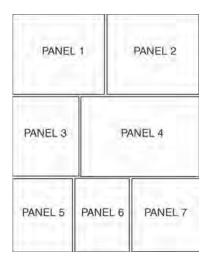
Paul has worked as a lecturer in several British universities since completing his Doctoral degree in psychology in the early 1990s. Currently a Senior Lecturer in psychology, he has varied research interests including the application of psychological principles to educational practice. He has taught a number of psychology courses including Biological Psychology for many years. A lifelong interest in comics has led him to explore their use in education. This book is one of these explorations.

#### **Murray Baillon**

Murray first met Paul when they were both fresh-faced first year students at University. It was here that they took their first steps as creative partners, writing and performing sketches for student revues. They also both read a lot of comics, which created a shared frame of reference that proved invaluable for this book. After graduating with a B.Sc. in Psychology, Murray then moved into teaching, completing a PGCE at the University of Greenwich. It was while teaching in Singapore that Murray took on his first professional work as an illustrator. He continued to fit illustration work around teaching until recently, when he decided to fit teaching in around illustrating. His work includes fabric print design; logos; cartoons and comic strips for various publications; and children's book illustrations. He has really enjoyed the challenges that Paul set him in this book, as he has never tried to draw things like angry neurons before.

## How to Use this Book

For each chapter there are notes that accompany the illustrated pages. They are connected to the pages by page number and panel number. Each cartoon 'box' is called a 'panel' and these are numbered from 1 starting at the top left of each page and increasing in number from left to right and from top to bottom of each page. For example:



Please note that not all pages and/or panels will have accompanying notes.

## **Acknowledgements**

There are a number of people that must be thanked for getting this book into print.

Firstly, to all at Wiley UK, who not only supported, but positively encouraged this book and for their patience in its production. Particular thanks must go to Gillian Leslie for supporting the idea from the beginning, and to Ruth Graham, Nicole Burnett and Sarah Tilley for production advice.

To all those at my day job who supported this project and offered advice along the way. Special thanks to Brown for his unending support.

To Alan Moore, Neil Gaiman, Nat Gertler et al. for inspiration.

To Nat Gertler and Mark Lewis for the use of Mister U.S.

To Comicraft for their excellent advice and fonts.

Finally, grateful thanks to my family.

#### P. Aleixo June 2007

As well as to those mentioned above, I would like to express my thanks:

To great comic book artists and cartoonists, from Jack Kirby, John Byrne and Alan Davis to Charles Schultz and Bill Watterson, to whose lofty standards I will always aspire.

To Alison, my wife, for her endless encouragement and support, to my mother for her dedicated proof reading, and to my children for their enthusiasm and interest.

Murray Baillon June 2007

### Introduction

Psychology is a popular subject with students. There is just something about the study of the mind and behaviour that many find inherently interesting and fascinating. However, despite this popularity, there are also a number of areas within most psychology courses that are decidedly unpopular! The three that spring easily to mind are Research Methods, Cognitive Science and, yes, Biological Psychology. Many students of psychology simply find these areas too 'difficult'.

Unfortunately for most students, these areas are, in most cases, compulsory study elements of psychology courses. There is just no way to completely avoid them.

In many ways, the problem regarding biological psychology is easy to understand. The application of biology to studying behaviour involves biological principles that many students have never come across before and if they have only at a very superficial level. Furthermore, biology itself is based on the principles of chemistry and physics.

So to be able to understand biological psychology easily depends on understanding not only psychology but also biology, physics AND chemistry. Unfortunately, many students of psychology do not come to the study of psychology with a science background.

Furthermore, while there are some excellent textbooks on biological psychology available at the introductory level, these tend to make assumptions about the scientific knowledge of the reader.

The original idea for this book came from the experience of teaching undergraduate students on a course in biological psychology at the introductory level. Over several years, students would come and explain that they understood the class sessions but got lost when they hit the books back home.

This book is an attempt to help those who find themselves in a similar dilemma. It aims to bridge the gap between an introductory lecture course on biological psychology and the mainstream textbooks. The additional aim is to highlight that biological psychology is an interesting and fascinating subject in its own right.

#### Why Comics?

We chose to do this book in a comic book format because we felt that it was the best way to demystify what is perceived as a difficult subject. We are certainly not the first to deal with instructional material in this format. A pioneer of the comic medium, Will Eisner, was employed by the United States Army to produce technical instructional leaflets, in comics, during the Second World War. More recently, Scott McCloud has shown that serious analysis can be delivered in an entertaining and detailed manner through comics.

Furthermore, research in this area shows that comics are very useful for many teaching purposes.

We therefore thought that it was time to bring comics to psychology for teaching purposes.

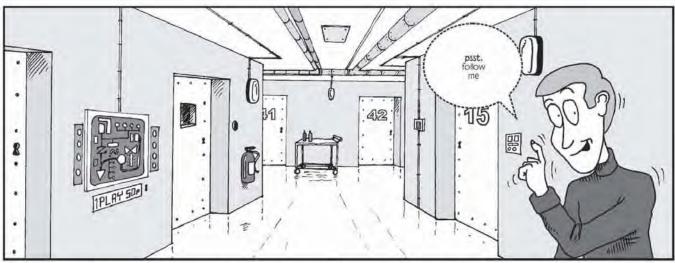
#### **Structure of this Book**

This book covers the basic material needed to get a grasp of biological psychology. It is not meant to be an 'all-encompassing' text but instead is meant to support the excellent books that go into a great deal more depth. It is organised into ten chapters, each followed by notes that expand and detail some of the points made in the main chapters.

We've enjoyed producing this book and hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Paul Aleixo & Murray Baillon June 2007

# THE BRAIN AND THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

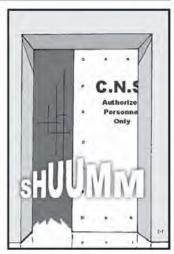


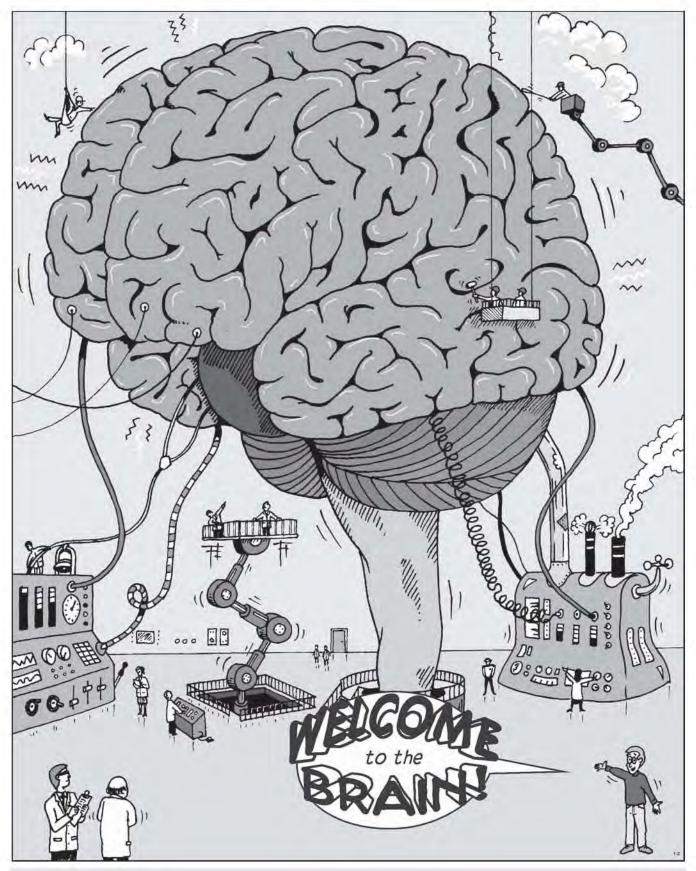


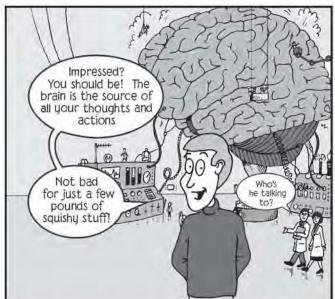


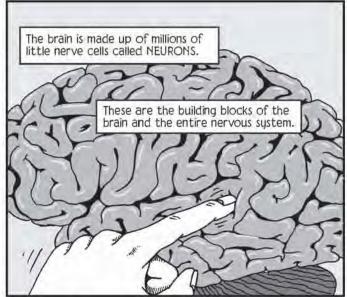


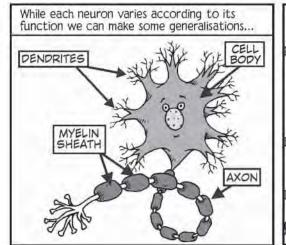


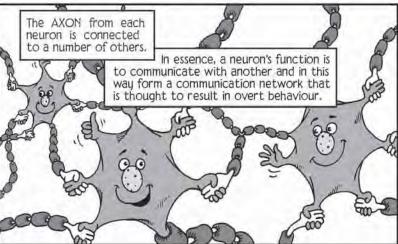


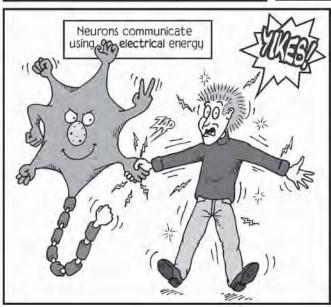


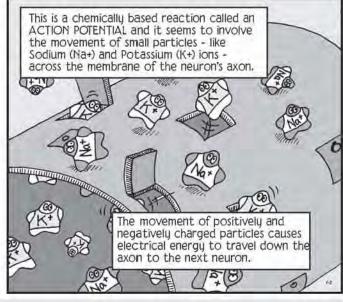












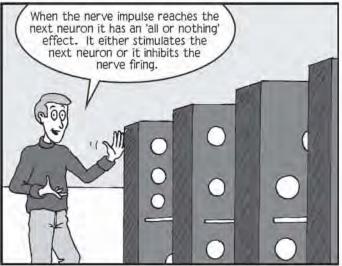












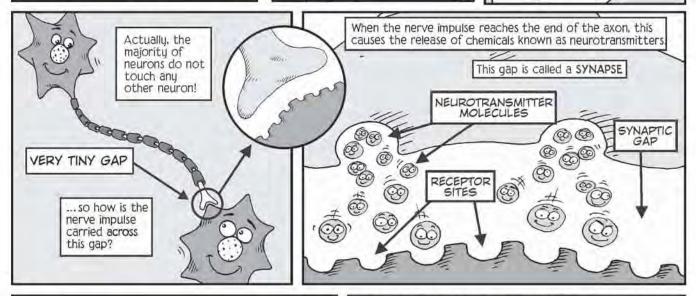


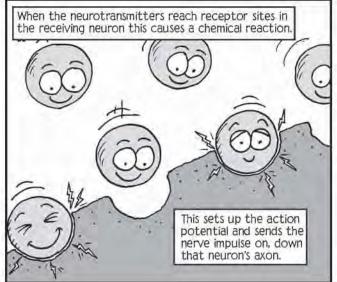
This network of neurons, all firing impulses, affect other neurons and an overall pattern of nerve impulses is formed that results in behaviour!



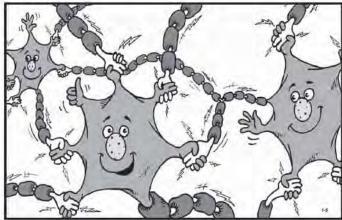


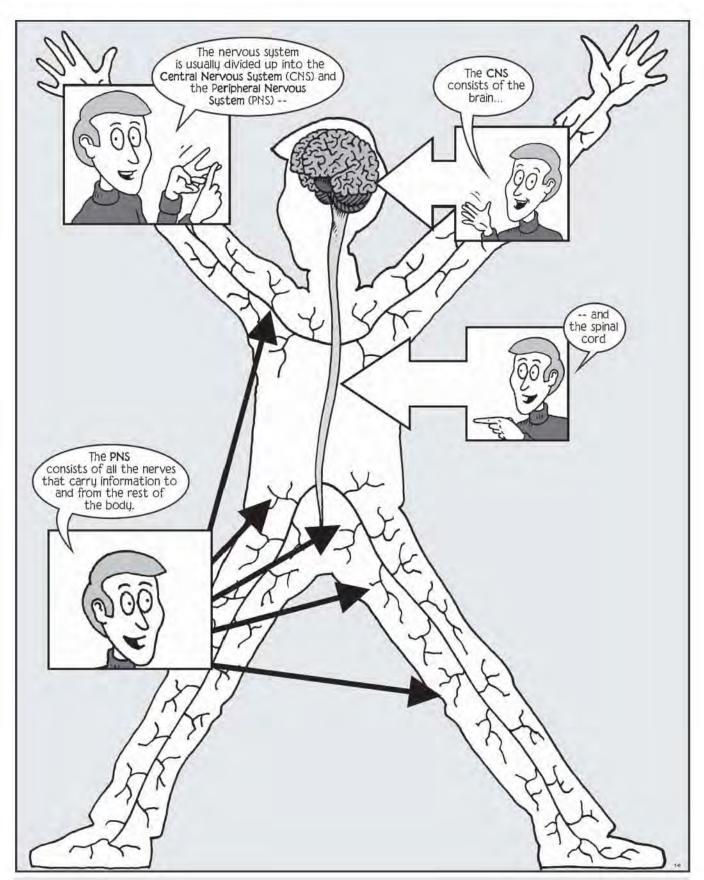


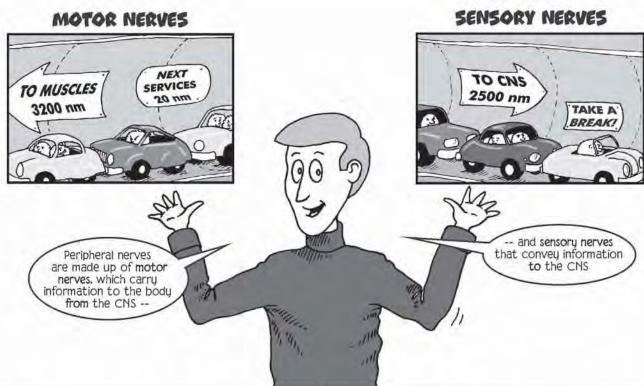




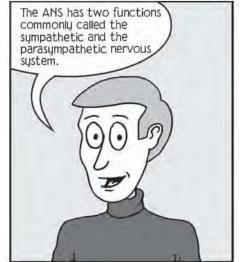
Since each neuron can be connected to many others and each impulse can either inhibit or stimulate a neuron next in line, this creates a very complex - and fast - system of neuronal circuitry.







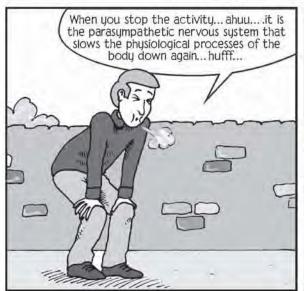


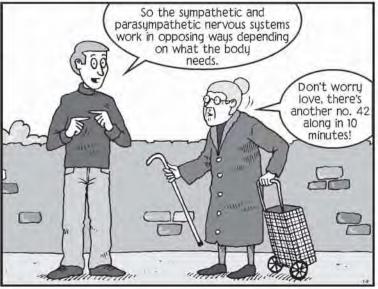










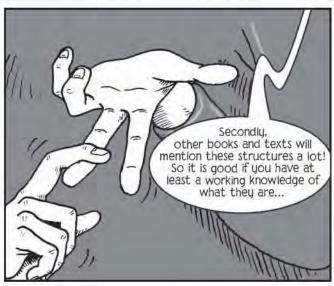


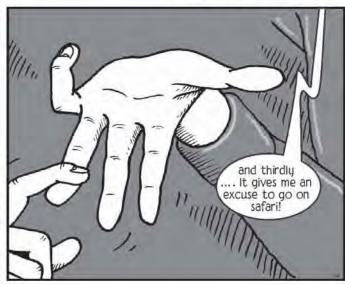






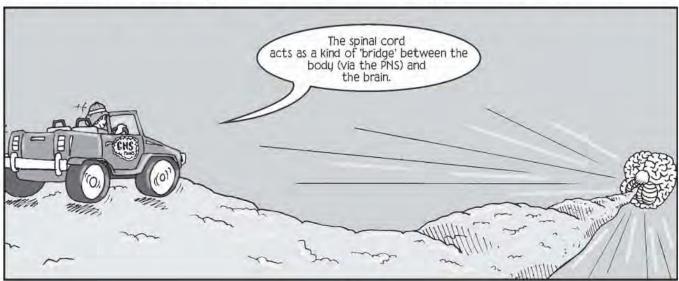




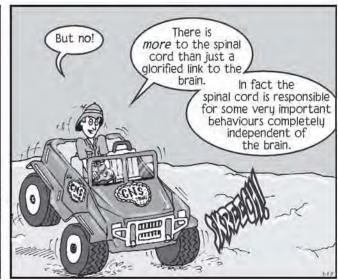


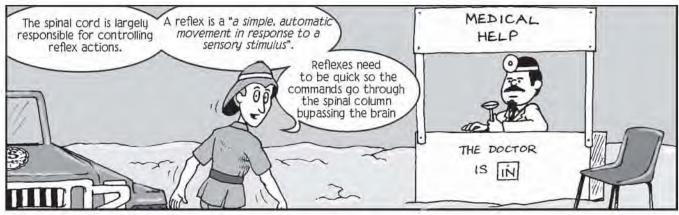














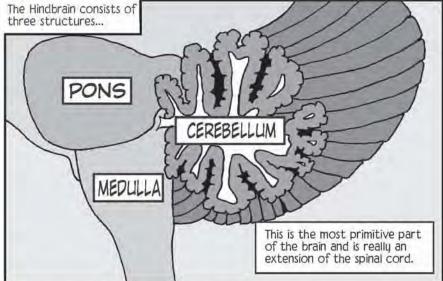


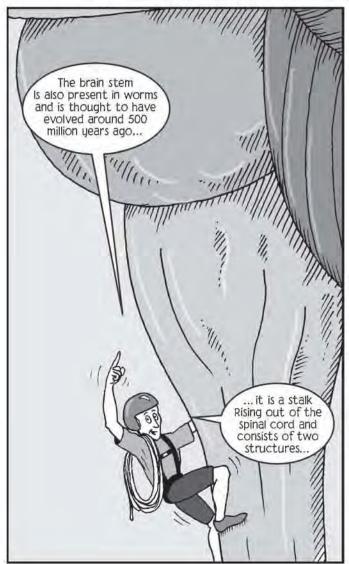


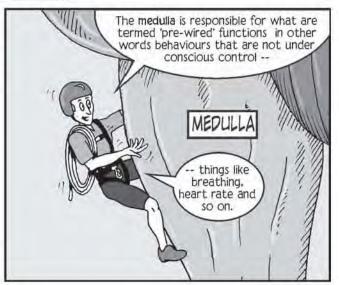




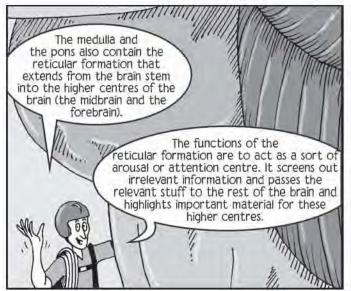


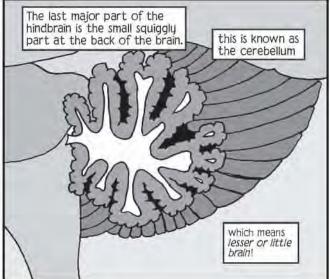






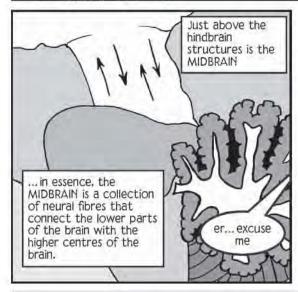








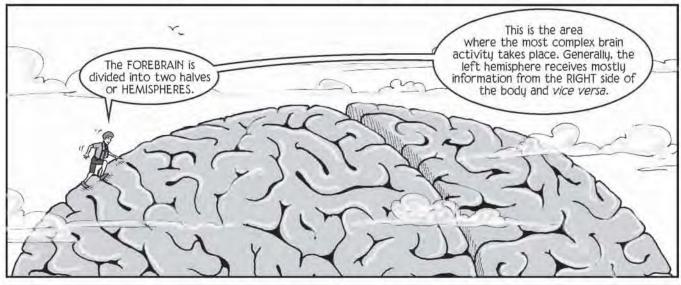


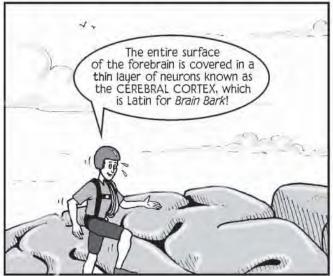


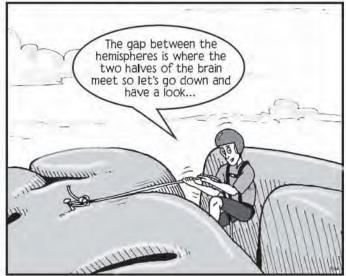


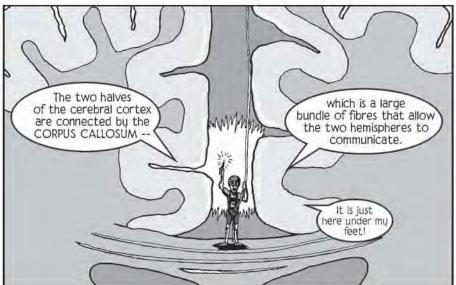


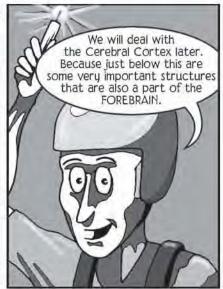


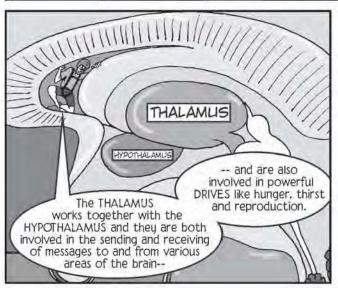


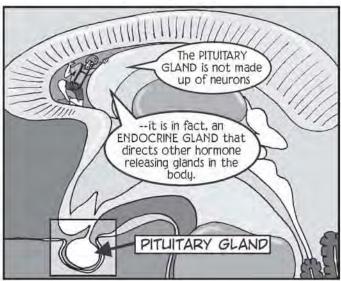


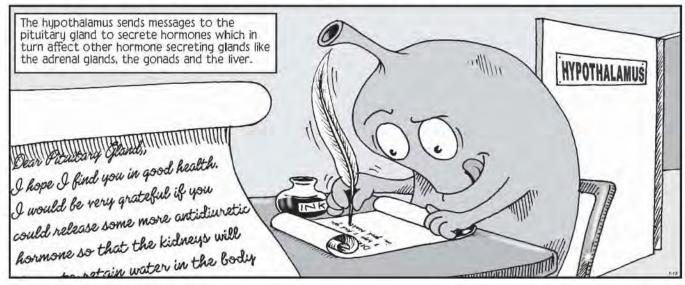


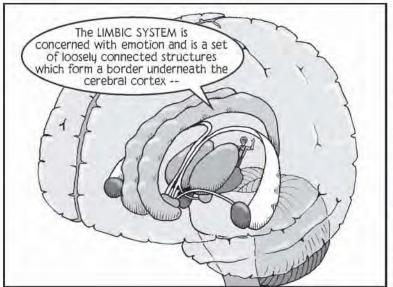


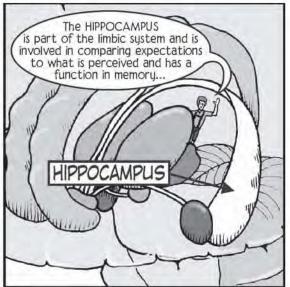


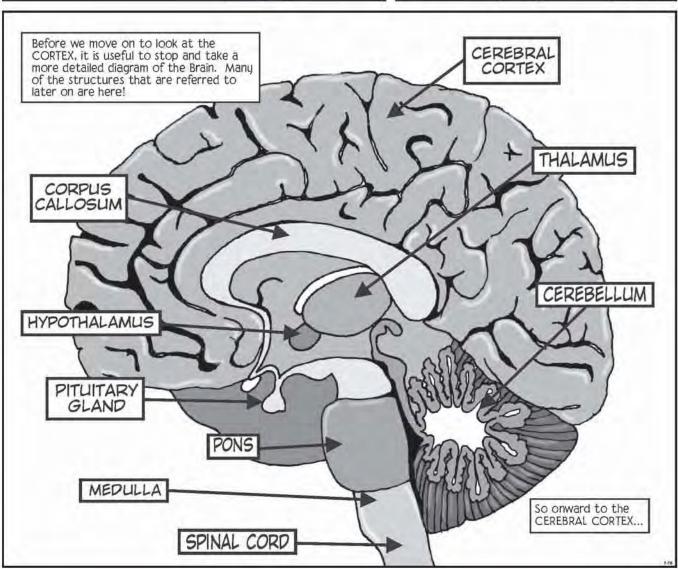








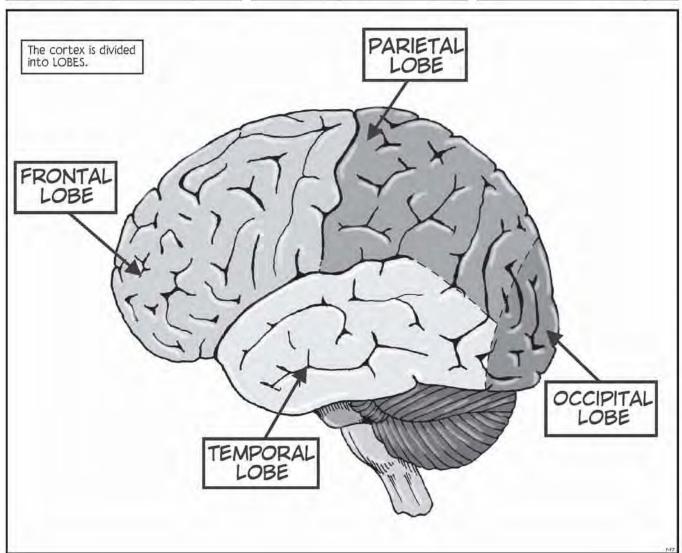


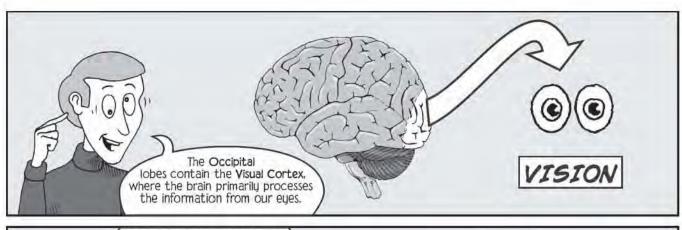


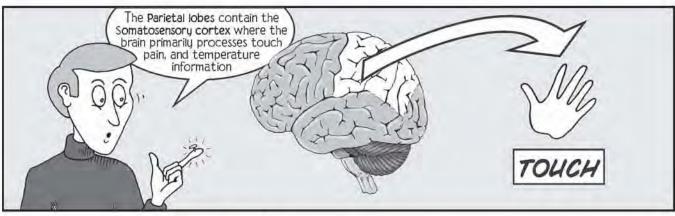


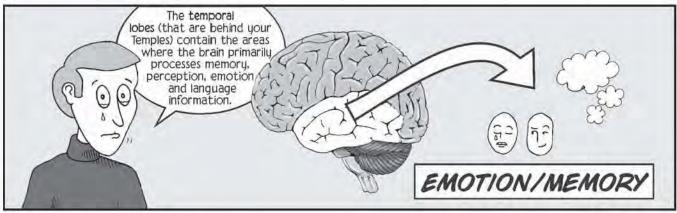


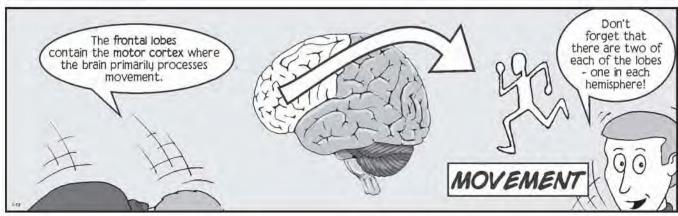


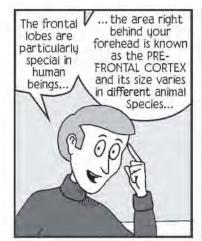


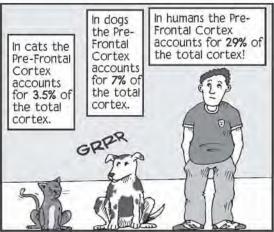




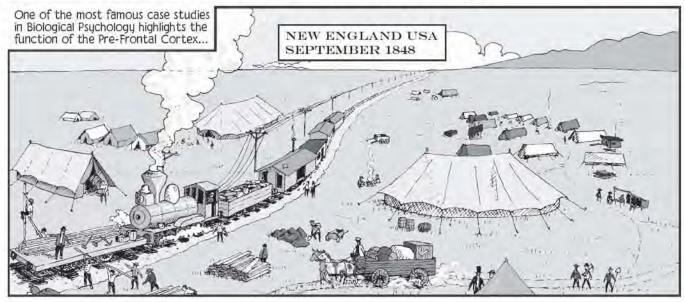




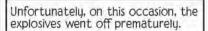








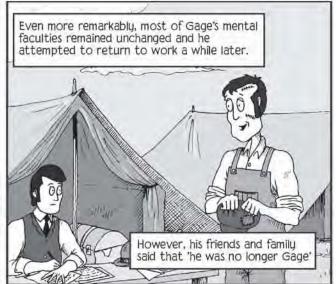




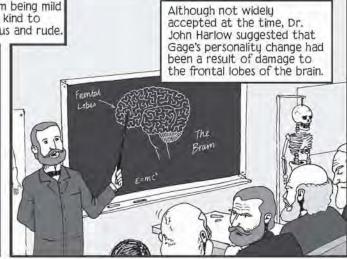




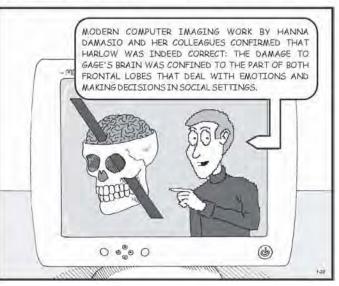


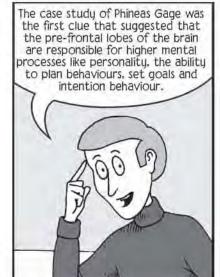


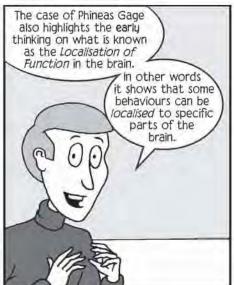




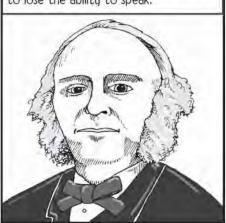


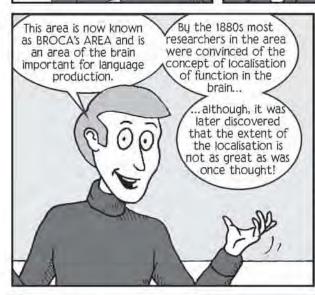


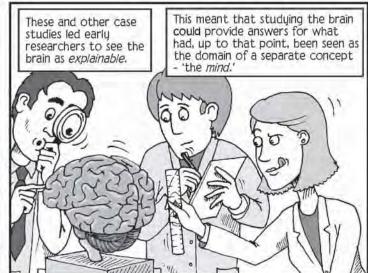


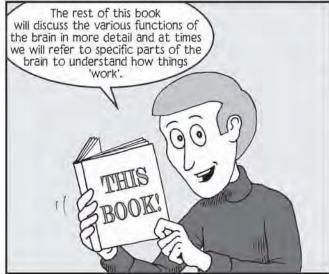


PAUL BROCA was an early pioneer of localisation of function. He discovered that damage to a small area on the left side of the brain had caused his patient to lose the ability to speak.











## The brain and the nervous system

#### ► PAGE 1

Biological Psychology is the application of biological principles to the study of behaviour. The term *behaviour* refers to a wide variety of phenomena including both internal events like thinking and emotion as well as overt behaviour that can be seen by others.

A great deal of biological psychology is concerned with the physiology of the nervous system and especially the brain. Other terms are used to describe the same area of research: Physiological Psychology, Psychophysiology, Biopsychology, Biological Bases of Behaviour and so on.

#### ► PAGE 2

The average adult human brain is actually around the size of a grapefruit or a small melon and is pinkish-grey in colour. It has many folds and creases and looks a little like a large walnut.

#### ► PAGE 3

#### Panel 1

These days we are quite accustomed to seeing the brain as the source of our thoughts and actions. However, this was not always the dominant idea. Ancient cultures, including the Egyptian, Indian and Chinese, considered the *heart* to be the seat of thoughts and emotions. The ancient Greek philosophers Hippocrates (460–370 BC) and Galen (AD 130–200) both suggested the brain as the source of these phenomena whilst Aristotle (384–322 BC) believed the brain was there to cool the passions of the heart!

French philosopher Renée Descartes (1596–1650) was one of the first people to see the human body as a machine and he suggested that a separate entity called the *mind* controlled the brain and nervous system and it worked as a sort of hydraulic pump.

The next major innovation was in the late 1700s by Italian philosopher Luigi Galvani who discovered that he could make a frog's leg twitch by stimulating a nerve with electricity. Later on, Fritsch and Hitzig (1870) succeeded in producing movement in dogs by stimulating their brains with electricity. German physicist Herman von Helmholtz (1821–94) later discovered that the nerves were not simply 'wires' since he calculated that the speed of nerve conduction of around 30 to 40 metres per second was far slower than the flow of electricity or around  $3 \times 10^8$  metres per second (the speed of light).

All of these pioneering ideas led to the concept that the brain behaved like a biological machine and that this could be investigated using scientific principles.

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The adult brain weighs around 1400 grams and has a gelatinous consistency. A living brain is so soft and squidgy that it can be cut with a blunt knife.

#### Panel 2

There are approximately 100 billion neurons in the human brain (Williams & Herrup, 1988). However, neurons only make up approximately 10 per cent of the cells in the brain. The rest are known as *glial* cells, and these provide a supporting role for the neurons themselves. Neurons are larger than glial cells however and make up about 50 per cent of the volume of the brain.

The idea that the neuron is the unit of brain was suggested by the Spanish Nobel prize winner Santiago Ramón y Cajal from work carried out between 1887 and 1903.

#### Panel 3

It should be noted that there are a number of different types of neuron. The type depicted here is based on a 'typical' motor neuron. Oh and just for clarity's sake, neurons do not have faces!

The cell body of a neuron contains (amongst other things) the cell nucleus that contains the genetic material and the other structures that keeps the neuron alive.

The dendrites are points on a neuron where information from other neurons are received.

The axon is the long part of a neuron that sends the nerve impulse. Axons can be quite long.

The myelin sheath that surrounds the axon is the insulating material (rather like the plastic around an electric cable). It is made up of a fatty material and has a white appearance.

#### Panel 5

Technically, it needs to be pointed out that the nerve impulse only happens down the neuron's axon so you could not get a shock in this way. However, it should also be pointed out that this scene is impossible since neurons are microscopic cells and they do not have 'hands'!

#### Panel 6

**Note:** The explanation of the nerve impulse involves a complex number of disciplines including concepts from chemistry, physics and biology and many find these difficult to understand. The following explanation is unashamedly simplified although we are aware that some of the terms may appear like a foreign language that need some interpretation.

The concepts described in this explanation baffle even the most qualified individuals and this is not as a result of their intellect, but rather an issue with their background. The following description has been 'run by' an experienced psychologist with a Ph.D. who finds this area taxing and is assured that it is basic enough! Obviously, some may find the material overly simplistic and to these readers we recommend further reading.

Please note that this explanation concerns **only** the electrical nerve impulse *within* a single neuron. It does **not** deal with the conduction of impulses across different neurons.

#### The Nerve Impulse

The fluid inside body cells has certain chemicals that are electrically charged (this means that these chemicals are moving between positive and negative charges in currents, similar to that in the electricity in your home). These are called ions and the important ones for nerve conduction are sodium and potassium (that both have one positive charge), calcium (that has two positive charges), certain proteins called organic anions (that have a negative charge) and chloride (that has one negative charge). The positive ions are attracted to the negative ions and *vice versa*. Hence these chemicals tend to move towards each other. The fluid inside the cell is separated from fluid outside the cell by a cell membrane that allows some chemicals through and not others (it is known as a *semi-permeable* membrane). Therefore, not all the ions can move freely to where they are attracted.

At rest, a nerve cell (neuron) has a negative charge inside the cell and a positive charge outside the cell. This is because the membrane allows positive potassium ions  $(K^+)$  easily through to the inside while negative chloride ions  $(Cl^-)$  and positive sodium ions  $(Na^+)$  have more difficulty. Additionally, there are the organic anions  $(A^-)$  inside the cells. Furthermore, there is a pump mechanism that moves sodium ions out of the cell relative to the number of potassium ions within the cell (for those who want to know, the cell 'allows' one sodium ion for each potassium ion, the pump moves sodium out of the cell until this ratio is achieved). When the correct ratio of sodium and potassium ions is achieved, and thus the inside of the cell has a correct negative charge, the neuron is in a sate of balance that is called a *Resting Potential*. If you were to anthropomorphosise the neuron at this point it would be a 'very happy bunny'!

During this state of balance, this resting potential, it is possible to measure the amount of electricity being generated using a gadget called a voltmeter. When this is carried out, it is found that the resting potential of an average neuron is around -70 millivolts (mv) which means that the inside of the cell is 70mv less than the outside. Bear in mind that this is a very small amount of electricity. A portable CD player usually requires two 1.5 volt batteries to operate (a total of three volts, approximately forty times that in a neuron in a state of resting potential!).

Keeping the neuron in this 'happy' state requires a lot of work. In fact, the resting potential uses up approximately 40 per cent of the neuron's energy. However, despite using up such a great deal of the neuron's energy, this is worthwhile because the resting potential is absolutely essential in powering the actual nerve impulse.

When a neuron at rest is stimulated (by another neuron for example), this causes its voltage to move towards 0 mv (in other words from -70mv to 0mv). Before it reaches this, however, at around -55mv, this causes the nerve cell to *fire* or *spike*. This is called an *Action Potential*. When the neuron fires (i.e. it has an action potential) it sends an electrical impulse down its axon (which results in behaviour, for example the movement of a muscle). This value of -55mv is called a firing *threshold*. If it is not achieved, the neuron will not send a message.

#### **The Action Potential**

The action potential occurs because of an exchange of ions across the neuron's semi-permeable membrane. When the firing threshold level is reached (i.e. -55mv), this causes the cell to open sodium channels ('holes' in the semi-permeable membrane) that allow sodium ions to rush into the cell. This causes the rapid change from a negative charge of -55mv to a positive one of around +30mv. As soon as this happens, the cell tries to recover its resting potential state by closing sodium channels and opening potassium channels. The now negative charge on the outside of the cell then causes the movement of potassium ions to the outside of the cell, bringing the resting potential back. The final stage is for the sodium-potassium pump to help in the removal of sodium ions back to the outside of the cell.

#### What does this achieve?

All of this happens on one tiny spot on the cell membrane. However, the nerve impulse (which remember is carrying the message) has to travel the whole length of the neuron's axon. The 'struggle' that causes the action potential and then a return to the resting potential on one part of the membrane creates an imbalance in the spot on the membrane next to it. So, this next spot on the membrane opens the sodium channels and begins the action potential at that point. This creates a chain reaction of action potentials down the length of the neuron's axon. In the chapter, dominoes were used to highlight this wave of electricity that moves down the neuron's axon, but you could also see it as a worm's movement along the ground. One segment of its body pushes another segment which pushes on another and so on.

#### ► PAGE 4

#### Panel 6

The 'all or nothing' effect is concerned with the *threshold* of -55mv. If this is not reached then the action potential does not occur. It often takes many neurons stimulating a single neuron to achieve this threshold.

#### ► PAGE 5

#### Panels 2 to 6

Note: The following explanation deals with the transmission of the nerve impulse from one neuron to another.

#### Chemical transmission at the synapse

It was Ramón y Cajal who showed that neurons were not physically touching each other. These physical gaps are the reason von Helmholtz (see page 3 panel 1 above) did not find the nervous system transmitting electrical messages at the speed of light. The synaptic gaps slow down the message considerably.

Up until the 1920s, it was thought that the synapse was bridged by an electrical impulse. It took German physiologist Otto Loewi (1953) to show that synapses are bridged by sending chemicals across the gap. Chemical transmission is how most synapses are bridged.

We now know that there are a few neurons that **do** bridge the gap electrically by sending ions across the synapse. In other words, the action potential is physically carried from one neuron to the next. These are called *Electric Synapses* and are present in situations where very fast nerve transmission is very important. Electric synapses are rare and tend to occur in invertebrate animals. The crayfish, for example, has electric synapses that control the movement of its tail allowing it to escape from predators very quickly.

#### How is the chemical transmission achieved?

The end of a neuron's axon ends in what is described as the synaptic knob or the *pre-synaptic terminal* (it is called **pre**-synaptic because it is found *before* the synaptic gap). The pre-synaptic terminal is a sort of swelling at the end of the axon. Inside this swelling, there are small pockets that contain certain chemicals. These are called synaptic *vesicles* ('vesicle' means 'little bladder' – which is a very good description of what they are actually like!). The chemicals inside these 'little bladders' are called *neurotransmitters* and these are the chemicals that cross the synaptic gap and pass on the message from one neuron to another.

When the action potential arrives at the pre-synaptic terminal this causes calcium channels to open in the terminal's membrane (remember, these are 'holes' in the semi-permeable membrane that temporarily open to allow certain ions – in this case calcium – into the inside of the neuron). The calcium causes the vesicles near the terminal's membrane to fuse with it and thus open into the synapse. This allows the neurotransmitters inside them to spill out of the neuron into the synaptic gap.

#### What happens next?

The neurotransmitter chemicals flow or *diffuse* across the gap and reach the receiving part of the next neuron. This is called the **post**-synaptic neuron since it is *after* the synaptic gap. The neurotransmitter molecules fit into small 'holes' called *receptor sites* on the surface of the receiving neuron. This is rather like a key fitting into a lock so that the neurotransmitter molecules are the 'keys' shaped in such a way that they fit into the corresponding 'locks' of the receptor sites. This chemical 'jump' across a synapse takes only about 2 milliseconds (a millisecond is a millionth of a second!).

The locking of a neurotransmitter at a receptor site can have one of three effects:

#### 1) Ionotropic effects

Some neurotransmitters cause the postsynaptic neuron to open ion channels to allow a particular ion into the neuron.

The neurotransmitter *glutamate*, for example, causes the sodium channels to open and therefore initiate an action potential. This is called an *excitatory* effect. The neurotransmitter *Gama-amniobutyric acid* (GABA) opens chloride gates that make the inside of the neuron more negative and hence stops an action potential taking place. This is called an *inhibitory* effect. However, both glutamate and GABA have ionotropic effects. Ionotropic effects are fast and are used when a quick response is needed such as in moving muscles.

#### 2) Metabotropic effects

Metabotropic effects are much slower and longer lasting than ionotropic effects. Metabotropic effects take place by creating a sequence of chemical (metabolic) reactions. When a neurotransmitter locks onto a metabotropic receptor this causes chemical changes inside the neuron that can have a variety of effects from opening an ion channel to switching on the effect of a chromosome. *Dopamine* is an example of a neurotransmitter that can have metabotropic effects.

#### 3) Modulatory effects

Some neurotransmitters act as what are known as *Neuromodulators*. Neuromodulators diffuse to more than one neuron. They then lock to all the correct receptor sites of the neurons close by. This is rather like a radio signal reaching all the radios that are tuned in to it.

The effects of neuromodulators on neurons are quite small. They alter (modulate) the effect of the neurotransmitters (Millhorn *et al.*, 1989). Some neuromodulators, for example, can prolong or limit the effect of a neurotransmitter whilst others can limit the release of neurotransmitters. Endorphins (see Chapter 3) are examples of neuromodulators that have the effect of reducing pain responses.

#### Stopping the effect of neurotransmitters

Once the neurotransmitter has locked onto the receptor site and the desired message has been transmitted, it makes sense for the synapse to return back to its normal state in readiness for the next message. In order for this to be achieved, the neurotransmitter must be removed from the receptor sites and any that may be left in the synaptic gap. There are four ways in which the effect of the neurotransmitter is removed. Firstly, some of the neurotransmitter left in the gap simply flows away from the synaptic gap and is unable to bind

to the receptors. Secondly, there are other chemicals called *enzymes* that are released into the gap that break up the neurotransmitters. Thirdly, there are chemicals that bind to the neurotransmitter molecules and absorb them back into the presynaptic neuron to be used again later (this is called the *reuptake* mechanism). And fourthly, there are supporting cells (glial cells) that absorb the neurotransmitter into themselves for re-use by the neuron.

#### Why have chemical transmission at synapses?

The chemical transmission at a synapse significantly slows down the nerve impulse. This must therefore have an important purpose. Given that neurons are either activated or not (in other words there is only a 'yes' or a 'no' response from each neuron) the chemicals at the synapse provide a great deal of complexity to the communication system. By using many different types of neurotransmitter molecules and different types of receptor sites on many different synapses, the nervous system can create a complicated code rather like having many letters in an alphabet to create a language.

#### ► PAGE 10

#### Panel 3

The spinal cord is a segmented structure. Each segment has on each side a sensory nerve that receives information from the body and a motor nerve that sends information to the body. A cross-section through the spinal cord shows a darker 'H' in the centre that represents the tightly packed neurons. The white matter around this 'H' is made up mainly of axons with white myelin sheaths around them. The core of the spinal cord is a fluid-filled channel called the *central canal*.

Each segment of the spinal cord receives information from the brain and sends information to the brain. If the spinal cord is cut at a specific segment, then the brain loses all sensation from that segment and any segments below that one. Similarly, all motor control is also lost to the part of the body connected to this segment and the ones beneath it.

#### Protection for the central nervous system

The spinal cord and the brain are protected by fluid filled membranes called the *meninges*. The space between the meninges and the brain and spinal cord is filled with a liquid called *cerebrospinal fluid*. The brain and spinal cord therefore float in a bag of fluid. This protects the delicate structures from damage by impact. Sometimes the meninges become infected and this results in the condition known as *meningitis*.

In addition, the brain is protected from harmful chemicals by the *blood-brain barrier*. This is a set of tightly packed tiny blood vessels that prevent chemicals with large molecules from entering the brain. Anything that dissolves in fat can pass freely into the brain but there are many chemicals that only dissolve in water that need to be actively transported across the blood-brain barrier in order to reach the brain.

#### ► PAGE 11

#### Panel 1

This definition of a reflex is from Garrett (2003, p.74).

#### ► PAGE 12

#### Panel 1

The hindbrain is also sometimes referred to as the *rhombencephalon*.

#### ► PAGE 13

#### Panel 5

The midbrain is also known as the *mesencephalon* and consists of two structures the *tectum* and the *tegmentum*. The important structures in the tectum are the *superior colliculi* that are involved in vision and the *inferior colliculi* that are concerned with audition. One important structure in the tegmentum is the *substantia nigra* that contains neurons that produce dopamine. It is the death of neurons in this area that is believed to be largely responsible for the movement disorder called Parkinson's disease (see Chapter 5).

The midbrain is relatively small in humans. In birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish the midbrain structures are much more noticeable.

#### ► PAGE 14

#### Panel 1

The forebrain is sometimes referred to as the prosencephalon.

#### ► PAGE 15

#### Panel 1

The Corpus Callosum is the largest of the cerebral commisures. These are dense fibres that carry information between the two cerebral hemispheres. The two hemispheres carry out slightly different tasks and therefore need to communicate with each other. Additionally, information from the senses is often directed to one specific hemisphere. For example, visual information on the left is sent to the right hemisphere while visual information on the right is sent to the left hemisphere. This information needs to be shared with the other hemisphere through the corpus callosum and the other comissures. Sometimes, surgeons cut the corpus callosum so that those suffering from epilepsy can confine their fits to just one cerebral hemisphere (this is only done in the most serious of cases). These individuals therefore have no internal communication between the cerebral hemispheres and have been studied to determine the different functions of the two hemispheres. These studies have shown that, for example, the left hemisphere is generally more involved in language than the right hemisphere and that the right hemisphere is more involved in spatial tasks and face recognition (e.g. Gazzaniga, 1967; McKeever, Seitz, Krutsch, & Van Eys, 1995; Nebes, 1974).

#### ► PAGE 16

#### Panel 3

What this diagram omits are the brain *ventricles*. The ventricles are hollow spaces inside the brain filled with cerebrospinal fluid. There are four ventricles in the brain connected to the central canal of the spinal cord (see notes for page 10 panel 3 above) and to the meninges.

#### ▶ PAGE 19 (Panels 4 to 7) and PAGE 20 (Panels 1 to 5)

#### The case of Phineas Gage

At the time of his accident, Phineas Gage was 25 and working as a railroad construction foreman near the town of Cavendish in Vermont, USA. One of his duties was to drill holes in rock in order to place explosive charges in them so that the rocks could be removed. The drilled hole had to be filled with the explosive powder and then sand placed on top. This mixture was then packed together using a three and a half foot (approximately 1.07 m) long iron rod. On the fatal day (13 September 1848 at about 4.30pm) Phineas Gage either forgot to add the sand or was packing the explosives before adding the sand when he was distracted and this caused a spark that ignited the explosive powder. The force of the explosion caused the iron rod to fly up through Gage's skull and into the air. The 3 cm diameter metal rod passed through his skull and caused damage to his brain (Damasio, 1994; Macmillan, 1986).

After his recovery from the accident, Gage failed to be re-employed by the railroad company and in 1850 he spent about a year as a side-show attraction at P.T. Barnum's New York museum displaying his injury (and the tamping iron!) to paying customers. He later spent some time in Chile as a coach driver before returning to his home in San Francisco in 1859 to become a farm worker before his death in 1860.

The type of deficit suffered by Phineas Gage is actually open to some debate. It is often stated that Gage suffered personality changes. This is usually referenced back to John Harlow (1868), the doctor who attended to Gage's injuries. He stated that:

'His contractors, who regarded him as the most efficient and capable foreman in their employ previous to his injury, considered the change in his mind so marked that they could not give him his place again. He is fitful, irreverent, indulging at times in the grossest profanity (which was not previously his custom), manifesting but little deference for his fellows, impatient of restraint or advice when it conflicts with his desires, at times pertinaciously obstinate, yet capricious and vacillating, devising many plans of future operation, which are no sooner arranged than they are abandoned in turn for others appearing more feasible. In this regard his mind was radically changed, so decidedly that his friends and acquaintances said he was 'no longer Gage' ". (Harlow, 1868 in Neylan, 1999, p. 280).

However, MacMillan (2000) has cast some doubt over the scientific accuracy of the personality changes ostensibly suffered by Gage. He points to the fact that at the time of the injury Harlow (writing in 1848, see Neylan, 1999) did not mention much regarding psychological changes. Similarly, Bigelow (1850), who was professor of medicine at Harvard University and examined Gage after his recovery, stated that he had recovered both in body and in mind and made no note of psychological changes. It was Harlow's quote above in 1868 (eight years after Gage's death) that seems to have been embellished by later writers and coupled with Gage's sensationalistic appearances at Barnum's museum. We therefore cannot be certain about the details of the case of Phineas Gage since, as MacMillan has pointed out; very few of the deficits attributed to Gage have been based on original sources written at the time. Many deficits have been suggested based on modern ideas of frontal lobe damage instead.

#### Panel 6

Damasio *et al.* (1994) conducted neural imaging studies on the surviving skull of Phineas Gage and reconstructed the path of the iron bar through his skull. They suggested that the accident damaged the part of both frontal lobes involved in making decisions in personal and social matters. More recent work by Ratiu *et al.* (2004) using computed tomography scanning (CAT scan) has cast some doubt over Damasio *et al.*'s

conclusion, however. Ratui *et al.*'s work suggests that the damage to Gage's brain was much less extensive than was hitherto believed as they suggest that only Gage's left frontal lobe was actually damaged.

Despite these controversies, the case of Phineas Gage really does represent a milestone in terms of 'tipping the balance' in favour of the idea of localisation of function in the brain.

#### Phineas Gage - another perspective

Most introductory psychology textbooks mention the case of Phineas Gage (approximately 60 per cent according to MacMillan, 2000). However, in reading some of these, the case is generally described in a sanitised way. In these sources' excitement to place the case of Phineas Gage in its deserved important historical context, Phineas Gage the human being is lost. Little mention is made of Gage's horrific injuries except to say that the hot iron rod 'cauterised' the wound on its way through Gage's skull. Much is made of Gage walking to the cart that took him to the town, implying that despite the injury, Gage came away relatively unscathed, at least physically.

However, the reality seems very different if you read the original account from Harlow (1848; see Neylan, 1999). Phineas Gage suffered a great deal. Harlow attended to Gage about one and a half hours after the accident at approximately 6pm. This is his description of how he found his patient:

'He seemed perfectly conscious, but was getting exhausted from the haemorrhage, which was very profuse both externally and internally, the blood finding its way into the stomach, which rejected it as often as every 15 or 20 minutes. Pulse 60, and regular. His person, and the bed on which he was laid, were literally one gore of blood' (Harlow, 1848 in Neylan, 1999, p. 281).

He also mentions that Gage's hands and forearms were deeply burned up to the elbow; something which is rarely mentioned in other sources.

Harlow also describes the subsequent recovery of his patient from the 13 September until the 18 November 1848. During this time he mentions further haemorrhaging, vomiting, severe swelling of the face, 'foetid' discharge from the scalp intermingled with particles of brain, the formation of an abscess on one of the facial muscles and fungal growth from within the wound. Ever the clinician, Harlow does not attempt to describe the level of pain that Gage must have suffered.

This level of 'gory detail' is included here to remind us that despite the controversies over Gage's deficits there is a man at the heart of this case. Whether you believe that Gage suffered personality changes or if the phrase 'he was no longer Gage' was indeed spoken by his friends or not, should not detract from the horrendous physical suffering that Phineas Gage endured as a result of what happened on 13 September 1848.

#### ▶ PAGE 21

#### Panel 3

#### Broca's Area

Pierre Paul Broca (1824–80) was a French surgeon who in 1861 treated a patient for gangrene. This patient had earlier lost his ability to say anything except the word 'tan' and to utter an oath. Five days later the patient died and Broca was able to examine his brain. He found damage to a specific part of the

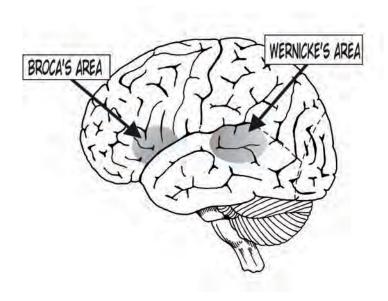
left frontal lobe. On the basis of this and other cases, Broca concluded that this part of the brain must be intact for speech production despite intact vocal apparatus and normal language comprehension.

Broca is often cited as one of the first to show localisation of function in the brain although others also wrote about this area at around the same time (Finger & Roe, 1996). The area of the frontal lobe is now known as *Broca's Area* and is generally seen as a language production area of the brain. Any serious impairment of language production is known as *Broca's Aphasia* regardless of whether the damage is to Broca's Area or not. Aphasia is the term used for any language impairment.

We now know that speaking involves a large part of the cortex, especially in the left hemisphere and is certainly not confined to Broca's Area (Wallesch, Henriksen, Korhuber & Paulson, 1985).

#### Wernicke's Area

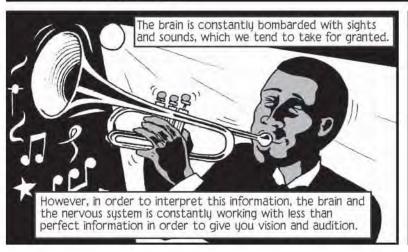
In 1874 Carl Wernicke discovered that damage to an area in the left temporal lobe of the cortex produced an aphasia that was very different to that discovered by Broca. This is known as *Wernicke's Aphasia* or *Fluent Aphasia*. In this case the language impairment is characterised by an inability to remember names of objects and general impairment of language comprehension. The person is often seen as speaking very fluently despite difficulties in finding certain words (known as *Anomia*). Additionally, these individuals find it very difficult to understand both spoken and written speech. Like with Broca's Aphasia, these types of deficit are called Wernicke's Aphasia regardless of whether the damage is in the same part of the brain.

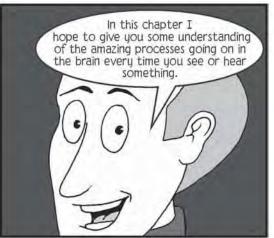


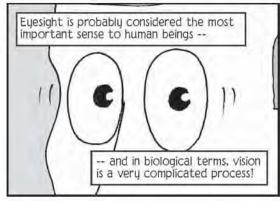
# VISION AND AUDITION

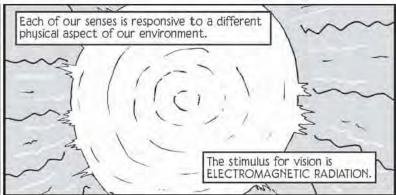




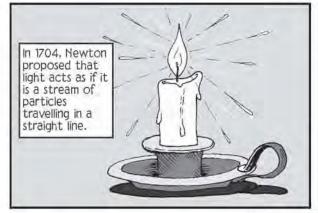


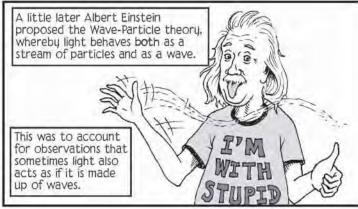


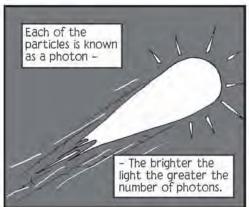


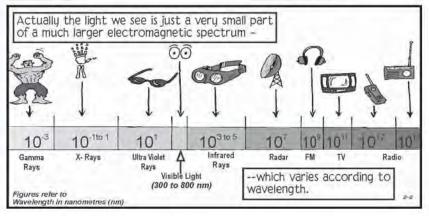


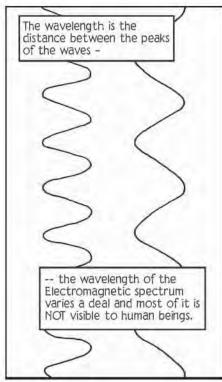


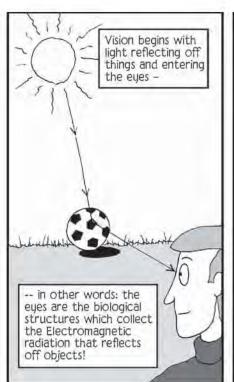


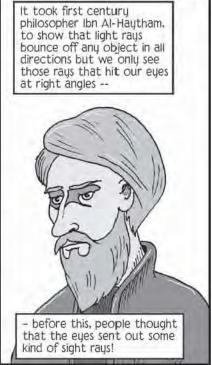


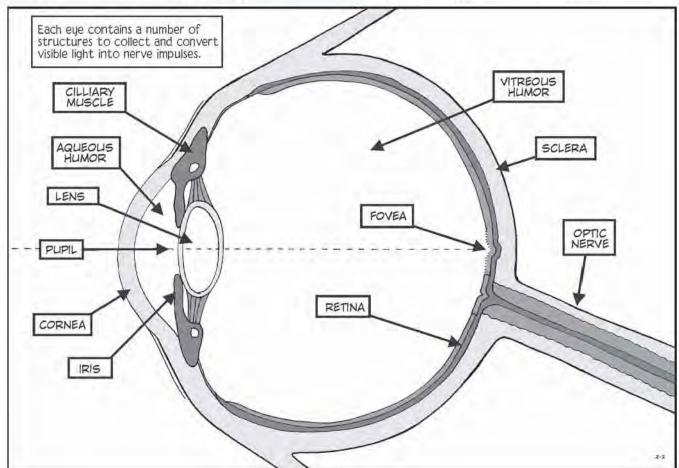




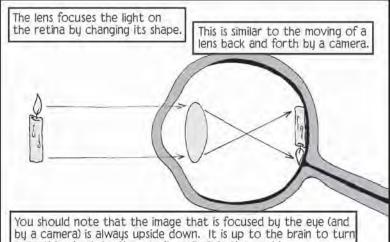




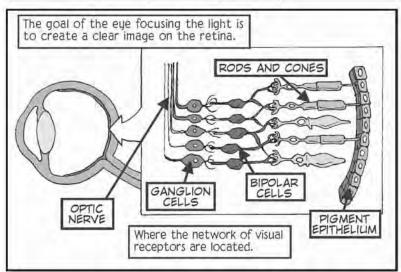


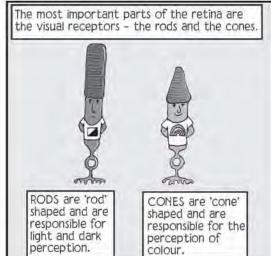


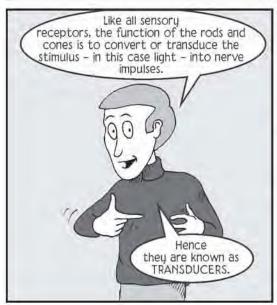


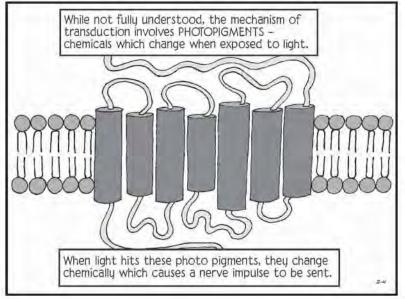


everything back to the way it really is in the world.

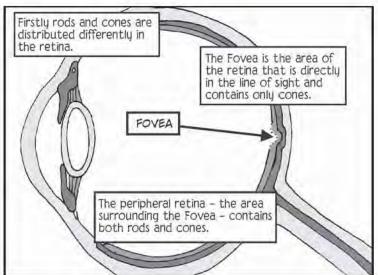


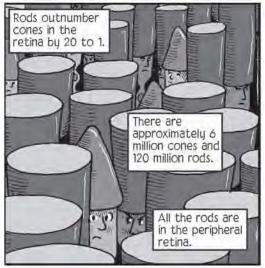


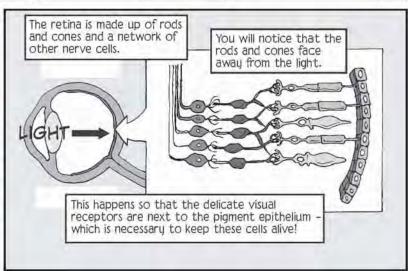


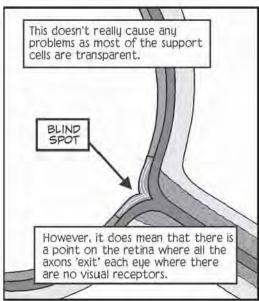






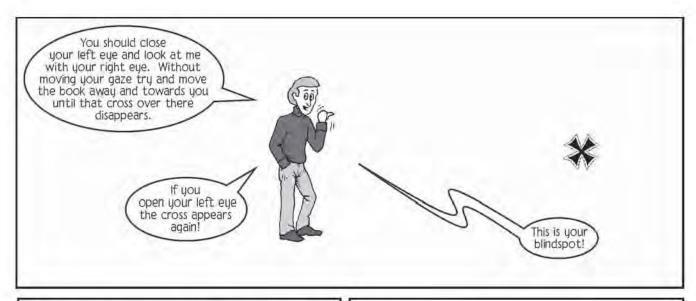


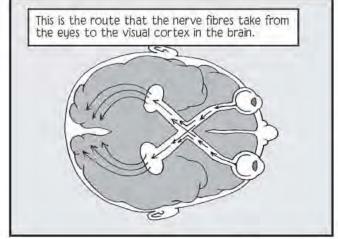








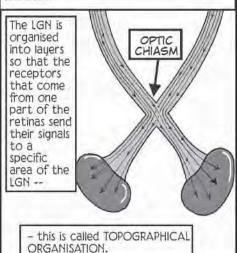




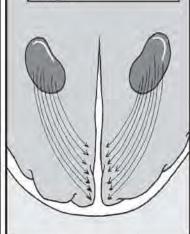
The first thing to note is that the visual fields 'cross over'. In other words everything you see on the left of your gaze is sent to the right brain hemisphere and everything on the right of your gaze is sent to the left hemisphere.



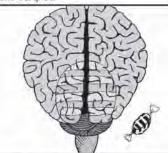
The cross-over occurs at the Optic Chiasm which sends most of the connections to each Lateral Geniculate Nucleus of the Thalamus.



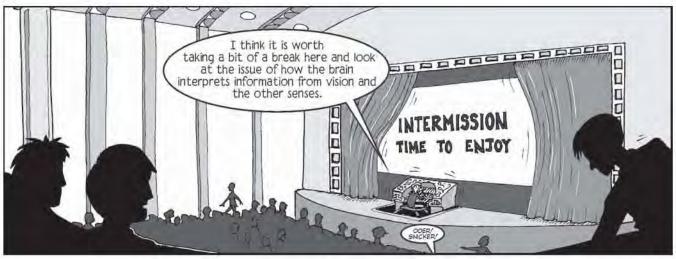
One and a half million axons go from each LGN towards the occipital lobe of the cortex.



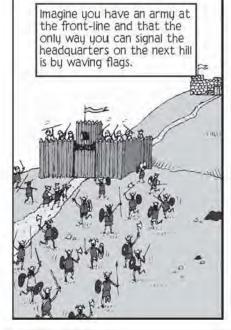
The area of the cortex responsible for vision is known as the VISUAL CORTEX. It is also known as the STRIATE CORTEX because (like the LGN) it is organised into layers and looks striped –



The visual Cortex is also topographically organised so that neurons in the LGN send their signals to a specific area of the visual cortex.



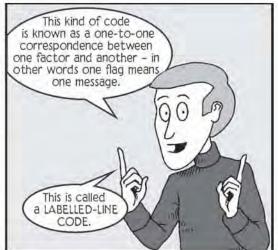




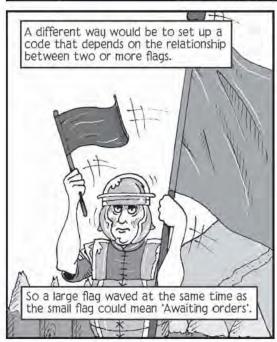


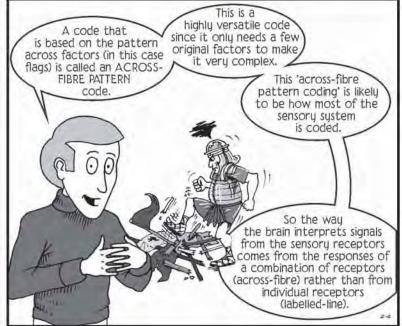


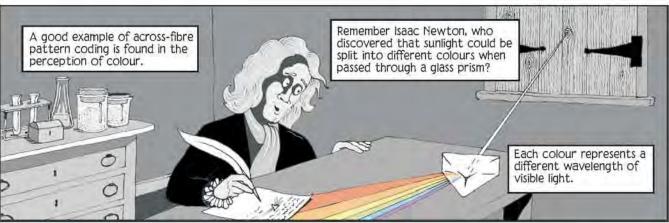


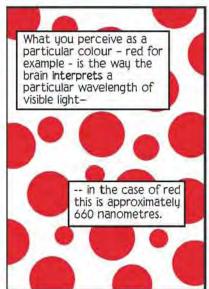


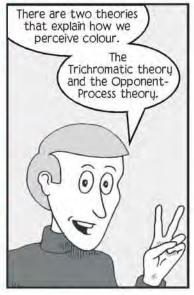


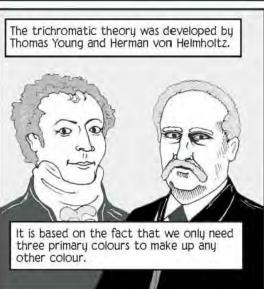




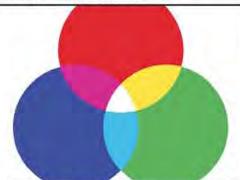








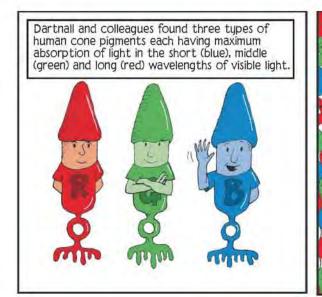


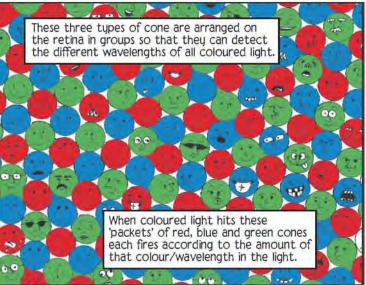


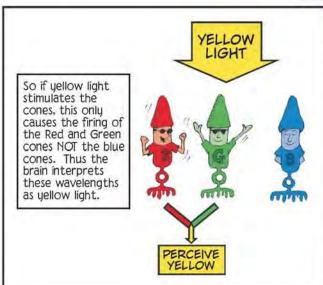
So if you mix red and green light together you get yellow light and if you mix blue and green light you get cyan coloured

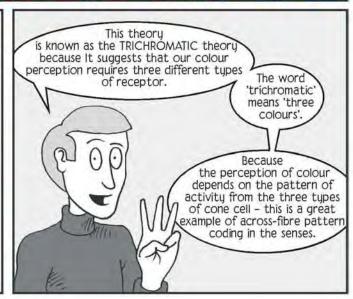
light and so on.

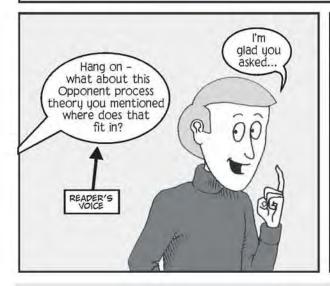


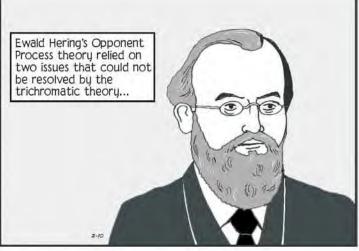


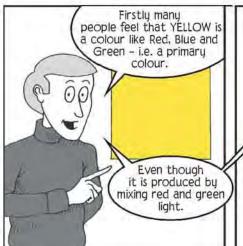






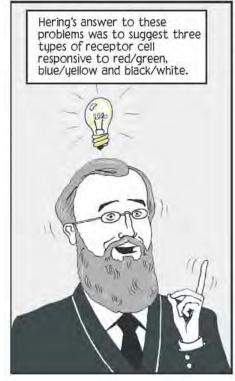


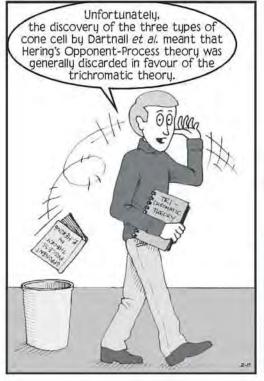




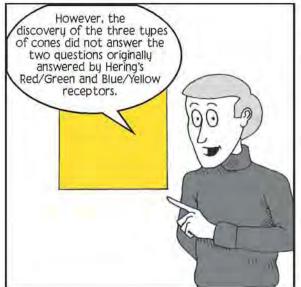










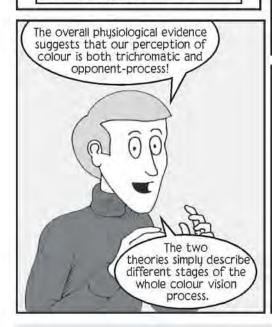




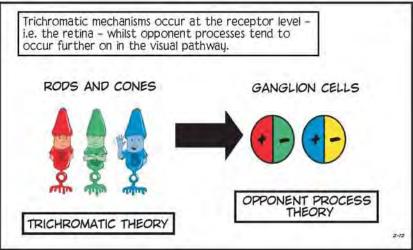
More recent physiological evidence has found evidence for neurons that respond in opposite ways to different wavelengths of light.



This cell for example responds mostly when red light hits its centre and green in its periphery. If red light hits the periphery and green the centre the cell hardly responds at all.

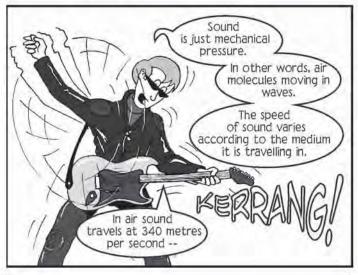


These types of 'opponent-process' cells have been found in the retina, the LGN as well as in the visual cortex.

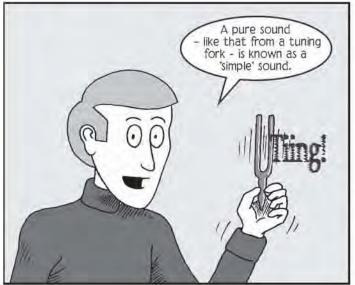










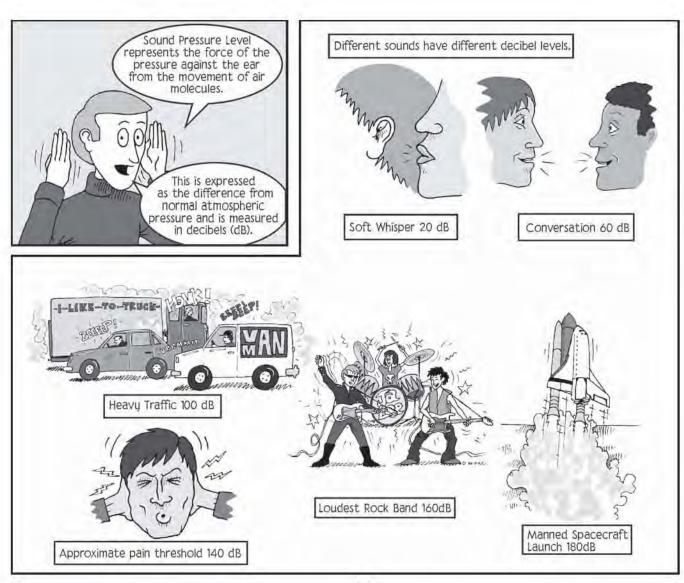


Sounds with wave frequencies between 20-20000 Hz are perceived as having different pitches.

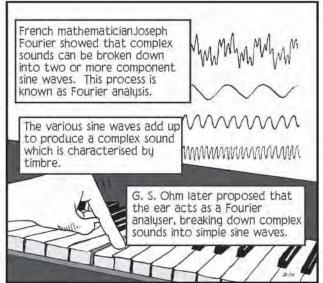
Frequencies below 20 Hz are perceived as

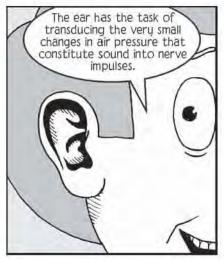
Simple sounds are described by a sinusoidal or sine wave. Sine Waves differ in a number of ways including

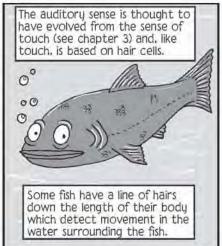
Frequencies below 20 Hz are perceived as vibration and those above 20000 Hz are not heard at all.

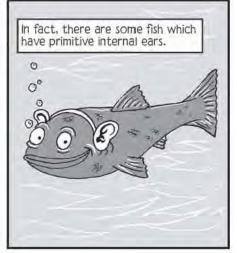




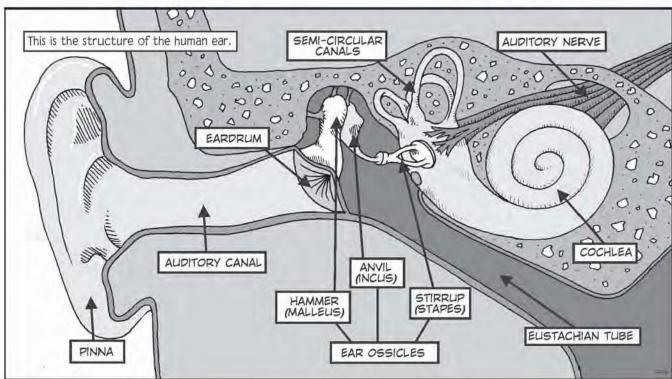




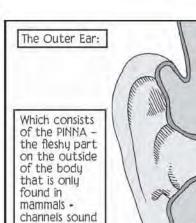






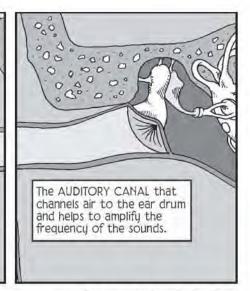


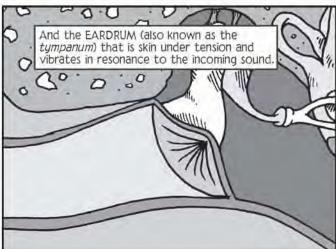


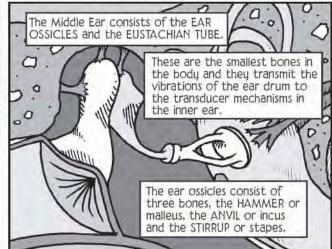


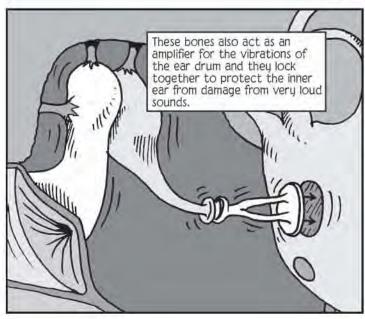
into the

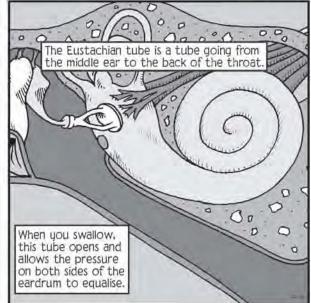
auditory canal and helps to localise sounds.



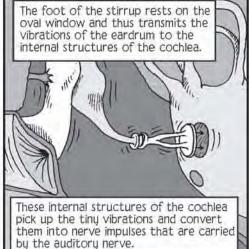


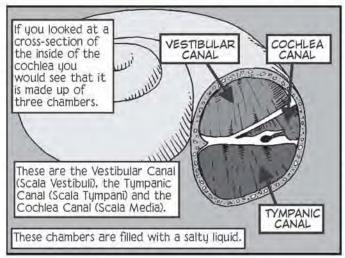


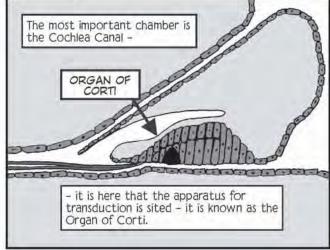


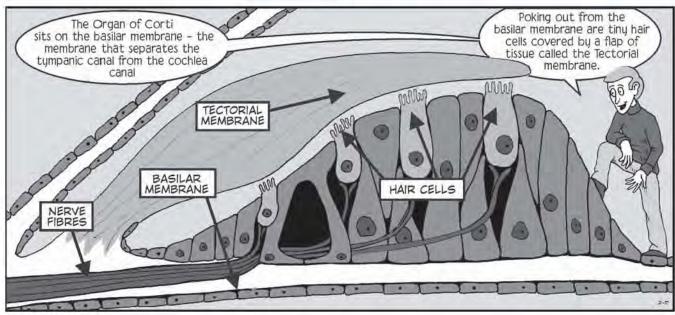




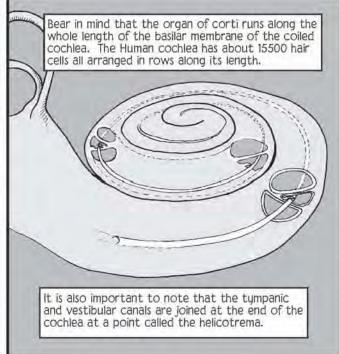


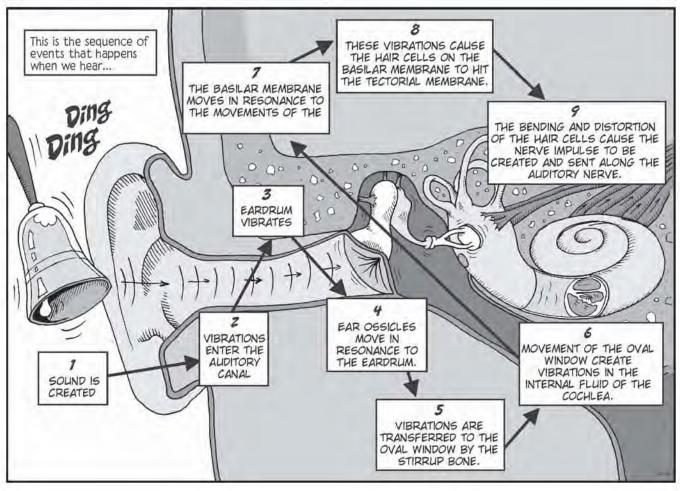




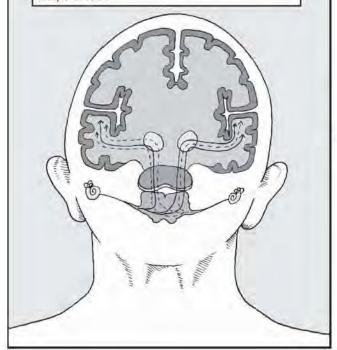








The two auditory nerves (one from each cochlea) enter the brain on either side of the brain stem and pass through a series of structures before reaching the Primary Auditory Cortex in each temporal lobe.

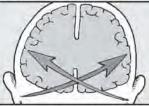


The majority of the auditory cortex is hidden under a fold on the temporal lobe.

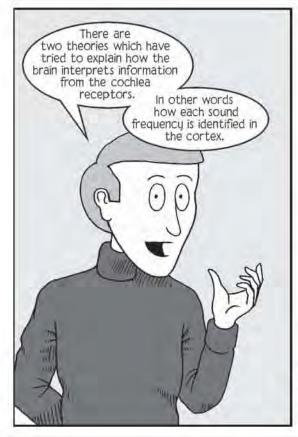


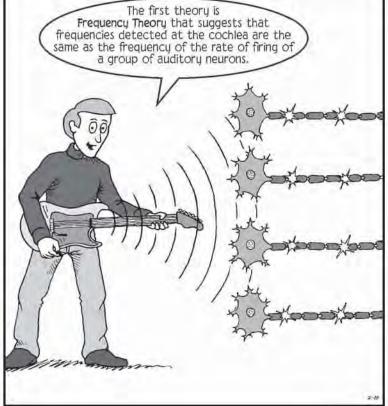
Like the visual cortex, the auditory cortex is topographically organised so that signals from specific hair cells in the cochlea end up in the same spot in the cortex.

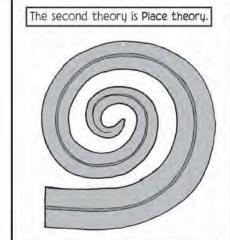
The majority (but not all) of the nerves from each ear go to the opposite side of the brain hemispheres.



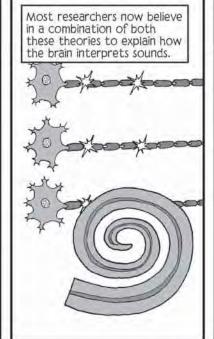
So most of the sounds from the left ear are processed in the right auditory cortex and the sounds in the right ear are processed in the left auditory cortex.





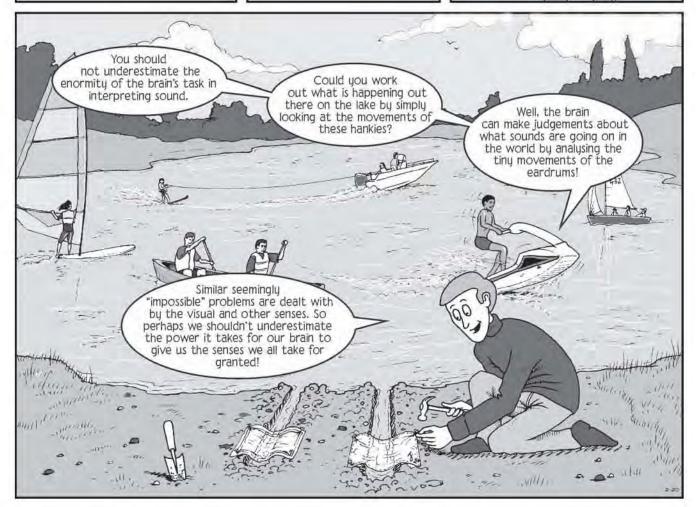


The basilar membrane is stiffer near to the oval window than it is at the other end. This means that different frequencies of sound can be detected at different points along the basilar membrane.



There is a lot more to the processing of sound information that is important to understand - like how the brain identifies where a sound is coming from and the specialised centres of the brain that are involved in language perception.

However, despite all this work, the auditory sense is still not fully understood!



### Vision and audition

#### ► PAGE 33

#### Panel 4

Our senses are the way that the nervous system gives us a picture of our environment. The way this is achieved is for each of our senses to be attuned to a different form of *energy* in the environment. While each sense is highly specialised for sensing specific types of stimuli, there are common elements to all of the biological mechanisms underlying them.

Firstly, all of the senses translate a particular physical stimulus into a nerve impulse. This is called *transduction*. Secondly, all the senses have *thresholds* below which you cannot sense anything. Thirdly, there is a decision to be made regarding whether the information is worth doing something about or not. This is usually referred to as *sensation* and involves both the intensity of the physical stimulation and the meaning that this has for a person.

Fourthly, the senses give us the ability to detect a change in the stimulus so that we know, for example, that a light has become brighter. This is known as a *difference threshold*. Lastly, the senses filter out material that continues without changing and is called *sensory adaptation*.

#### ► PAGE 34

#### Panel 2

Each of our senses is responsive to a different aspect of our environment. In the case of sight it is a part of the electromagnetic spectrum and hearing is about detecting sound pressure waves. In later chapters, it will be seen that each of the senses detects other important stimuli. It is all our senses that give us a full impression of the most important aspects of what is happening 'out there' in the world.

#### Panel 3

Sir Isaac Newton lived from 1642 to 1727 and is often hailed as the greatest scientist of all time. He studied physics, mathematics, astronomy, philosophy and alchemy. Perhaps his greatest contribution was to describe universal laws of gravity and the three laws of motion that led to modern mechanics. His ideas on the nature of light were written by 1692 but were not published until 1704 in the book *Opticks*. This delay was made to ensure publication did not occur until most of Newton's critics on his ideas had died.

#### Panel 4

Newton called his light particles 'corpuscles'. At the time, there was disagreement about the nature of light. Christiaan Huygens, had suggested that light travels as a waveform – rather like ripples on a pond. However,

Newton argued that light must be made of particles since this explained the phenomenon of reflection. Because of Newton's status, his theory became the generally accepted one until the early 1800s.

In the early 1800s, diffraction of light was discovered that could be easily explained if light was seen as a wave. Further work by Frenel, Maxwell and Young at this time also provided evidence for light as a wave and Huygens' ideas were revived.

By the early twentieth century, there was an ongoing scientific debate about whether light was made up of particles or was a wave.

#### Panel 5

Albert Einstein is widely considered the greatest physicist of all time. He is mostly known for his theory of relativity and more specifically the theory that connects mass and energy which is exemplified by the formula E=MC<sup>2</sup>. In 1905 he provided an explanation for the phenomena known as the *photoelectric effect*. He explained this by suggesting that light acts both as a stream of particles and waves. Einstein called the particles *photons*. Under some circumstances light acts as a stream of particles and under others as a wave. It really depends on what you are observing. This combined theory of the nature of light is called the *wave-particle theory*. Einstein received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.

In 1924 de Broglie suggested that *all* matter, not just light, also has wave-like properties. This is known as the de Broglie hypothesis. The only reason we cannot observe wave-like properties in all matter is due to size. The larger the matter, the less the wave form can be observed. The de Broglie hypothesis is the origin of what is referred to as *Quantum Mechanics* which is a cornerstone of modern physics.

#### Panel 6

Photons are packets of electromagnetic energy. Photons have no mass and no electric charge.

#### Panel 7

Human beings can only detect a very small aspect of the total electromagnetic spectrum. The narrow band of radiation that we can see is called the *visible spectrum* (for obvious reasons!). Other animals have a wider range of sensitivity. Some snakes, for example, can detect the infra-red radiation that is emitted from heat sources. This allows them to detect warm blooded animals (that are their prey) in low light situations. Some insects are also sensitive to ultra-violet light. Certain flowers attract insects by displaying ultra-violet patterns.

#### ► PAGE 35

#### Panel 3

Ibn Al-Haytham was born in the year 965 in Basra, then part of the Persian empire and died (probably in Cairo) in 1040. He is also known by his Latinised name Alhacen. He was an Islamic mathematician, astronomer and physicist and is considered the father of modern optics for his work on lenses, mirrors, refraction and reflection. He is also considered one of the first scholars to devise hypotheses and use experiments to test them. As such he is often seen as the originator of the modern scientific method.

Prior to Al-Haytham, ancient Greek philosophers were divided on how the eyes functioned. Ptolemy and Euclid thought that the eyes sent out sight rays. Aristotle believed in the alternative theory that light entered the eyes. Al-Haytham looked at the evidence around him and observed that eyes could be dazzled or even injured with very bright light. He also argued logically that it seemed unlikely that sight rays could reach distant objects, like the stars, quickly enough. He therefore suggested that Aristotle was correct and he elaborated a theory that explained how light reflected off objects and bounced into the eyes.

His book on optics written from 1015 to 1021 was translated into Latin in the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. This and other works were very influential on western writers from the Middle Ages onwards.

#### ► PAGE 36

#### Panel 6

This panel shows a diagrammatic representation of a photo pigment molecule.

Photo pigments are chemicals that are sensitive to light. They are embedded in the thin membrane layers (called *lamellae*) of rod and cone cells. Photo pigment molecules contain two parts. The first is *opsin* (a protein) and the second is *retinal* (a molecule of fat). There are different types of opsin. Human rods contain *rhodopsin* and human cones contain *iopsin*. Retinal is made from vitamin A. Carrots are rich in vitamin A and is the reason carrots are said to be good for your eyesight!

When a photo pigment is exposed to light it breaks down into its constituent parts: opsin and retinal. At the same time the colour of the opsin is *bleached* by the light. In other words it becomes paler. In rhodopsin it changes from a reddish colour to a pale yellow colour. This bleaching causes a chain reaction of events that results in an action potential being produced not in the photoreceptors themselves but in the bipolar cells to which they are connected.

The photo pigments recombine in darkness or dim light. Rhodopsin, the rod opsin, is very sensitive to light compared to *lopsin*, the cone opsin. In bright light conditions, rhodopsin, stays broken down so that rods do not contribute much to vision. In contrast, iopsin needs a great deal of light to work so cones are not very functional in dim light. So rods work in dim light when cones do not.

There are three varieties of Iopsin that are maximally responsive to different wavelengths of light. These three types account for the *trichromatic* theory of colour vision.

#### ► PAGE 38

#### Panel 4

The majority (approximately 90 per cent) of the nerve fibres from the ganglion cells of the retina go to the Lateral Geniculate Nucleus (LGN) of the thalamus and then on to the visual cortex. Most of the remaining 10 per cent go to the *superior colliculus*. This is a clump of neurons in the midbrain. In less complex animals this structure is the main visual centre. In humans, the superior colliculus controls eye movements. In addition Stein and Meredith (1990) found that the superior colliculus is also involved in combining basic auditory and visual information so that our gaze can turn towards a sound.

The idea of topographical organisation is important since it means that the LGN preserve the map of our visual space in the retina.

#### Panel 6

The visual (or striate) cortex in the occipital lobes of the cortex is where most of the visual information is processed. The majority of the neurons in the visual cortex are devoted to processing the information from the fovea (Drasdo, 1977). The function of the neurons in the visual cortex was investigated by Hubel and Wiesel (1959, 1979). They discovered that there are neurons in the visual cortex that send a nerve impulse only when an image in a specific part of the visual field matches a certain pattern or orientation. These neurons are called *feature detectors*. Hubel and Wiesel identified three types of feature detectors and received the 1981 Nobel Prize for 'Physiology or Medicine' for their work on the visual system (in fact they shared it with Roger Sperry for his work on specialisation in the cerebral hemispheres).

The three main types of feature detectors are:

Simple Cells are neurons in the visual cortex that respond mostly to lines of a particular orientation. Each simple cell has a specific type of orientated line that it 'likes' the most. For example, one simple cell may fire the most when their visual field is presented with a line like this:



Another simple cell may be most responsive to a line in a different orientation:



Complex Cells are neurons that are maximally responsive to a larger visual field compared to the simple cells. These complex cells will fire when a stimulus of the particular orientation falls anywhere inside its particular visual field. In addition, some complex cells respond to movement of the stimulus in a specific direction.

Hyper complex Cells will fire when lines are of a specific orientation but also have inhibitory regions at the end of the lines so they are mostly responsive to the location of ends of lines. This means that hyper complex cells tend to respond to lines of a more specific length than the other cells of the visual cortex.

#### ▶ PAGES 39 and 40

## Coding in the brain

The issue of coding is a complicated but important one. As the chapter explains, the issue is to answer the following question:

'If neurons have an 'all or nothing' response how can this create the complexity that exists in the senses?'

The answer is to refer to the two possible theories of *labelled-line* coding and *across-fibre pattern* coding. The first refers to a one-to-one correspondence between a sensory neuron and the brain cortex. In this case when the neuron sends a signal this means one thing. This would be quite a wasteful use of neurons and the nervous system would theoretically need one neuron for every possible sensory experience. This seems highly unlikely. Across-fibre pattern coding, however, means that several neurons interact together to produce different messages, rather like the different sized flags in the example.

In the human (and indeed mammalian) sensory code it is thought that there are no pure labelled-line codes. These sensory systems are just too complex. In addition, it is known that the response of each neuron varies a little and the brain gets a better idea of what is going on from a combination of neuronal responses (Pouget, Dayan & Zemel, 2000).

#### ▶ PAGE 41

#### Panel 2

It is important to note that coloured light is simply the sensory experience of a particular wavelength of light. There is nothing inherently 'red' about red light or any other coloured light.

# Panel 5

This diagram shows what happens when coloured lights are mixed. The three *primary* colours are Red, Green and Blue. They are called primary because they cannot be created by mixing any other coloured light. The full range of our colour experience is due to mixing all the primary colours and creating secondary colours: cyan, created by mixing green and blue; yellow, created by mixing green and red; and magenta, created by mixing red and blue. When all three primary colours are mixed we get white light.

You may be wondering why this combination of mixing light seems different to what happens when you mix coloured paints. The difference between light and paint is that light mixing is *additive* mixing whilst paint mixing is *subtractive*. When we add light together we *add* wavelengths of light and when we mix paint, more wavelengths of light are absorbed by the paint pigments. So in paints, when red, blue and green are mixed together the result is a paint that absorbs all light: in other words black paint.

# Panel 6

In fact, this scene could never have happened as Young and Helmholtz never actually met. Thomas Young died in 1829 and Helmholtz was not born until 1821. It was Helmholtz who revived one of Young's ideas from fifty years earlier.

Thomas Young was born in 1773 and is often referred to as a 'polymath' as he contributed to many different scholarly areas in addition to his suggestions about colour vision. He is said to have been a child prodigy, learning Greek and Latin at the age of 14, established himself as a doctor at the age of 26 and was made a professor of the Royal Institution at the age of 28. His many contributions to science included providing evidence for the wave theory of light; devising a mathematical theory that continues to help modern engineering calculate the level of stress on a structure; contributed to the understanding of blood flow in the body; and devised a rule of thumb for determining the correct drug dosage for children. In addition, he also found time to compare the grammar and vocabulary of 400 different languages; made important contributions to the early deciphering of Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and developed a method for tuning musical instruments.

#### ► PAGE 42

#### Panel 1

Please bear in mind that each colour cone is *maximally* responsive to wavelengths in the blue, green and red range. The actual response does vary a little.

#### Panel 2

A similar effect is found in colour television sets or computer monitors. They have small 'dots' made up of red, blue and green that when seen from a distance give the correct colour impression.

#### ► PAGE 43

# Panel 2

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# ► PAGE 44

## Panel 6

For a long time the Trichromatic and the Opponent-Process theories were in opposition since each explained things the other did not. Hurvich and Jameson (1957) resolved the issue by combining the two theories. They suggested that we do have three types of cone: each one responsive to red, blue and green light. They further suggested that these cones were connected in an opponent-process fashion at the ganglion cells. This scheme explains why yellow light is perceived as a 'pure' colour because both the red and green cones are excited AND both the opponent ganglion cells are also excited. Additionally, this theory explains complimentary colours since there are Red-Green and Blue-Yellow ganglion cells (as well as White-Black cells).

#### ► PAGE 45

# Panel 3

Sound is just the pushing of air or any another medium like water. When something falls over and hits the ground, the vibrations are transferred to the air and we can hear a noise. If there was no air, like on the moon, no vibrations could be transferred and we would therefore not hear a noise.

#### Panel 6

Sound waves vary in terms of amplitude (the 'height' of the wave) and frequency (the 'speed' of the wave). Amplitude has an influence on the loudness of a sound but is not an exact correspondence. Many factors influence loudness beyond the amplitude of the sound wave. The frequency of the wave is mostly related to the pitch of a sound. Generally speaking, the higher the frequency, the higher the pitch. However, as with other senses, the physical stimulus and the perception of that stimulus are not directly related since your brain adjusts things slightly to allow for better perception. This applies both to the amplitude of the sound wave and its frequency.

#### ► PAGE 46

#### Panel 1

Atmospheric pressure is the physical pressure exerted upon our bodies from the amount of air above us. This gets lower the higher up you go – in a plane for example. We don't normally notice this as our bodies are accustomed to this pressure.

#### ▶ PAGE 47

#### Panel 5

Please note the *semi-circular canals*. These are not involved in hearing. They are part of the system of balance that is covered in Chapter 3.

# ► PAGE 48

#### Panel 2

Human *pinnas* are quite basic compared to other mammals. Cats and dogs for example, have pinnas that can move to help sound detection.

#### Panel 7

Infections in the Eustachian tube and middle ear can be quite serious and common, especially in children. This is called *otitis media* whereby fluid builds up in the middle ear and can cause the eardrum to burst. When we have a cold sometimes the Eustachian tube blocks and causes earache.

#### ► PAGE 50

#### Panels 1 and 2

There are some people who have damage to the cochlea who have cochlea implants. These are devices that analyse the frequency of the sounds. The responses from the device are then sent along electrodes that are implanted into different points along the basilar membrane. Cochlea implants can provide some good results for people with certain hearing problems.

# ▶ PAGE 51

#### Panels 1 to 3

The pathways from the ear mechanisms to the brain are some of the most complex of the sensory systems. Approximately 70 per cent of the pathways are *contralateral*, in other words the connections from the left ear go to the right brain hemisphere and those from the right ear go to the left hemisphere. The remaining 30 per cent of the connection are *ipsilateral*. In other words those connections from the right ear go to the right hemisphere and those from the left ear go to the left hemisphere.

# ► PAGE 52

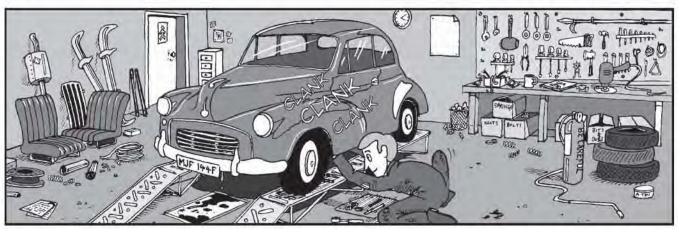
#### Panel 1

Place theory is the reason we can hear through bone conduction. The vibrations from sound can enter the cochlea from the bone around it rather than through the oval window. Garrett (2003) describes how Thomas Edison, who was nearly deaf, invented the phonograph. He used to grasp the handle of the phonograph in his teeth in order to detect the sounds being played through bone conduction.

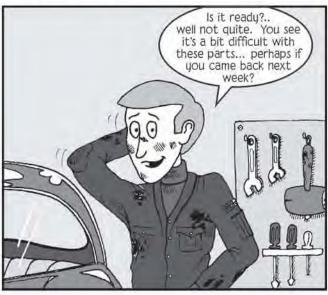
# Panel 2

Most researchers subscribe to what is referred to as the *frequency-place* theory. This is a combination of the frequency and place theories whereby the frequency of the sound accounts for the processing of sounds up to approximately 200 hertz and all remaining sound frequencies are dependent on where on the basilar membrane there is the greatest movement.

# THE MECHANICAL SENSES







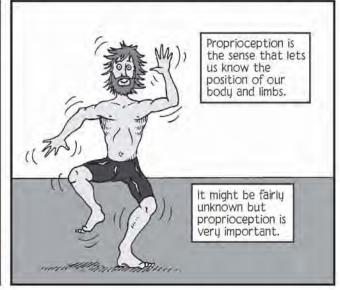


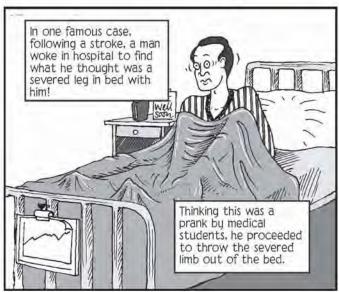










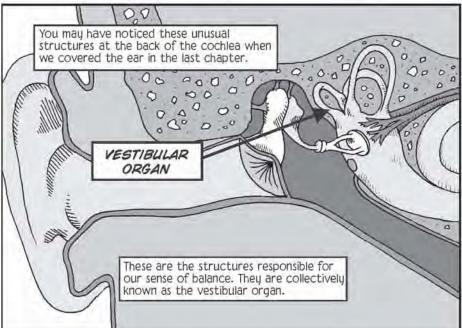






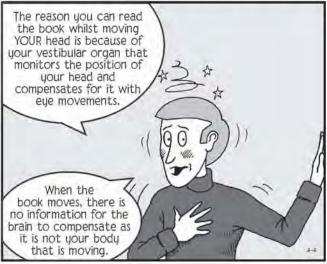


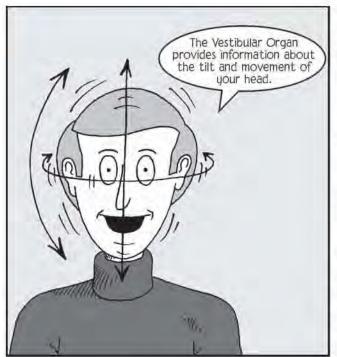


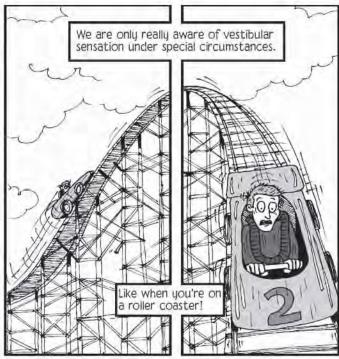


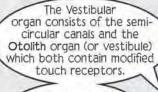












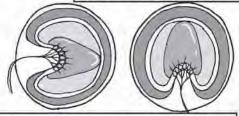
These structures provide the brain with information about three aspects of our balance and position:

Position, Speed and Acceleration!

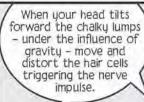


The Otolith organ is found inside the vestibular organ.

There are two parts to the otolith organ, oriented at right angles to each other. One is called the saccule and the other the utricle.

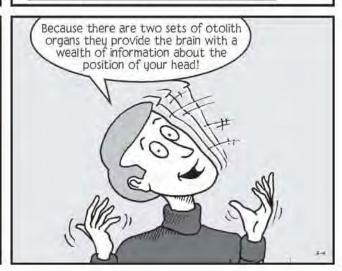


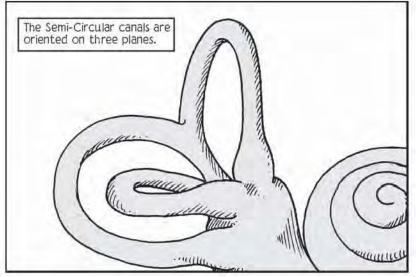
Each one is filled with a fluid called endolymph. Small lumps of chalk sit on top of a jelly like material in which are embedded hair cells.

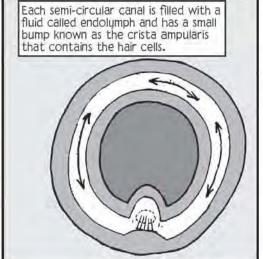


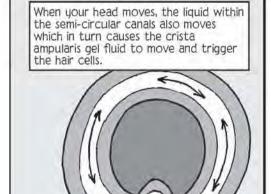
This gives the brain information about the position of the head.

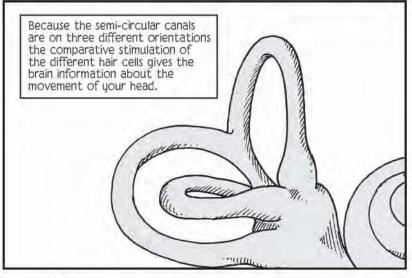






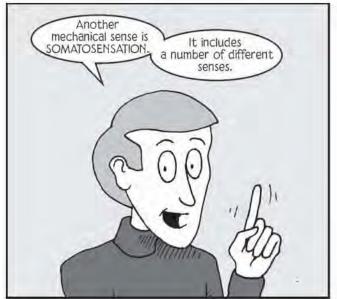


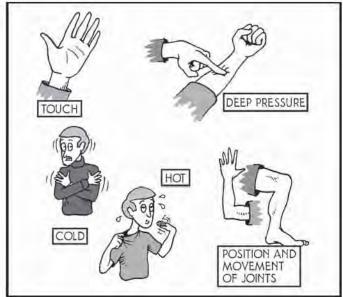


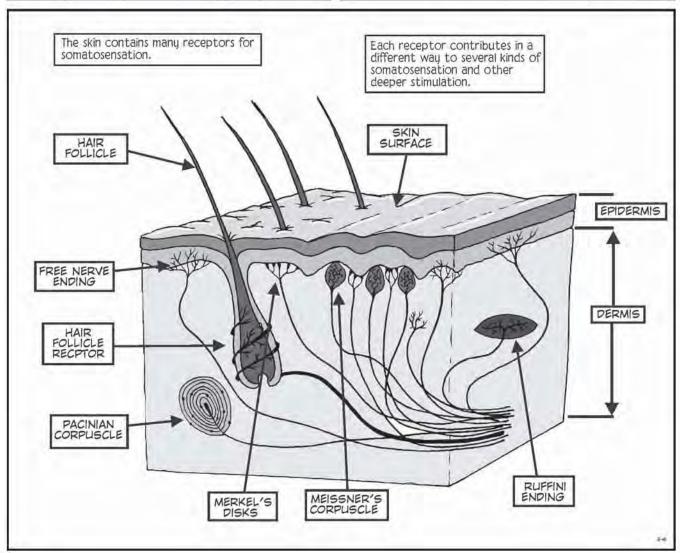


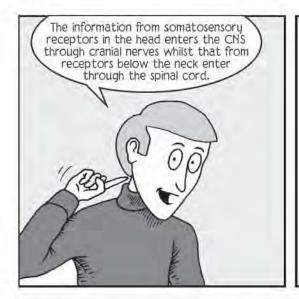


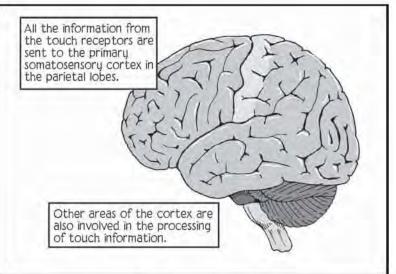


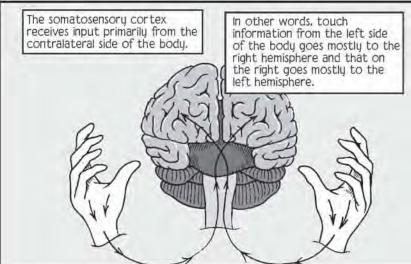


























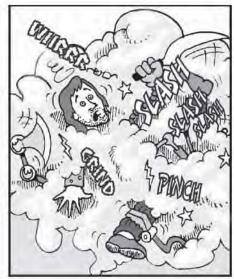








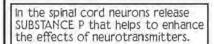


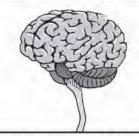


Polymodal receptors detect both thermal AND mechanical pressure as well as detecting chemicals that are released when body tissue is injured.





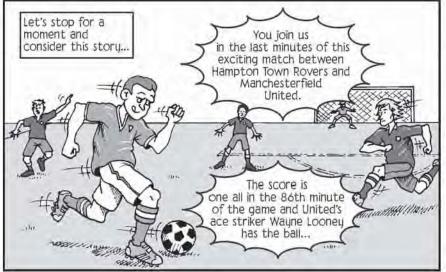




From the spinal cord, pain information goes firstly to the thalamus in the brain which then relays information to areas of the cortex and areas of the brain associated with emotional responses.















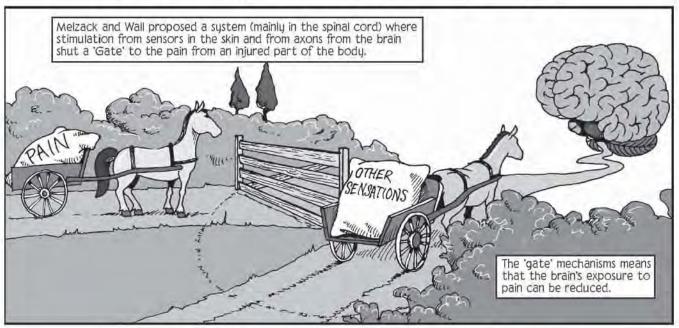










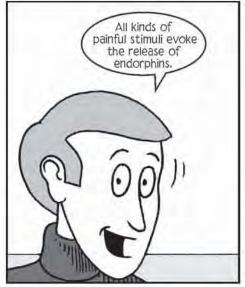


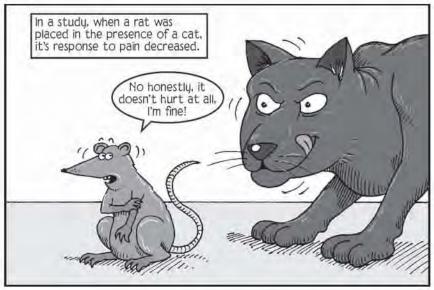


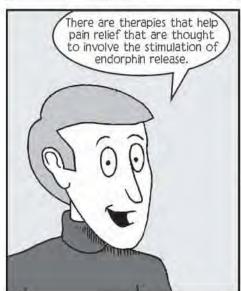


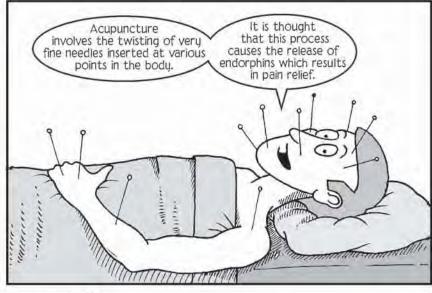


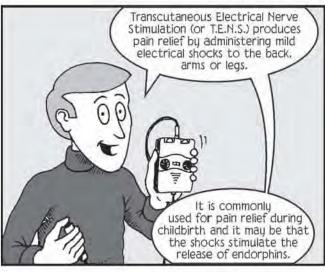




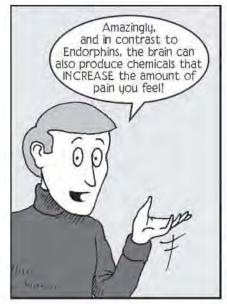




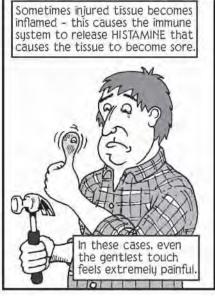




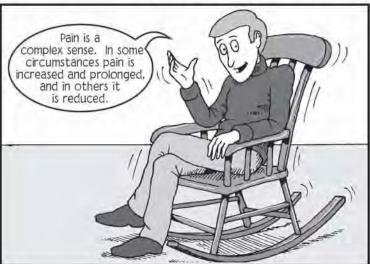


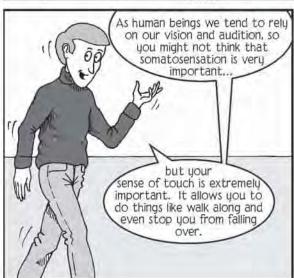














# The mechanical senses

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#### Panel 2

The mechanical senses are primarily responsible for the detection of vibrations. These vibrations are different to those detected by the auditory sense. However, it is likely that the mechanical senses are the basis for the evolution of the detection of sound. Both audition and the mechanical senses involve the bending of hair-like receptors.

#### Panel 4

Proprioception is the sense that tells us about the position and movement of our arms and legs and the rest of our body. There are a number of different *proprioceptors* in the body. Normally these are connected to our muscles and tendons. One propioceptor is called a *muscle spindle*. This is parallel to a muscle and detects when the muscle stretches. When this happens, the muscle spindle sends a signal to a neuron in the spinal cord which then sends a signal to the muscles next to the spindle to cause it to contract resulting in a movement. This is what happens when there is a *stretch reflex* such as what happens in the knee jerk reflex (see Chapter 1). There are other types of propioceptor, each responsible for a different aspect of the detection of movement and location of the body.

# Panels 6 to 7

This case was described by Oliver Sacks (1985) in his book *The Man who mistook his wife for a Hat.* This incident is in Chapter 4 called 'The man who fell out of bed' (an earlier account was also published in his book *A Leg to Stand On*, published in 1984). Sacks describes an incident when he met a patient as a medical student. The young man in question had fallen out of bed and become quite agitated and upset. When Oliver Sacks attended he was asked to explain what was happening. The story is as described in the chapter. The man had awoken and felt a severed leg in bed with him. He thought this was a prank by medical students so he tried to throw the leg out of his bed. To his great surprise he found himself following the leg and ended up on the floor. He had completely lost sensation in his leg – one of the things he had lost was 'proprioception' for the leg.

The rest of Sack's book provides a number of different descriptions of neurological cases that are also relevant to biological psychology. This and other books by Oliver Sacks are highly recommended.

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#### Panel 3

This diagram shows a typical cross-section of the major somatosensory receptors found in the skin of mammals. Some receptors respond to more than one kind of stimulus and so each one probably contributes to a variety of different 'touch' like sensations.

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#### Panel 4

Tickling is a very poorly understood aspect of touch sensation. It is very difficult to explain the purpose of tickling. Chimpanzees tend to pant rhythmically when they are tickled. This leads to the idea that they indeed 'laughing'. However, the link between humour and the response to tickling is not very clear. Most people do not enjoy being tickled for very long. Also, if you laugh at one joke you are more likely to laugh at the next one. But if you are tickled and laugh, this does not affect whether you laugh at a joke or not (Harris, 1999).

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#### Panel 6

In fact, it is likely that we do not have specific 'pain' receptors at all (Green, 1994). They are simply somatosensory receptors that also respond to painful stimuli. The sensation of pain is connected to a number of different aspects of our behaviour, most notably emotions and motivation. The fear caused by pain, for example, can be very effective at teaching animals and people a number of responses. There is also the issue that normal somatosensory stimuli can be detected as painful if they are extreme. Stretching of the skin, for example, can range from mild to extremely painful but involves the same receptors.

#### ► PAGE 69

#### Panel 6

Contrary to popular opinion, the hot part of a chilli is neither the skin, flesh nor the seeds. The capsaicin compounds that give chillies their heat are found only in the pith to which the seeds are attached. The redder the pith the hotter the chilli!

After the initial heat of a chilli, the area exposed becomes desensitised from the pain for a while. This has allowed the development of pain-killing creams that contain capsaicin. When an area of the body experiencing chronic pain (such as the joints in arthritis) is rubbed with capsaicin cream this is followed by a period of pain-free sensation in that area. It must be noted that the area must first be anaesthetised otherwise the heat and pain from the capsaicin would be unbearable.

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#### Panel 2

The 'Gate Theory of Pain' is very complex but the basic idea is that pain signals in the periphery of the body do not always reach the higher centres of the brain. In the spinal cord there is a 'gate' mechanism that needs to be open for a pain signal to be sent on. There are a number of influences on whether the gate mechanism opens or not. These include both information from the skin that has to reach a certain threshold for pain to be detected and descending fibres from the brain. It is the signals from the brain that allow psychological motivation to decrease the experience of pain by closing the gate in the spinal cord.

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#### Panel 1

The discovery of *endorphins* provided a physiological basis for the 'Gate Theory of Pain' suggested many years earlier.

Both pleasant and unpleasant stimuli can cause the release of endorphins. Sutton *et al.* (1997) found that inescapable pain is especially efficient at releasing very strong endorphins to block any more pain. Endorphins are also released during sex, during an athlete's 'high' and even when some people listen to particular types of music! (Goldstein, 1980). Additionally, placebo pain relief that is produced when people mistakenly believe they have taken pain relief medication, is known to be endorphin based in origin (Basbaum & Fields, 1984).

# Panel 2

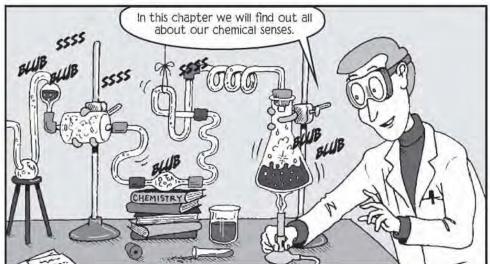
The study referred to here was conducted by Lester and Fanselow (1985).

# ► PAGE 73

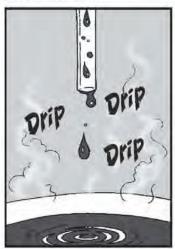
# Panel 3

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, like ibuprofen, appear to work by reducing the amount of histamine released by the damaged tissue (Hunt & Mantyh, 2001).

# THE CHEMICAL SENSES



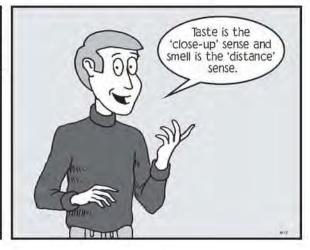


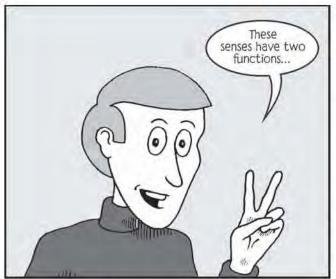
















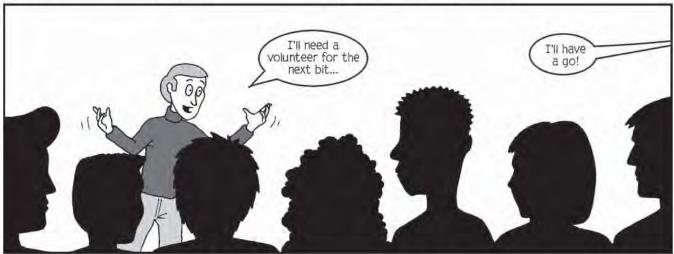














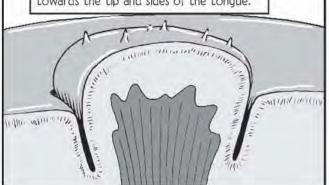




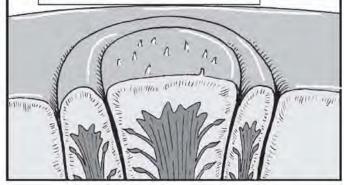




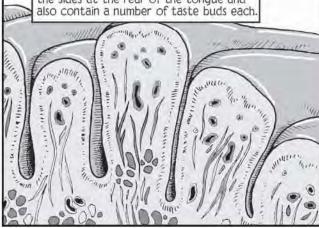
Fungiform papillae are the most numerous and look like mushrooms. These usually only have one taste bud each and are found towards the tip and sides of the tongue.

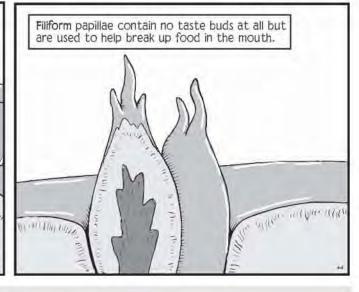


Circumvallate papillae look like flattened hills with a trench around them. These contain several taste buds each and are found towards the back of the tongue.

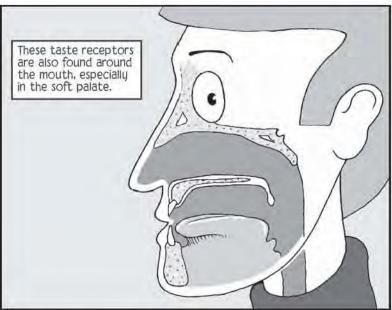


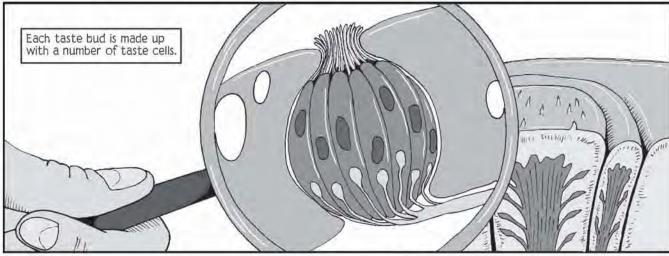
Foliate papillae are shaped like folds along the sides at the rear of the tongue and also contain a number of taste buds each.

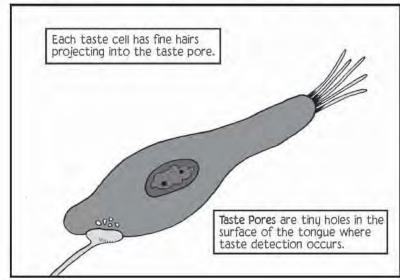






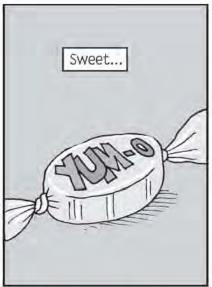




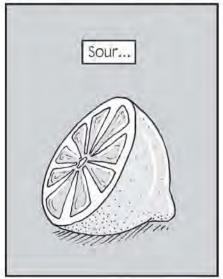




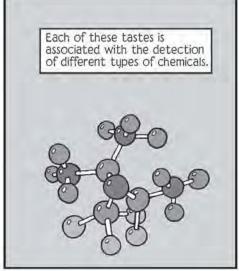


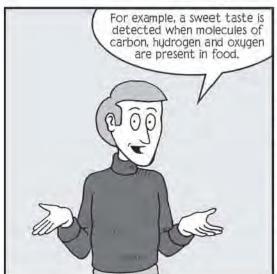


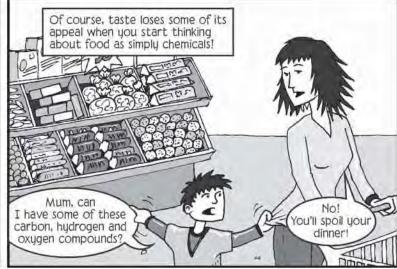


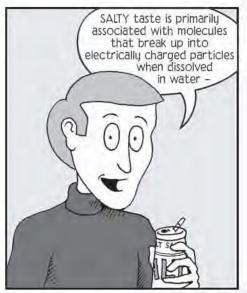


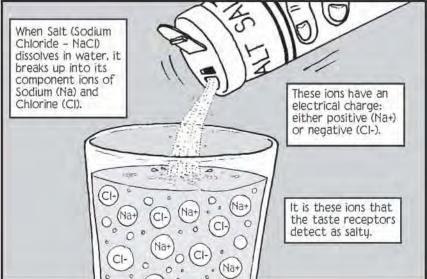


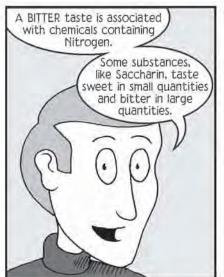






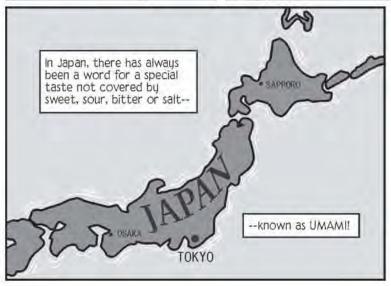






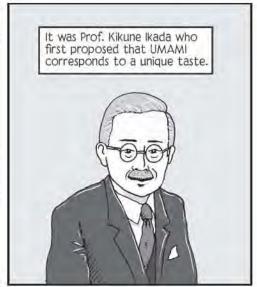


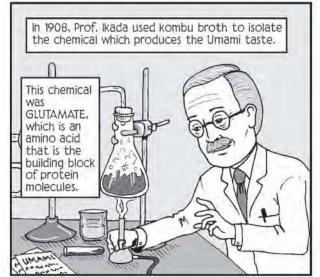


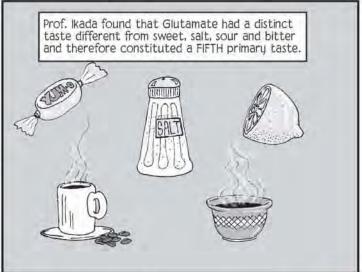




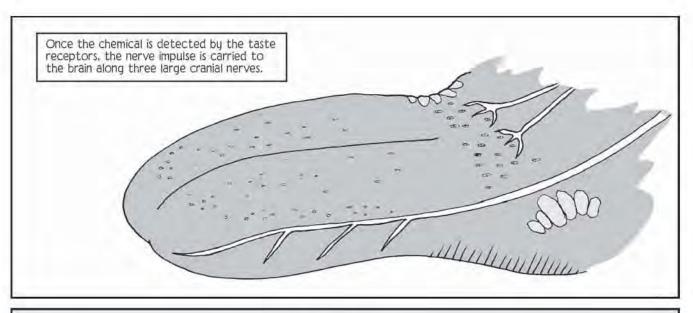


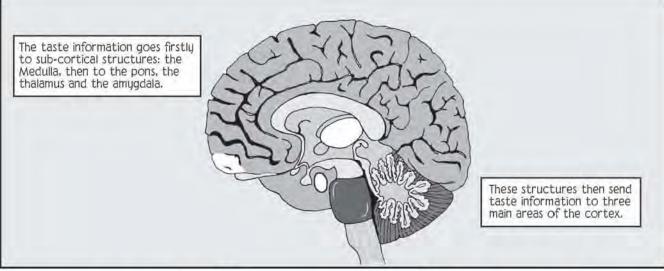






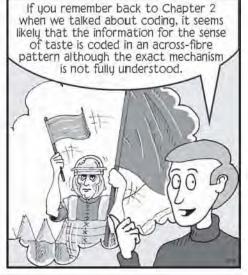






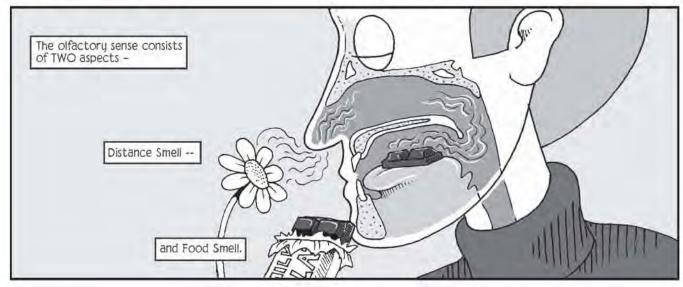




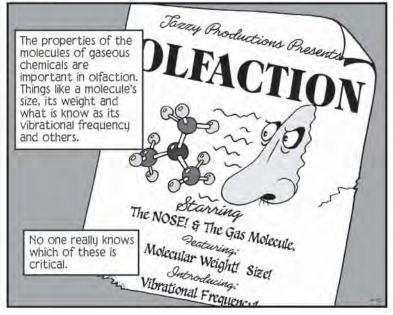


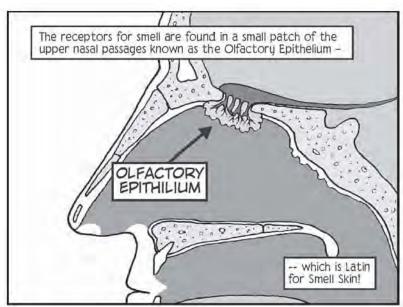


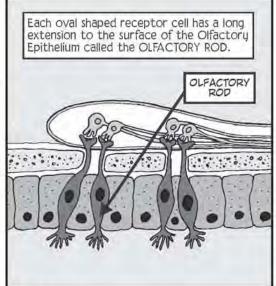












Each Olfactory receptor functions for only six to eight weeks before deteriorating. New receptor cells are constantly being produced to replace these.

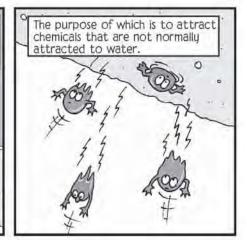


Each one is only receptive to a very narrow range of chemicals.

At the end of the olfactory rod there are very fine hair-like structures embedded in watery mucus. These are known as Olfactory Cilia.



This mucus contains a special chemical called Olfactory Binding protein.

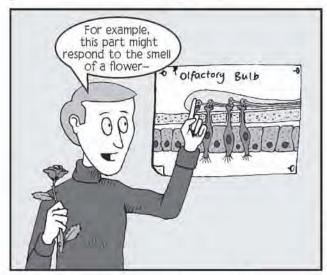


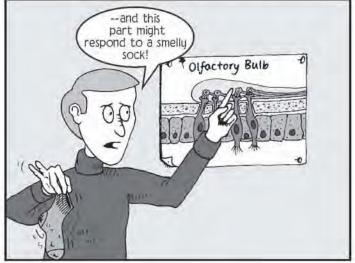
The olfactory cilia contain the actual The more cilia receptor molecules which an animal has per receptor make contact with the cell, the greater the smell sensitivity of that smell stimulus. animal. Humans are at the lower end of the smell sensitivity range with only approximately 10 million olfactory receptors and about 6-8 cilia per receptors.

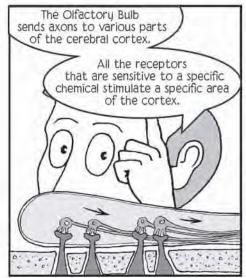








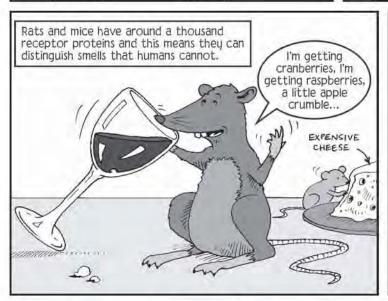


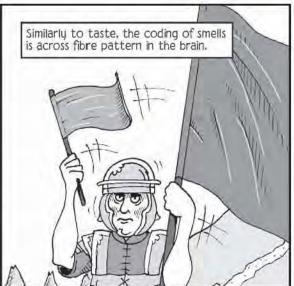




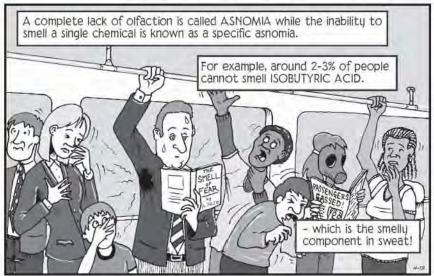




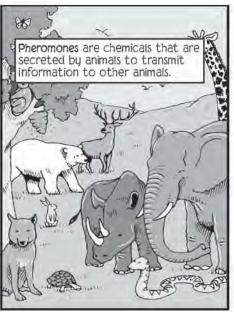


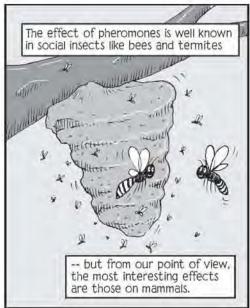


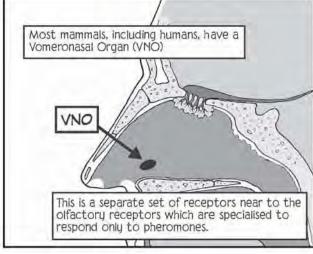








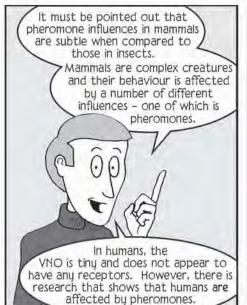


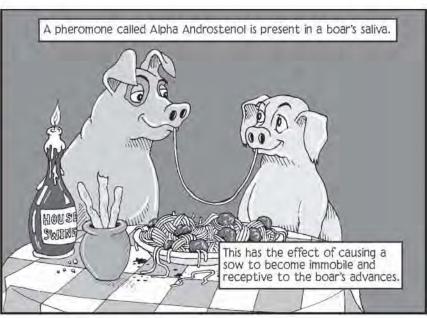


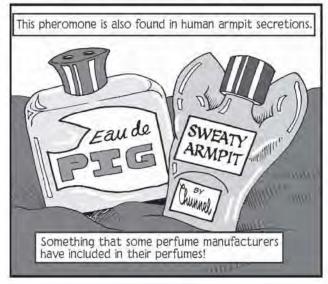




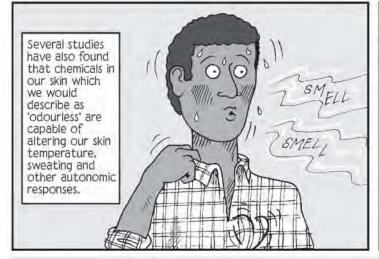


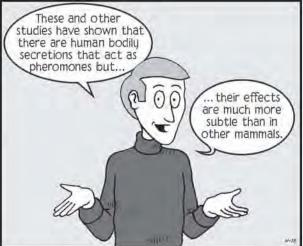


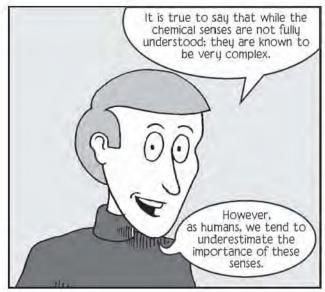


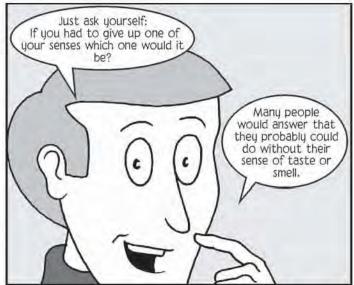


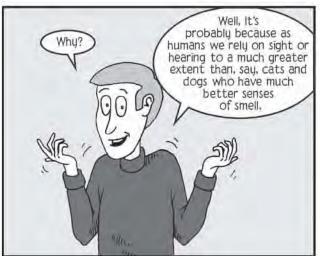


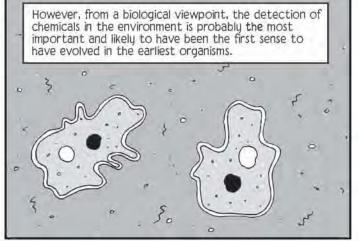


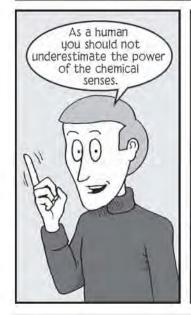
















# The chemical senses

# ► PAGE 79

The chemical senses are the sense of taste (known as *gustation* or the *gustatory* sense) and smell (known as *olfaction* or the *olfactory* sense). They are both there for the detection of chemicals in the environment. These senses have *chemoreceptors* that detect chemicals (McBurney, 1984) although there are also other chemoreceptors inside the body.

The chemical senses are believed to be the oldest senses in evolutionary terms. Scott (1990) estimated that they have a history of around 500 million years.

# ► PAGE 80

#### Panel 3

The senses of taste and smell have related functions and while they are usually discussed separately, they act together when it comes to eating potentially harmful substances. What we perceive as the flavour of food comes from a combination of the taste and smell senses. When we have a cold and our nose is blocked, preventing us from smelling things, the flavour of food tends to be more bland.

Most of the cases of people complaining that they have lost the 'taste' of food (more accurately described as losing the *flavour* of food) are found to have an impaired sense of smell.

# ► PAGE 82

# Panel 1

The chemoreceptors for taste are found in the taste buds that are found in the papillae on the tongue. Each papilla contains up to about ten taste buds and each taste bud can have up to fifty receptors.

# ► PAGE 83

#### Panel 1

In the tongue of an adult human the taste buds are located mainly around the outside edge. There are very few taste buds in the middle of the tongue.

# Panel 4

The taste cells are the receptor cells for taste. These are the chemoreceptors for the gustatory sense. Unlike other senses, the receptors for taste are not neurons. They are modified skin cells. Like neurons, the taste cells have membranes that can create an action potential and they release neurotransmitters that affect neurons nearby. However, like skin cells they also periodically die, drop off and are replaced by a new taste cell.

# ► PAGE 84

#### Panels 1 to 5

Each of these primary tastes represents a different taste receptor. So there are sweet receptors, salt receptors, sour receptors and bitter receptors.

However, the taste of food is not constant. If you eat too much of one particular taste (boiled sweets for example) any subsequent similarly flavoured foods (sweet foods in this example) are likely to not taste of that flavour at all. In this case you would not be able to taste any other sweet foods for a while. This is called *adaptation* and it suggests that the particular taste receptors (sweet ones in this case) are fatigued. However, other tastes (salt, sour or bitter) will taste the same as normal. This means that there is little *cross-adaptation* of the primary tastes and is also evidence that there are different types of receptor, one type for each primary taste.

# ► PAGE 84 (Panels 7 and 8) and PAGE 85 (Panels 1 to 4)

The transduction of taste is similar to what occurs at a synapse. The food substance binds with a receptor site on the taste cell which causes a change in the cell's membrane and results in an action potential. Different substances bind with different types of taste cell and result in the different taste sensations.

# **Salt Receptors**

To experience a salty taste we must have a substance that turns into ions when dissolved in water (see Chapter 1 notes regarding ions and the action potential). Table salt (Sodium Chloride, NaCl) is the best at evoking a salty taste but 'salts' that contain a metal and a small other molecule also elicit a salty taste. These include for example Potassium Chloride (KCl). When sodium ions are present in saliva, they enter the taste receptor and depolarise its resting potential causing an action potential (see Chapter 1 notes). This then causes the taste receptor to release a neurotransmitter that cause the firing of nearby neurons (Avenet & Lindemann, 1989; Kinnamon & Cummings, 1992).

# **Sour Receptors**

Sour receptors respond to hydrogen ions present in acidic solutions. Kinnamon, Dionne and Beam (1988) have suggested that the hydrogen ions bind to potassium sites on the surface of the receptor's membrane. This stops potassium ions exiting the cell and this causes the depolarisation of the cell resulting in an action potential. However, the sourness of a substance is not just dependent on the number of hydrogen ions present so something else about the acid solution must also be detected.

# **Bitter and Sweet Receptors**

Bitter and sweet receptors are more difficult to explain and they seem to be connected. Wong, Gannon and Margolskee (1996) used genetic engineering to prevent mice from tasting bitter substances and found that they were also unable to taste sweet foods.

Bitter receptors typically respond to substances containing plant alkoloids (such as quinine). Sweet receptors respond to sugar molecules like fructose (the sweet substance found in fruits). However, some sugars can elicit both a sweet and a bitter taste. An example of this is glycoside, which is a sugar molecule found on

the skin of Seville oranges. However, glycoside tastes extremely bitter. In addition, artificial sweeteners like aspartame elicit a sweet taste in small amounts and bitterness in large amounts.

Both sweet and bitter (and indeed Umami) receptors operate in a similar manner. They are a bit like a metabotropic synapse (see Chapter 1 notes). When the correct ion molecule comes along, this binds onto the receptor site on the membrane. This then activates a G-Protein that causes the release of another chemical in the cell that activates the action potential (Lindeman, 1996).

There is some evidence that we have 40 to 80 different bitter receptors (Adler *et al.*, 2000; Matsunami, Montmayeur & Buck, 2000). This accounts for the myriad of substances that we taste as bitter. In chemical terms, these substances are not related. The only thing connecting them is that they tend to be toxic. Therefore, we have a large number of different receptors to ensure that we don't eat anything that could be harmful.

# ► PAGE 86

#### Panel 5

Whether Umami constitutes a separate taste quality or not is quite controversial. Chaudari, Landin and Roper (2000) proposed a fifth type of glutamate receptor that detects Umami or the taste of Monosodium Glutamate. This substance is often used as a flavour enhancer, especially in Asian cuisine (Kurihara, 1987; Scott & Plate-Salaman, 1991). However, some researchers don't accept that there are specific glutamate receptors in humans despite good evidence for their presence in other animal species.

There may also be a sixth 'primary' taste. It has been suggested that we also have specific taste receptors for fats (Fukuwatari *et al.*, 1997; Gilbertson *et al.*, 1997; Lohse *et al.*, 1997). Before these suggestions it was felt that fats were detected by feel in the mouth.

# ▶ PAGE 87

# Panel 5

# **Taste Coding in the Brain**

The four primary tastes of sweet, salt, sour and bitter imply that the brain codes information in a labelled-line fashion. In other words, a particular taste of sweet, for example, is sent to the brain intact so that all messages from that sweet receptor are interpreted by the brain as a sweet taste. However, the coding of taste information in the brain appears to be much more complicated (Hettinger & Frank, 1992). The taste receptors firing is combined in cells next along in the system. These cells respond mainly to one taste but a little to others as well. Therefore the taste interpretation by the brain depends on the analysis of a pattern of responses from a number of different taste receptors. In other words taste is in an across-pattern fibre coding (Erickson, DiLorenzo & Woodbury, 1994).

# ► PAGE 88

#### Panel 4

Chemicals that exist in their gaseous state are called volatile.

#### Panel 5

Almost all chemicals that have a smell can dissolve in fats and are organic compounds (contain a complex mixture of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen). However, there are a number of chemicals that have these characteristics that are completely odourless.

# ► PAGE 89

#### Panel 1

The *olfactory epithelium* consists of two patches of mucus membrane, each about 6.5 square centimetres in size. This is found at the top of the nasal cavities. We need to sniff in order for air to reach the olfactory epithelium. Normally only approximately 10 per cent of the air that enters our nose actually reaches the olfactory epithelium.

# Panel 3

The chemoreceptors for olfaction are the olfactory cells. They are modified neurons that lie embedded in the olfactory mucus that lines the olfactory epithelium. There are many types of receptor each responding to different chemicals. It has proved very difficult to categorise these into classes like with taste receptors (Bartoshuk & Beauchamp, 1994). There may be hundreds of different types of receptor, each responsible for a particular smell (Toates, 2001).

# Panels 6 and 7

It is actually quite difficult to estimate the number of olfactory cells that humans have in their nose. Figures vary from 10 million to around 50 million.

# ► PAGE 90

# Panel 1

The olfactory epithelium lies on the *cribiform plate*. This is a bony part of the skull that lies just below the base of the front part of the brain.

Olfaction is unique when it comes to the senses because the axons from the receptors do not go to the thalamus first. This has led to suggestions that the direct connections to the olfactory bulb means that the sense of smell could influence the structures in the brain that control emotions. This may be the reason certain smells can be very evocative of memories.

# Panel 2

There have been some attempts to categorise smells. Probably the most accepted form suggests we have seven types of odours that humans respond to (Green, 1994):

- Camphorous (that smells like mothballs)
- Musky (in some aftershaves)
- Floral (in flowers like roses)
- Putrid (like bad eggs)
- Ethereal ('clinical' like in ether)
- Pungent (like vinegar)
- Peppermint (obviously like mint!).

However, more modern research has suggested that it is very difficult to accept such a categorisation in its entirety.

# Panels 3 and 4

This is an issue of coding. Olfaction is coded in terms of which area of the olfactory bulb is stimulated. Similar smells stimulate the same or a very similar area of the olfactory bulb while smells that are different to each other excite different areas of the olfactory bulb (Uchida, Takahashi & Mori, 2000).

# ▶ PAGE 91

# Panel 1

Adaptation to a smell is quite fast (Kurahashi, Lowe & Gold, 1994).

#### Panel 6

Along with isobutyric acid, Amoore (1977) identified five other smells that are specific asnomias: fishy, musky, urinous, spermous and malty. He also identified another twenty-six, although the evidence for these is less convincing.

There cannot be many people who would complain that they cannot detect the smell of isobutyric acid!

These specific asnomias suggest that there may be individual receptor cells for each of these smells.

# PAGE 92

#### Panel 4

The vomeronasal organ (VNO) in adult humans is very small (Monti-Bloch, Jennings-White, Dolberg & Berliner, 1994) and does not appear to have any receptors (Keverne, 1999). However, there is evidence that it can influence the activity of the autonomic nervous system and hence be working at a non-conscious level (Bartoshok & Beauchamp, 1994; Monti-Bloch, Jennings-White, Dolberg & Berliner, 1994).

There is some evidence that human pheromones can influence the menstrual cycle in women (Stern & McClintock, 1998).

# ► PAGE 93

# Panel 4

Kirk-Smith, Booth et al. (1978).

# Panel 5

This refers to the study by Monti-Bloch, Jennings-White, Dolberg and Berliner (1994).

# ► PAGE 94

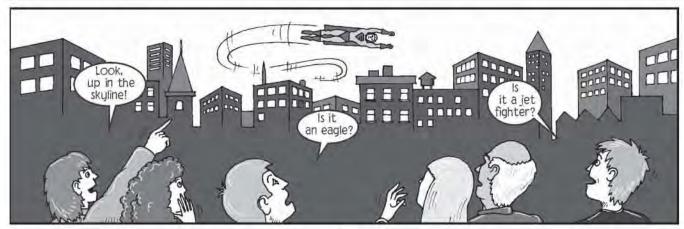
# Panel 3

Olfaction can be seen as a very different experience when compared to the other senses. In some ways it is like vision since we can identify different separate smells like that of strong onions or cigar smoke. However, when two or three smells are mixed we can still identify the individual components. In this case it is more like the sense of hearing that analyses the components of a sound.

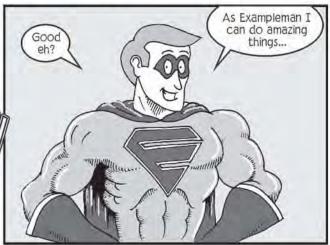
Additionally, we often find it very difficult to describe smells except to say that one smell is like another. This suggests that the olfactory system is there to detect things and not for analysing the particular qualities in a smell.

Nevertheless, probably because of the direct connections to the olfactory bulb in the brain, smells have the greatest ability to evoke vivid and often nostalgic memories.

# THE CONTROL OF MOVEMENT





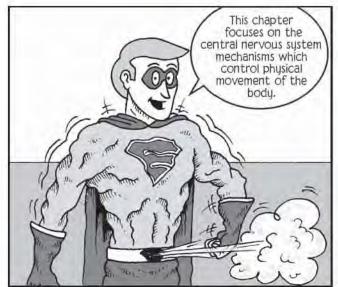


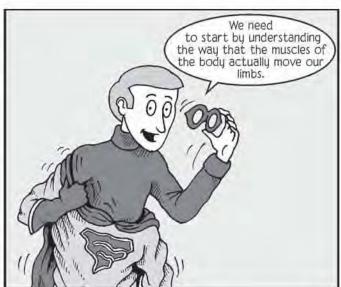




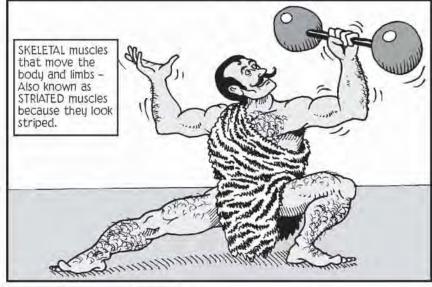


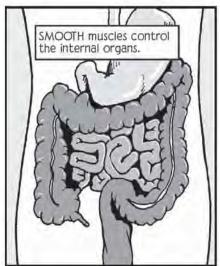


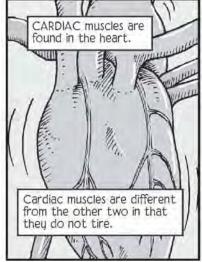


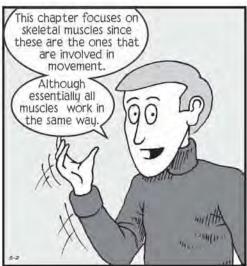


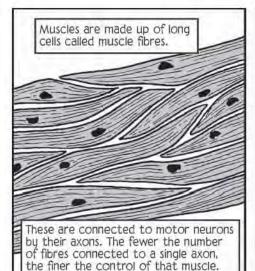


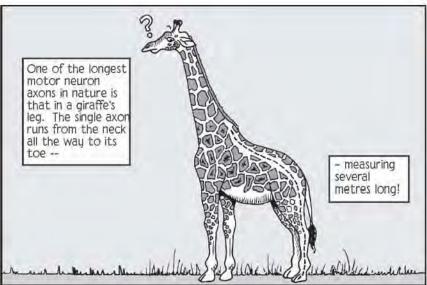






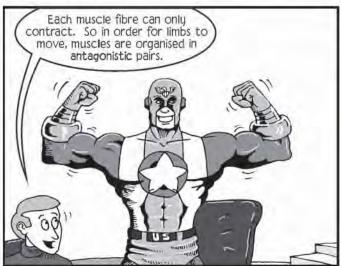


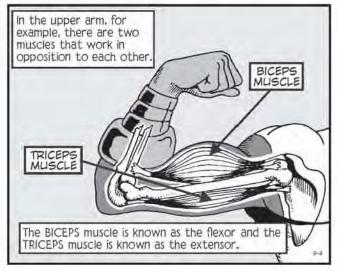








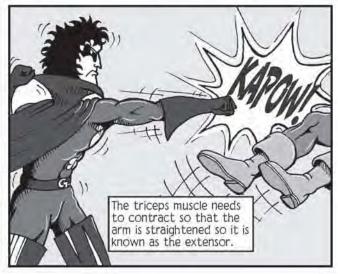


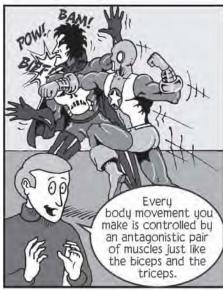










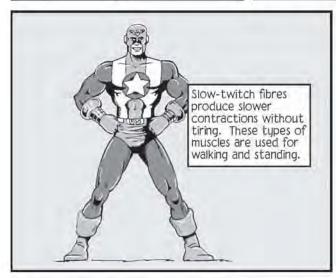


















Reflexes (like the knee jerk)

that are controlled in the







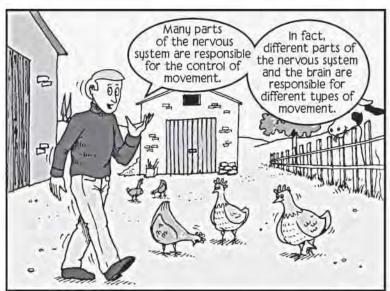






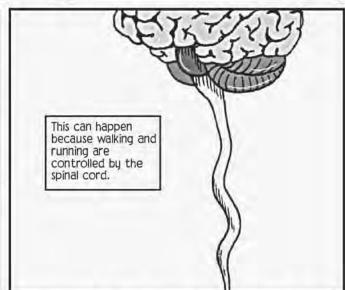


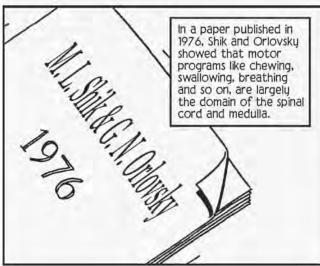


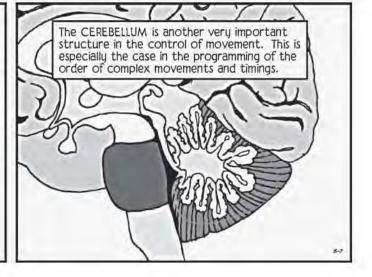




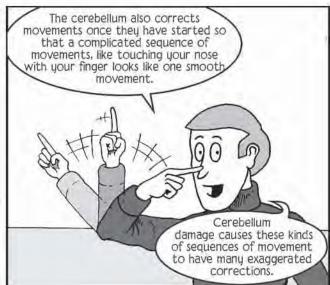


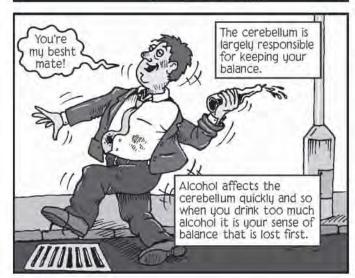


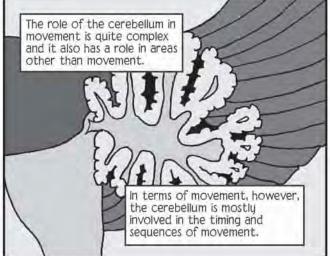


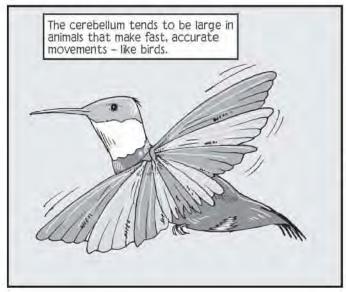




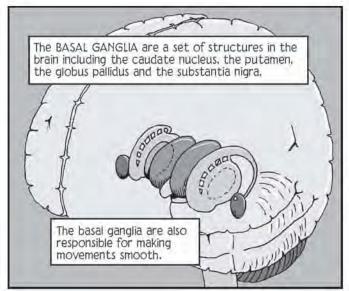


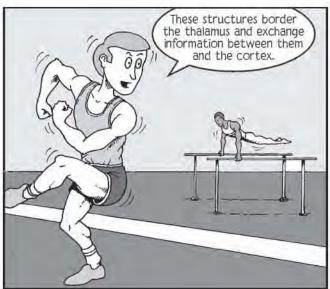


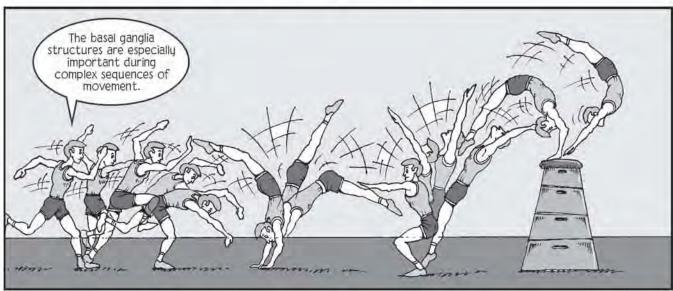


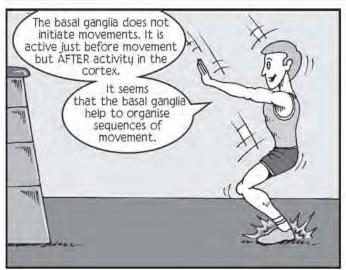


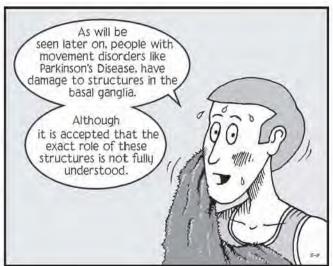


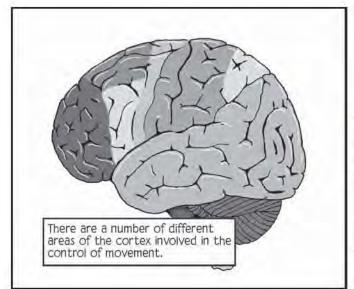


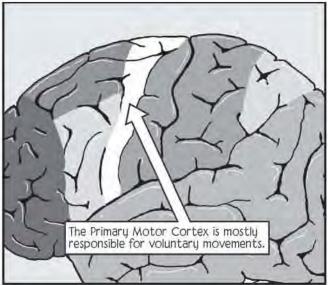


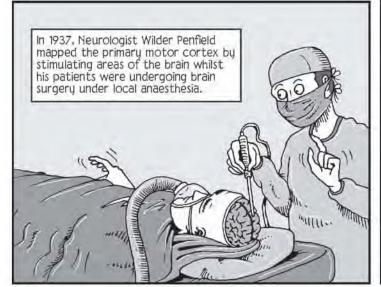


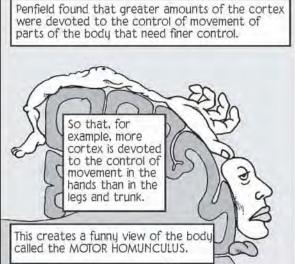


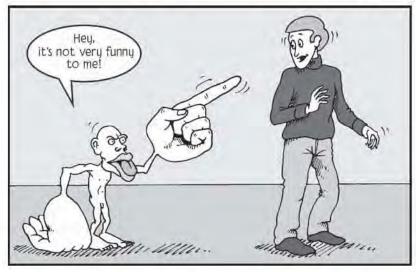




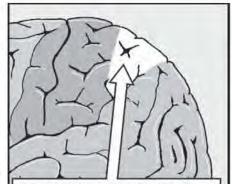








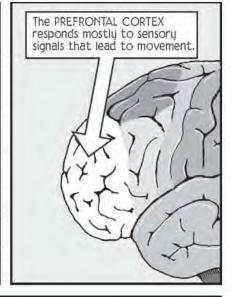




The POSTERIOR PARIETAL CORTEX contains neurons that respond mainly to visual or somatosensory stimuli and some that respond to current or movements in the future and some that respond to a complex mixture of stimuli and responses.

The DRIMA BY SCHAATOSENS ORY

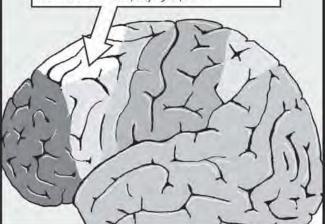
The PRIMARY SOMATOSENSORY CORTEX is involved with touch (see chapter 3) and is active especially when our hands hold something.

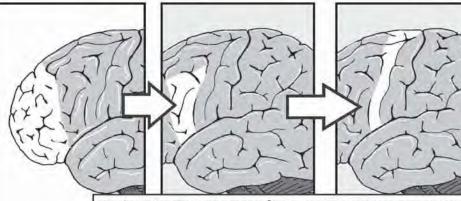




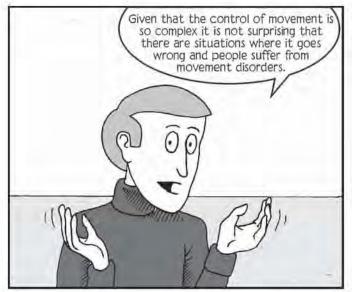




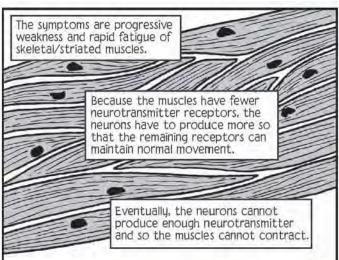




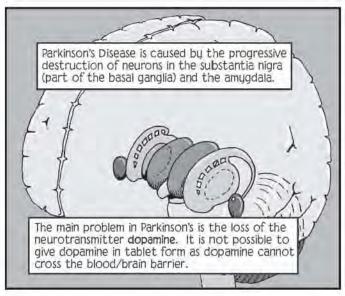
Studies show that preparation for a particular movement appears to be a wave of activity firstly in the pre-frontal cortex, then the premotor cortex then mostly in the primary motor cortex and finally in the spinal cord and muscles.

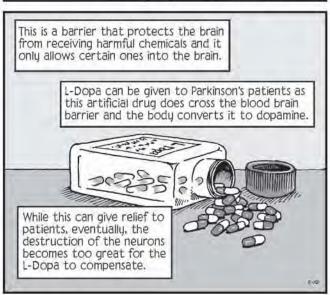




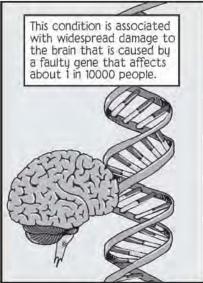




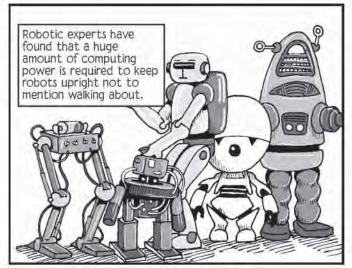


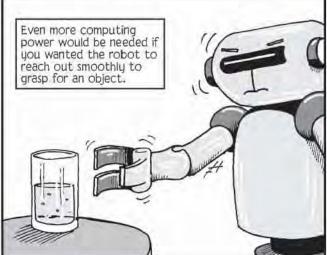


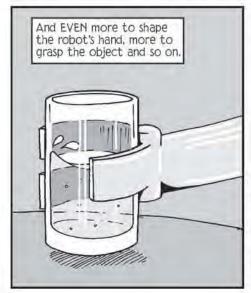














# The control of movement

#### **▶ PAGE 102**

#### Panel 1

Movement is the expression of behaviour by the brain. In fact, brains only exist in organisms that have complex movements. Plants don't need brains at all and neither do animals that don't move at all, like sponges. The sea squirt only moves as an infant. When it settles down on the sea bed as an adult it stops moving and doesn't need its brain any more and so digests it! (Kalat, 2004). A huge amount of the brain is used to control movement and Carlson (2001) describes this function as the 'ultimate function of the nervous system' (p.243).

#### Panel 5

Our autonomic nervous system controls two types of smooth muscle. The first type are *multiunit* smooth muscles found in large arteries, around hair follicles and in the eye (where they control the dilation of the pupil). The second type are *single-unit* smooth muscles found in the gut, the uterus and in small blood vessels.

# Panel 6

The heart is made up of cardiac muscles that look striated and hence appear very similar to skeletal muscles. However, cardiac muscles behave like single-unit smooth muscles not like skeletal muscles. Both cardiac and single-unit smooth muscles contract in a rhythmical manner regardless of whether a nerve impulse has been sent to them or not. The rate of this contraction is controlled by the autonomic nervous system.

# **▶ PAGE 103**

#### Panel 1

Skeletal muscles are made up of two types of muscle fibres: *extrafusal muscle fibres*, found on the outside of the muscle and *intrafusal muscle fibres*, found in the inner core of the muscles. Intrafusal fibres also act as receptors for stretching that are detected in proprioception (see Chapter 3).

The muscle fibres or cells are controlled by motor neurons connected to them at a point called the *neuromuscular junction*.

The biceps muscle has approximately a hundred muscle fibres to each motor neuron controlling it, whereas eye muscles have about three fibres to one neuron. This means that the brain control of the biceps muscle is much less precise than that of eye movements. So our eyes can move much more accurately than our arms.

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#### Panel 3

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#### Panel 6

Skeletal muscles are the muscles that move us around and thus are responsible for our behaviour. They are usually attached to bones at both ends so that the bones move when the muscles contract. They are attached to the bones via strong bands of connective tissue called *tendons*.

The movement described in this and subsequent panels is called *flexion* and *extension*. There are other types of movement (such as the movement of the eyes) that do not involve these actions.

#### **▶ PAGE 104**

#### Panels 3 to 5

Sometimes people refer to the 'flexing' of their muscles. However, it needs to be pointed out that in fact muscles *contract* and limbs flex!

#### Panel 6

Mister U.S. is not kidding! He first appeared in 'Big Bang Comics' Volume 2 number 8 published by Image Comics in 1997. Although one comic book appearance hardly makes him a 'big time super-hero'!

# ▶ PAGE 105

# Panels 2 and 3

The work on fast and slow twitch fibres was conducted by Hennig and Lømo (1985).

In mammals (including humans) there is in fact a range of fibre types from the slow-twitch fibres to the fast-twitch fibres.

We rely on slow-twitch and intermediate fibres for non-strenuous movements such as talking and walking. Fast-twitch fibres are used for vigorous movements like running. The reason slow-twitch fibres do not tire is that they use oxygen during their movement. Slow-twitch muscle fibres are therefore called *aerobic*. Fast-twitch fibres move without using oxygen and are called *anaerobic*. Fast twitch fibres tire quickly because eventually oxygen needs to be used to recover the muscles. The anaerobic reaction also produces chemicals including lactate and phosphate that accumulate in the muscles and cause muscle fatigue. It is these chemicals that give you the experience of tired muscles after you have run.

# Panel 4

This refers to work by Andersen, Klitgaard and Saltin (1994). Additionally, work by Sjöström, Friden and Ekblom (1987) showed that a marathon runner built up more slow-twitch fibres than normal.

#### Panel 6

The knee-jerk reflex is completely controlled by the spinal cord. When the hammer hits the patella tendon (that connects the lower leg muscle – the quadriceps muscle to be precise – to the lower leg bone) the muscle stretches. This is detected by the intrafusal fibres (also called spindles) and sent to the spinal cord. This is connected to sensory neurons in the spinal cord that send a message to the quadriceps muscle to contract.

Why does it do this? Well, the stretch reflex (of which the knee jerk is one of many) allows the muscles to quickly compensate for the movement of its antagonistic pair. In the knee jerk reflex this allows the muscle to ensure that the leg remains straight and that your leg does not suddenly collapse from under you!

# **▶ PAGE 106**

#### Panel 6

A central pattern generator is a set of neurons both in the spinal cord and in other areas that controls rhythmic movements like the flapping of a bird's wing or the shaking in a wet dog. However, in addition to central pattern generators, there are also other mechanisms that control motor programs.

# **▶ PAGE 108**

# Panel 1

Refers to work by Daum et al. (1993).

# Panel 2

The role of the cerebellum in the control of movement is complex. However, it does not have what is referred to as an *executive* function. In other words it does not initiate movement. It appears to be responsible for adjusting movements based on previous experience and in relating movement feedback to other areas of the brain.

# Panel 6

It was Murphy and O'Leary (1973) who found that damage to a sloth's cerebellum did not appear to result in any problems with movement.

# ► PAGE 109

# Panel 1

There are several theories that attempt to explain the role of the basal ganglia structures in movement control (Mink, 1999; Prescott *et al.*, 1999 and Reiner, Medina & Veeman, 1998). Marsden (1987) stated that the basal ganglia 'deliver instructions, based on a read-out of ongoing activity in the sensorimotor cortex, to premotor areas in such a way as to set up the correct motor programs required for the next motor action' (p.294). In other words, the basal ganglia 'find' the correct motor program in readiness for it being used.

# **▶ PAGE 110**

# Panels 4 and 5

The diagram shown in panel 4 is based on the ideas of Penfield and Rasmussen (1950).

While the motor homunculus is being discussed it is worth noting the *homunculus fallacy* (Ramachandran, 1992; Zeki, 1993). This fallacy exists when someone explains the brain's control of behaviour by reference to a smaller 'man' inside the head that does the controlling. When attempting to understand how the brain moves a limb that has been pricked by a pin, for example, one way is to think of a little man in the 'head' who reacts to the pin and pulls a lever to move the limb. However, if this were really the case the little man would also need another little man in his head and so on.

While this may seem like an amusing aside, there are variations on this that are not as easy to ridicule. For example, some people think of the eyes as projecting an image in the brain onto some kind of inner 'screen'. In reality, however, images in the retina are just represented in terms of action potentials in the neurons of the brain.

Similarly, to refer to the motor homunculus is not to suggest that this creature really exists somewhere in the brain. It is simply a representation of the amount of cortical area devoted to movement in the brain.

#### **▶ PAGE 113**

#### Panel 1

Huntington's disease causes uncontrollable and jerky movements. As a result of these movements, which have been likened to a dance, this condition was known as Huntington's chorea because the word chorea derives from the Greek word 'Khoros', meaning dance.

This is a hereditary condition caused by a single dominant gene. This means that a person who has this gene will develop the condition and will pass it on to half of their children. The gene responsible has now been identified and genetic testing is available to the family members of sufferers.

One of the most famous cases of Huntington's disease was Woody Guthrie, who was a folk singer in the 1930s and 1940s. He is most notable for influencing a number of modern musicians, especially during the folk revival of the 1960s, including Bob Dylan. He died of the disease in 1967 at the age of 55. His wife was later to help found what is now the Huntington's Disease Society of America which is dedicated to finding a cure for the condition.

# TEMPERATURE REGULATION HUNGER AND THIRST



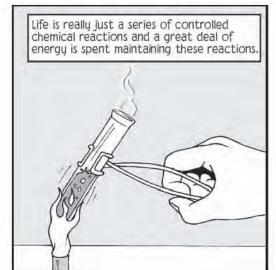


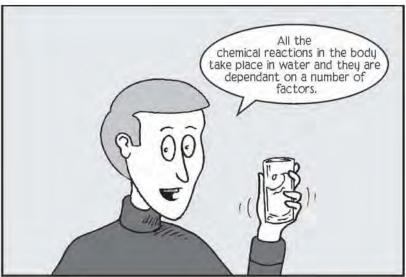


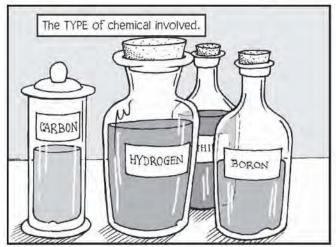


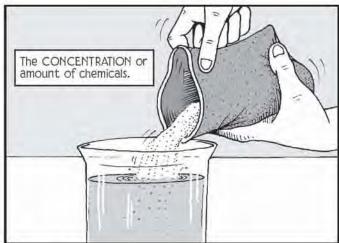




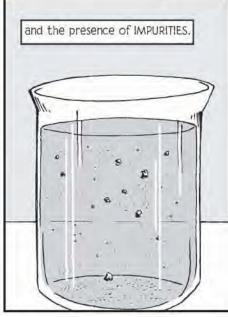




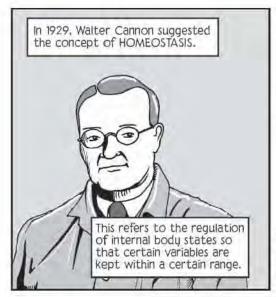


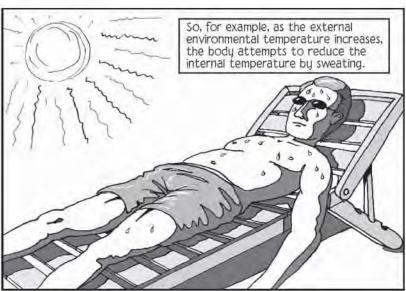


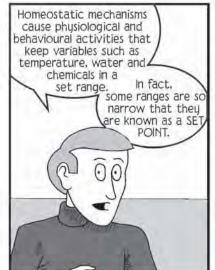


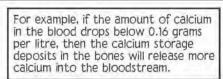






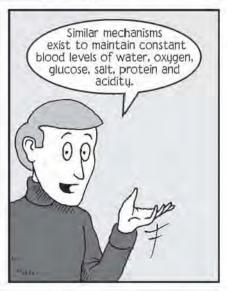






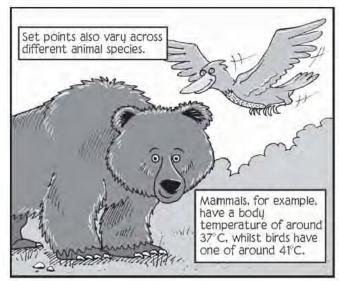


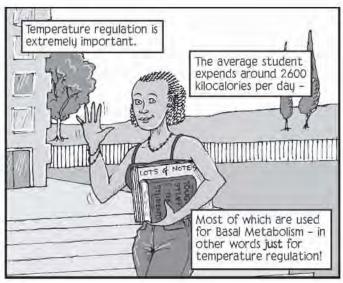
If, however, there is more than the set point of 0.16 grams per litre then calcium is stored or excreted.

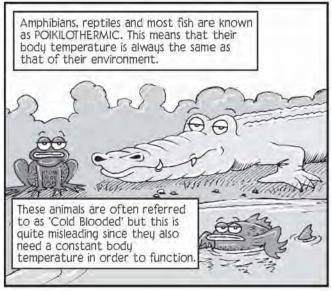


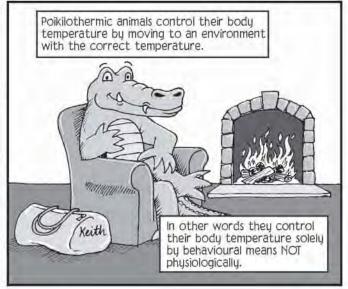


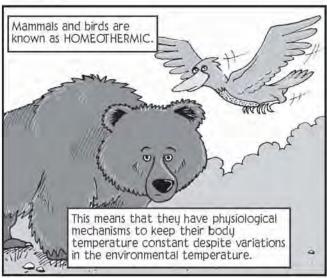


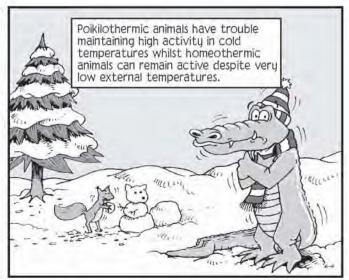


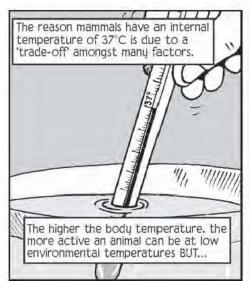


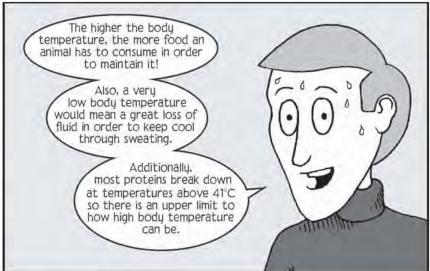


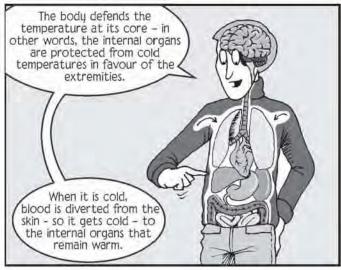


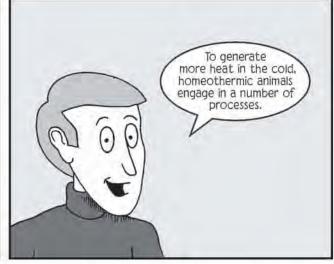




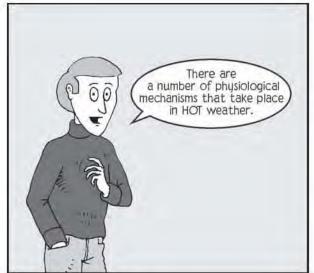


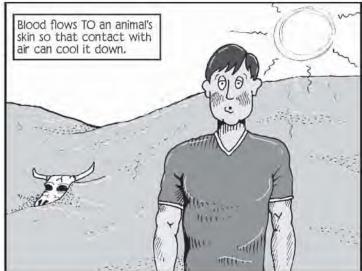


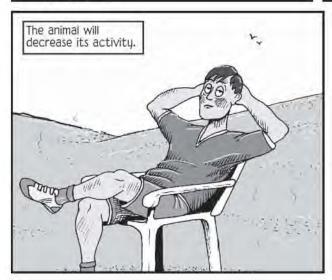


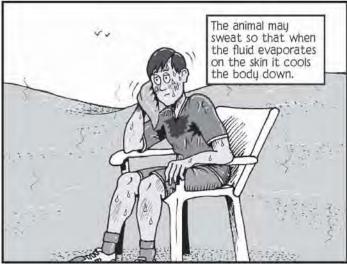




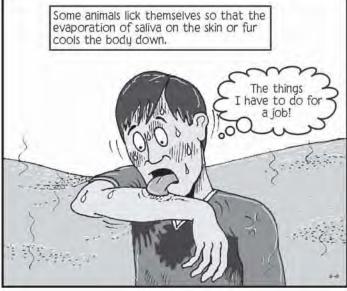


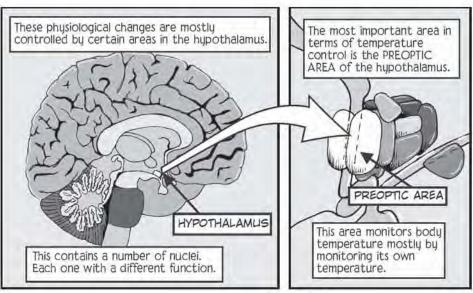


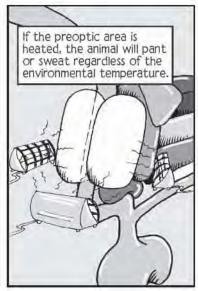


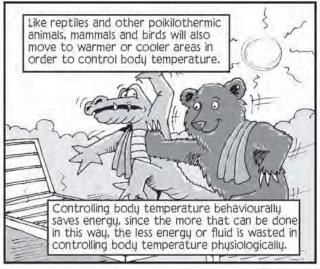


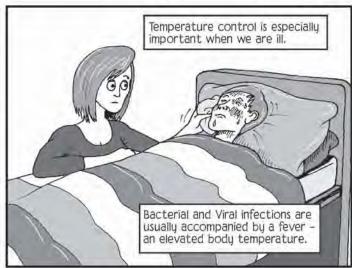


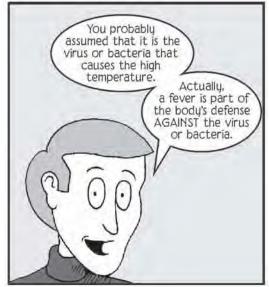


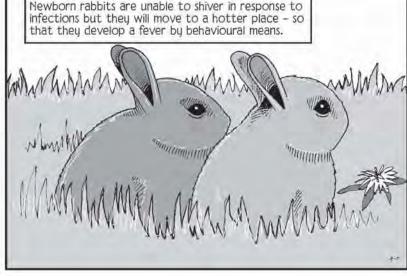


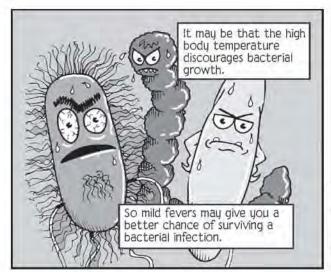


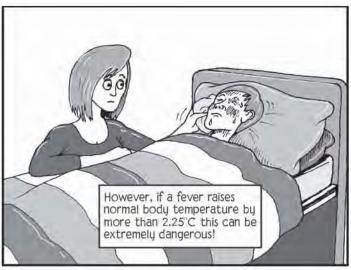


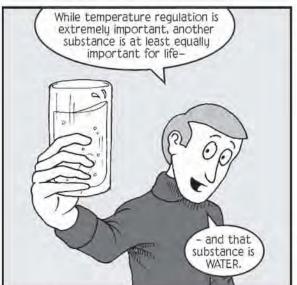


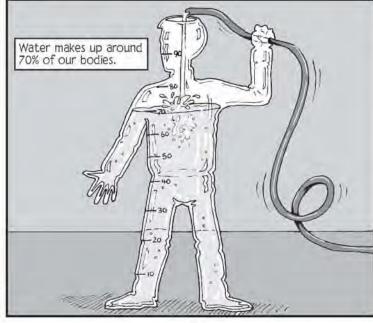


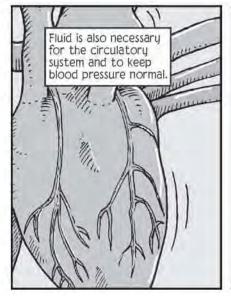








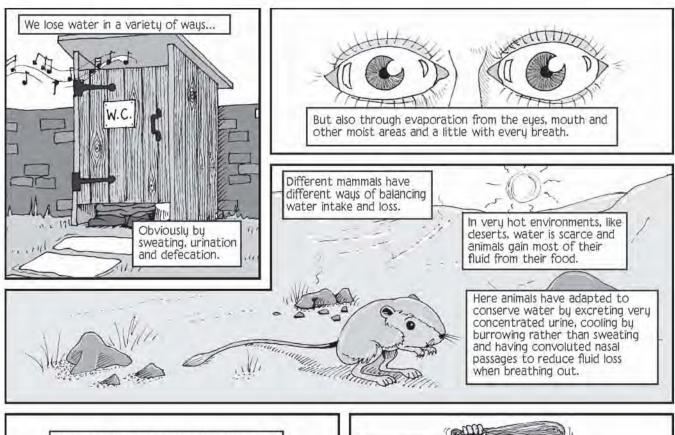


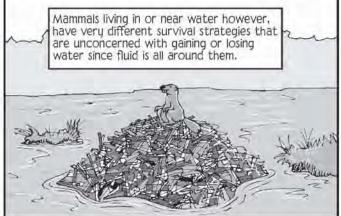




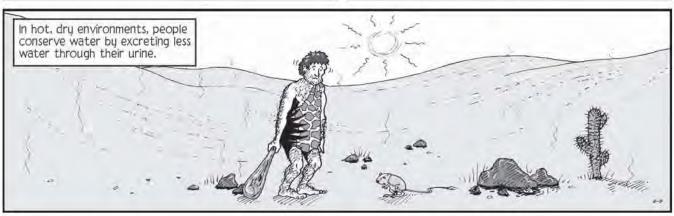
People drink the greatest amount during



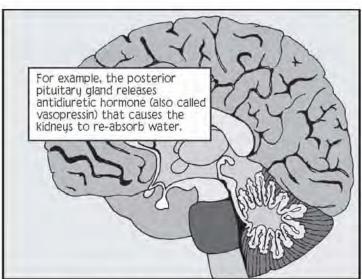


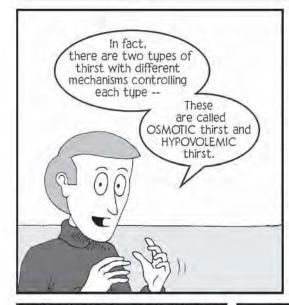


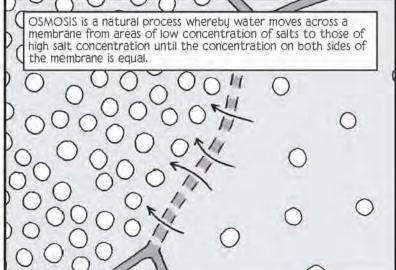


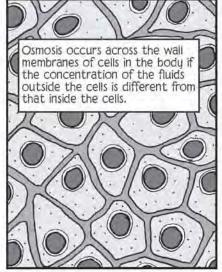


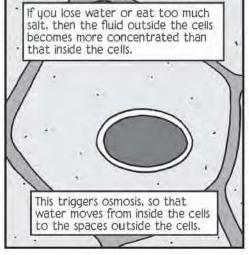


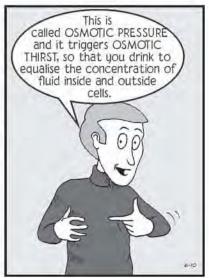


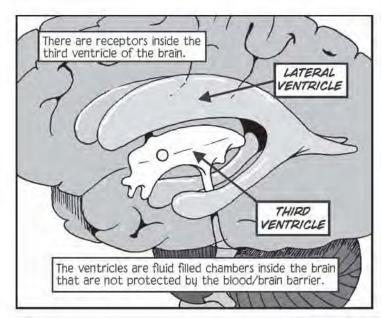


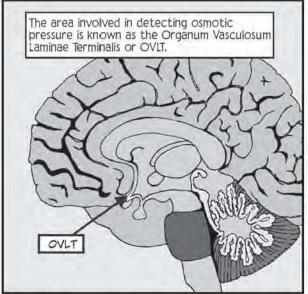


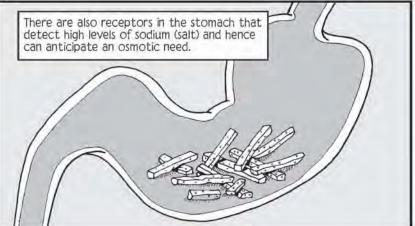


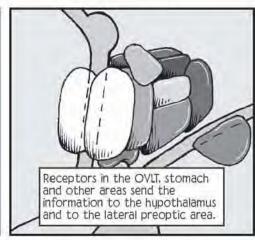


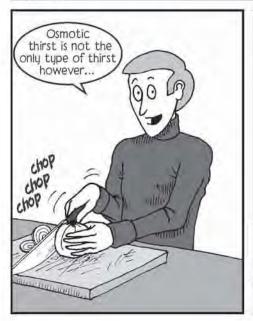






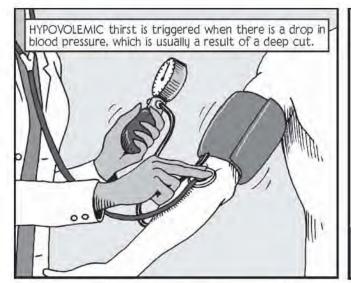


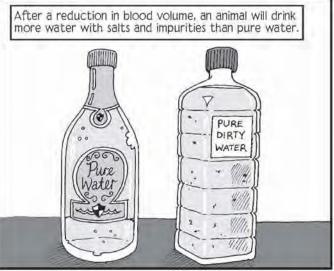


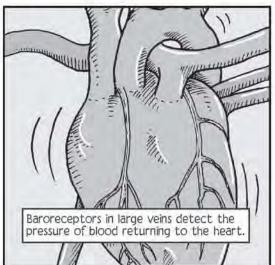


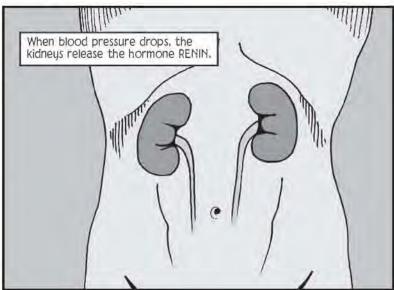




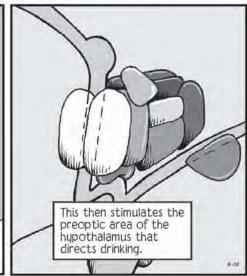








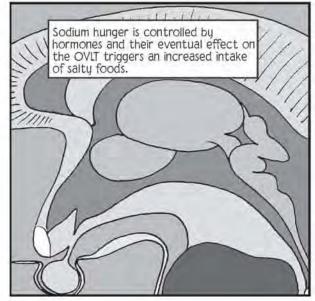


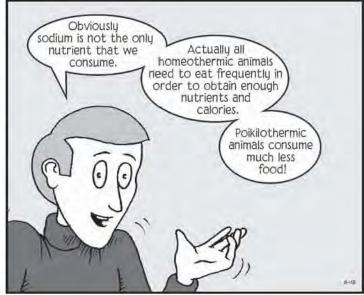




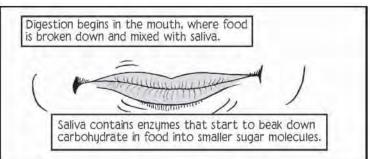




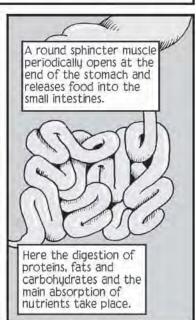


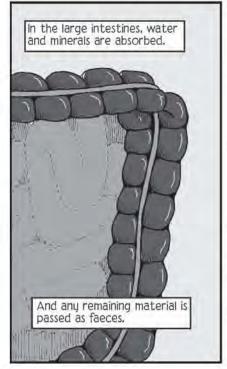


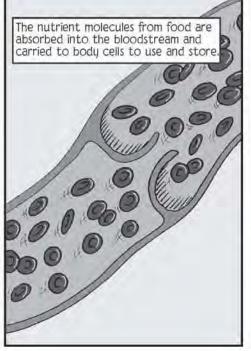


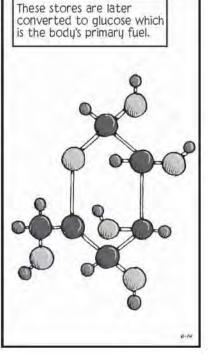




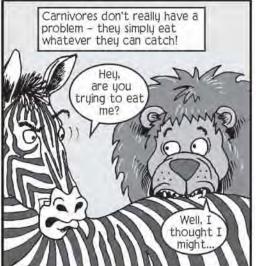








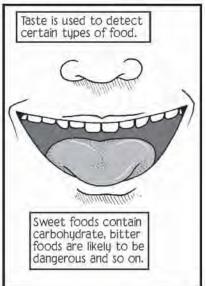


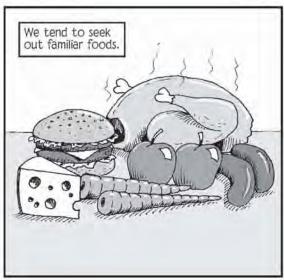










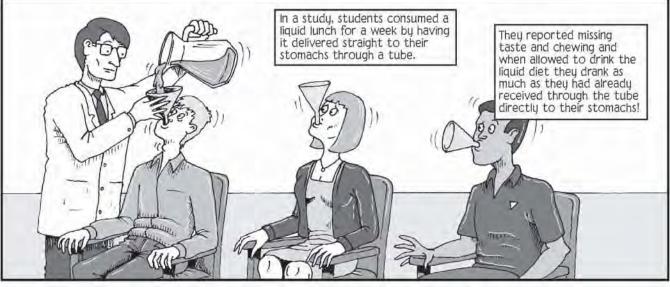








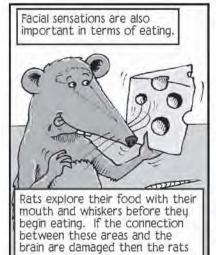


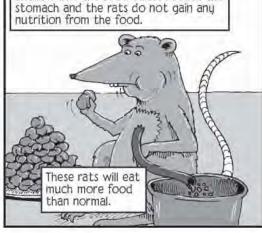


In SHAM FEEDING studies, rats have a

tube fitted whereby they can eat and

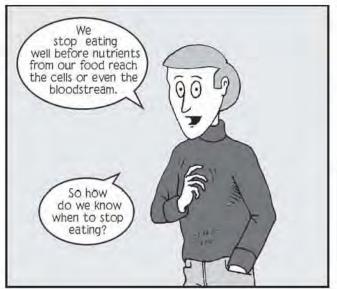
swallow but the food cannot reach the



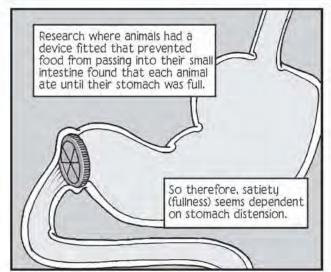


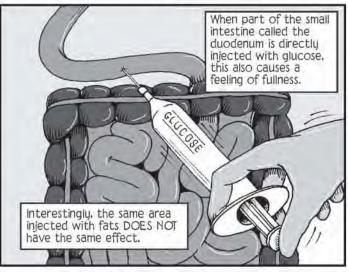


cannot eat properly.

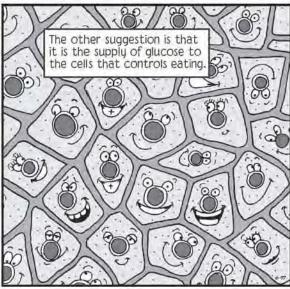


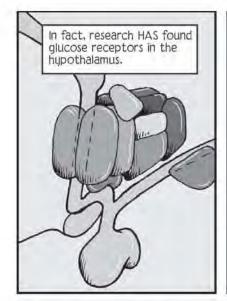


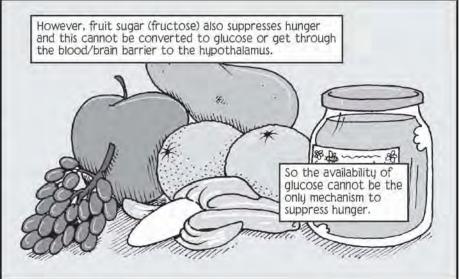




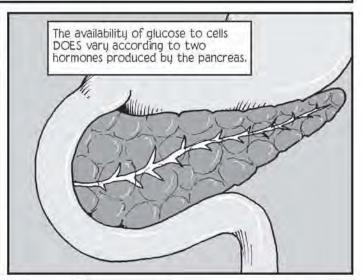


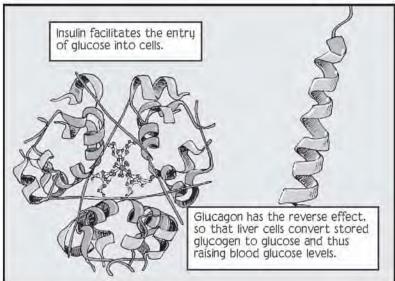




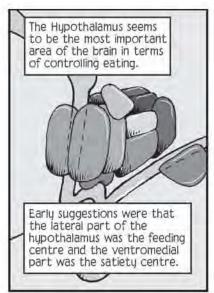


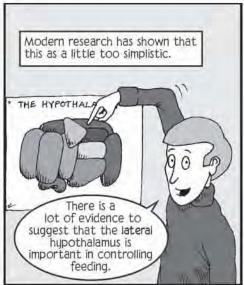


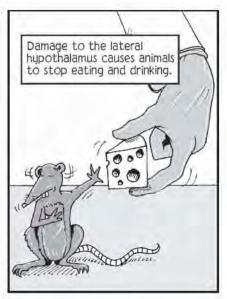


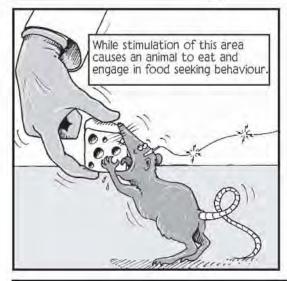


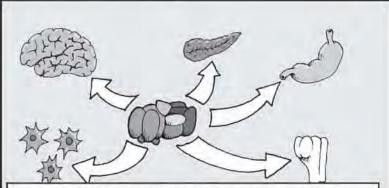




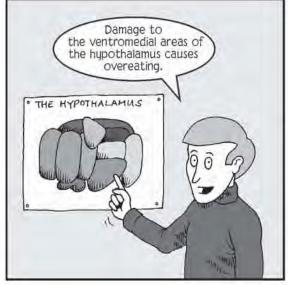


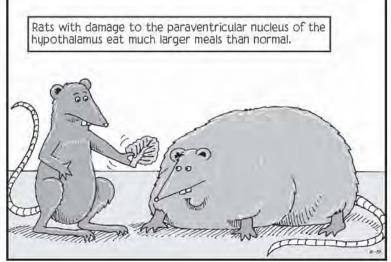






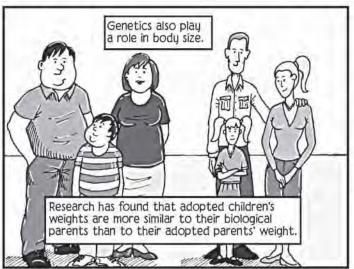
The hypothalamus is connected to the medulla where taste is processed, to dopamine nerve cells that reinforce learned behaviours, to the forebrain structures facilitating ingestion and swallowing of food and also to the pancreas to stimulate the release of insulin and stomach juices.

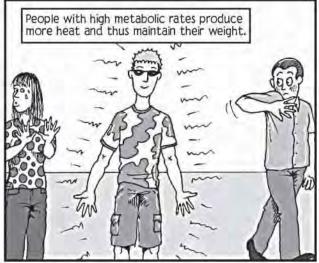


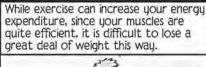










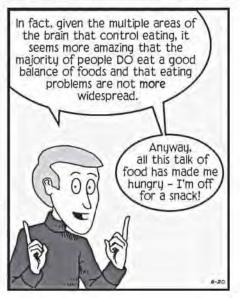




Similarly, if you reduce your intake of food by dieting, your body reacts by reducing your metabolic rate!



So it is very difficult to reduce your weight!



# Temperature regulation hunger and thirst

# ► PAGE 119

#### Panel 6

There is a link connecting temperature regulation, hunger and thirst. These three areas are connected in explaining the *motivation* of animals and people. In other words, they explain why people do what they do. In psychological terms, motivation explains the factors that begin and maintain behaviour. Motivation expands the 'causes' of behaviour beyond just the outside stimuli to internal states like hunger and thirst. However, motivation is a concept not some kind of brain structure. There is no 'motivation centre' in the brain, for example.

There are three theories of motivation in psychology: instincts, drive theory and arousal theory.

#### **Instincts**

The ancient Greeks believed that animal and human behaviour was motivated by instincts. An instinct is an automatic, unlearned behaviour that happens in all members of a particular species. In animals, a good example of this is migration in birds. Early theorists (e.g. McDougall, 1908) also suggested that human motivation was determined by instincts in areas like aggression and maternal behaviour. In more modern times, however, the idea of human motivation being guided by instincts is less popular although instincts in animals are definitely accepted.

# **Drive Theory**

Drive theory suggests that the body maintains certain factors in a balance called *homeostasis*. Any change from homeostasis causes a drive, which is an aroused condition (Hull, 1951). So, for example, if the temperature drops, the person or animal engages a drive that causes them to seek warmth. As the temperature rises the drive drops. The main criticism of drive theory is that much behaviour is difficult to associate with the maintenance of the physical aspects of the body. Students can be very motivated to get high marks in exams, for example, although this does not impact on their immediate bodily needs. This problem led to an expansion of drive theory to include *incentive* theory that allows for motivation by external stimuli (Bolles, 1975). In this case exam marks act as incentives.

#### **Arousal Theory**

Arousal theory is another modification of drive theory that states that motivation concerns the maintenance of an optimal level of physiological arousal (Fiske & Maddi, 1961). The optimal level varies from person to person.

More modern approaches to drive theory see drives as states of the brain (Stellar & Stellar, 1985).

# **▶ PAGE 121**

#### Panel 1

The best analogy for homeostasis is a room thermostat. This is the device that ensures that the heating in a home keeps the room at a constant temperature. The thermostat monitors the temperature in the room and is set at a specific temperature, for example 20°C. If the room temperature drops below 20°C then the thermostat turns the heating on to raise the temperature. When the temperature reaches 20°C then the thermostat turns the heating off. Homeostasis has a similar principle, when a substance in the body drops below a certain level or range then the body engages physiological and behavioural mechanisms to obtain the substance until it reaches the required level.

#### Panel 6

There are other reasons that temperature regulation, hunger and thirst are not completely homeostatic. Firstly, as noted, they anticipate future needs (Appley, 1991). Secondly, set points for body temperature, body fat and other factors vary with time of day and time of year (Mrosovsky, 1990). Finally, with hunger people (and animals) will overeat in the presence of particularly tasty food meaning that there must also be non-homeostatic mechanisms at work (de Castro & Plunkett, 2002).

#### **▶ PAGE 122**

#### Panels 3 to 5

The distinction between *Homeothermic* (mammals and birds) and *Poikilothermic* (reptiles, amphibians and fish) animals used by Kalat (2004) is not used by all. Garrett (2003), for example, describes mammals and birds as *Endothermic* and reptiles, amphibians and fish as *Homeothermic*. Toates (2001), however, uses *Endothermic* to refer to animals that have an internal heat source (mammals and birds) and *Ectothermic* for those that have an external heat source (reptiles, amphibians and fish). In fact the distinction is relative rather than absolute and is quite a complex area.

In addition, it is a fallacy to refer to reptiles and amphibians by the term 'cold blooded'. These and other poikilothermic animals still need to keep their body temperature constant. The real difference between poikilothermic and homeothermic animals (mammals and birds) is that whilst homeothermic animals can generate their own body heat whilst poikilothermic animals control their body temperature by selecting different environmental locations.

The other difference is that homeothermic animals need to ingest many more calories in order to control their temperature. Poikilothermic animals need to eat much less food in comparison. Additionally, the smaller the homeothermic animal the more food they need to consume. Mice, for example, need to eat much more proportionally than an elephant. This is because small animals have a large surface area to their skin when compared to the mass of their body. This means that small animals lose a lot more heat from their body to the environment than larger animals. The smaller the surface area to body mass ratio, the more heat is lost and the more food needs to be consumed (comparatively speaking of course) in order to replace that body temperature.

# Panel 6

Poikilothermic animals such as reptiles and fish are quite vulnerable to very cold weather. If the environmental temperature is below the freezing point of water there is a danger that the animal's blood will freeze. This causes ice crystals to form in the blood vessels. These ice crystals rupture the blood vessels

and break the cell walls causing the animal to die. Some poikilothermic animals can survive in extremely cold environments by having antifreeze chemicals in their blood and having other mechanisms to reduce the damage done to blood vessels during a cold period.

# **▶ PAGE 123**

#### Panel 1

Reproductive cells, like sperm and eggs, tend to need slightly lower temperatures than the rest of the body for their development.

#### Panel 7

Goose bumps are the result of an attempt to raise the hairs on our body. Since we don't have much 'fur' the raising of the hairs does not really help to increase the insulation of the body.

# **▶ PAGE 124**

#### Panel 1

It is generally easier to heat up the body than to cool it down. Cooling down the body can create serious problems with dehydration since it involves using water from the body to evaporate at the surface.

#### Panel 4

Cats and dogs, for example, only sweat from the pads on their feet.

#### **▶ PAGE 125**

# Panel 2

The preoptic area is so called because it is close to the Optic Chiasm (see Chapter 2 on Vision).

The other area of the hypothalamus that is important in temperature control is the *anterior hypothalamus*. The preoptic area and the anterior hypothalamus together are considered one area that is sometimes referred to as the POA/AH area. This area also receives information from receptors in the skin.

Nelson and Prosser (1981) reported the finding that this area monitors its own temperature.

#### Panel 3

If the preoptic area is cooled down the animal will also engage in behavioural activity to heat itself up (Santinoff, 1964).

#### Panel 4

See Refinetti and Carlisle (1986).

#### Panel 6

When you have an infection, the white blood cells in your blood fight the bacteria or virus causing the infection. These white cells are called *leukocytes* and they cause the release of chemicals called *prostaglandins*. It is the prostaglandins that stimulate the POA/AH to raise body temperature and therefore cause a fever.

#### Panel 7

The work on newborn rabbits was carried out by Satinoff, McEwan and Williams (1976).

# **▶ PAGE 126**

#### Panel 1

The finding that moderate fevers increase your chances of survival was reported by Kluger (1991).

#### Panel 2

A fever of 41°C to 43°C can be fatal (Rommel, Pabst & McLellan, 1998).

#### Panel 3

Humans can survive for a few weeks without food but cannot go without water for more than a few days.

# Panel 4

Most mammals are 70 per cent water.

# **▶ PAGE 127**

#### Panel 1

The body has many different adaptations to prevent the loss of water. The nose, for example, is designed to reabsorb the water vapour in our breath.

# Panel 6

The human ability to adapt to hot environments is dependent on the release of a hormone. *Vasopressin* is released when the body needs to conserve water. This causes the constriction of blood vessels and therefore compensates for a decrease in blood volume. Vasopressin is also known as *anti-diuretic hormone* because it causes the kidneys to reabsorb water from the urine and thus excrete more concentrated urine.

Bear in mind that these mechanisms can only compensate up to a point for human life in dry, hot environments. Desert mammals, like gerbils, are much better adapted for living in these environments than humans.

#### ▶ PAGE 128

#### Panel 4

Osmosis is a natural occurrence where water molecules move from an area of low 'salt' concentration to an area of high 'salt' concentration across a semi-permeable membrane. As highlighted in the notes for Chapter 1, cell walls are considered 'semi-permeable' since they allow some substances through and not others. One of the things that the membrane allows 'free' passage to are water molecules. The spaces inside cells are called *intracellular* spaces and the spaces between cells is called *extracellular*. Both the intracellular and the extracellular spaces are filled with salts dissolved in water.

If the extracellular spaces are more concentrated with salts than the intracellular spaces, then osmosis causes water to move from the inside of cells to the outside of cells until the concentration of both fluids is the same. If this movement of water is extensive then this will cause the cells to shrink.

If the fluid inside cells is more concentrated with salts than that on the outside then osmosis causes water to move from the extracellular spaces to the intracellular spaces until the concentration of salts equalises.

The 'need' for the water to move from an area of low concentration to an area of high concentration is known as *osmotic pressure*. It is osmotic pressure that triggers osmotic thirst.

#### Panel 7

We actually stop drinking well before water reaches the cells. There are receptors in the stomach and other parts of the digestive system that detect how much water has been drunk that then stop drinking behaviour (Huang, Sved & Stricker, 2000).

# ► PAGE 129

# Panel 1

The blood/brain barrier is not completely absent in the third ventricle. It is, however, the part of the barrier that allows most substances through (Simon, 2000).

#### Panel 7

Hypovolemic thirst means thirst caused by low volume.

#### ▶ PAGE 130

#### Panel 1

Hypovolemic thirst can also be triggered through very heavy sweating and excessive diarrhoea.

# Panel 2

See Stricker (1969).

#### Panels 3 to 4

The triggers for hypovolemic thirst are based on two different mechanisms. The first uses receptors attached to large veins to detect a drop in blood pressure (these receptors are called *baroreceptors*). The second mechanism depends on the detection of a drop in blood volume. This causes the release of hormones by the kidneys that cause the constriction of the blood vessels to compensate for the drop in blood volume.

#### **▶ PAGE 131**

#### Panel 4

See Leshem (1999) and Richter (1936).

#### Panel 5

The hormonal control of sodium hunger was reported by Schulkin (1991). The automatic hunger for sodium is also controlled by hormones. When a drop in salt in the body is detected, the adrenal glands produce *aldosterone* that causes the kidneys, the salivary and sweat glands to retain salt. This also causes an increase in the preference for salty foods.

#### Panel 6

While hunger is considered a homeostatic drive it has some notable differences from thirst and temperature control. Firstly, hunger concerns a number of different factors (in other words the different nutrients found in food) and not just one as in the case of thirst or temperature. Secondly, the set points of the nutrients required change (sometimes dramatically and quickly). In essence, hunger is a very complex drive that provides energy for body activity and fuel for maintaining body temperature.

#### ► PAGE 132

# Panel 1

The function of the digestive system is to break down food into small enough molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream and ultimately be used by the body's cells. The first aspect of this is to break the food down physically by chewing. The second aspect is to mix the food with chemicals that break the food down chemically. These chemicals are called *enzymes*. There are different enzymes that break down different foods.

#### Panel 3

The stomach has several functions. Firstly, the start of protein digestion happens in the stomach. Secondly, the stomach acts as a container for food. This storage is useful for protecting the body from absorbing anything harmful. The initial process is to kill any harmful bacteria with the acid that is part of the stomach juices. In addition, if the stomach lining is irritated then the stomach regurgitates its contents. However, if the toxic substance does not irritate the stomach lining and does get absorbed into the bloodstream then it is quickly detected in the *area postrema* of the brain. This is an area in the brain where the bloodbrain barrier is weak so toxic substances can directly cause vomiting. The force of the vomiting can be an indicator of the toxicity of the ingested food.

#### Panel 6

Cells use glucose for energy. Excess nutrients are stored as glycogen (for later conversion to glucose); fats (these can also be used for energy later on); and proteins.

#### ▶ PAGE 133

#### Panel 1

One of the more complex aspects of hunger for an animal is deciding what and how much to eat. Some animals, like some snakes, eat huge meals at one time and then can spend several weeks without eating. Other animals (like some small birds) tend to eat many small meals throughout the day.

#### Panel 4

Children tend to acquire cultural tastes as well as their parents' tastes. This is especially the case with regard to spicy food (Rozin, 1990).

The work on young rat food preference was reported by Galef (1992).

#### Panel 8

The avoidance of food following illness is called a *conditioned taste aversion*. This happens after only one pairing of food with illness. This is quite incredible, especially given that the illness will tend to happen several hours after the food is eaten. See Rozin and Kalat (1971) and Rozin and Zellner (1985).

# **▶ PAGE 134**

#### Panel 4

See Jordan (1969) and Spiegel (1973).

#### Panel 6

See Smith (1998).

# **▶ PAGE 135**

# Panel 3

The study that showed that satiety was determined by stomach fullness was conducted by Deutsch, Young and Kalogeris (1978).

The stretching of the stomach walls is conveyed to the brain via the *vagus* nerve. Information about the nutrient content of the stomach is sent to the brain by the *splanchnic* nerve.

There is also evidence that the stretching of the walls of the small intestine (known as the duodenum) also causes a feeling of fullness (Seeley, Kaplan & Grill, 1995).

# ▶ PAGE 136

#### Panel 5

People produce more insulin when they eat and when they are getting ready to eat. This prepares the body for the entry of glucose into the cells.

#### Panel 6

Excessively high or low levels of insulin in the blood are both causes of overeating.

People with obesity tend to produce more insulin than people of normal weight (Johnson & Wildman, 1983).

#### **▶ PAGE 137**

#### Panel 2

Leibowitz and Hoebel (1998) compared the lateral hypothalamus to a large railway station. This is because it contains a large number of neuron groups and many axons, all of which control eating behaviour. They also summarised the lateral hypothalamus' contribution to feeding:

- i) It alters the taste sensation and salivation response to certain tastes.
- ii) It is connected to the pituitary gland and causes it to release hormones that result in an increase of insulin secretion.
- iii) It stimulates other areas of the brain, including the cortex, causing them to increase their response to the visual, taste, and smell aspects of food (Critchley & Rolls, 1996).
- iv) Axons that pass through the lateral hypothalamus help to reinforce learned behaviours associated with certain foods.
- v) It stimulates areas of the spinal cord to begin autonomic responses like the secretion of digestive enzymes.

Stimulating the lateral hypothalamus in an animal causes it to eat and seek food. Damage to the lateral hypothalamus will cause an animal to refuse to eat or drink.

#### Panel 7

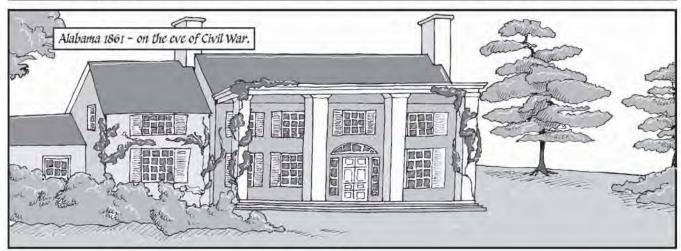
Damage to the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus causes rats to eat larger meals not eat more frequently (Leibowitz, Hammer & Chang, 1981). More frequent eating is caused by damage to the ventromedial hypothalamus (Peters, Sensenig & Reich, 1973). Both situations cause rats to gain excessive amounts of weight.

#### ▶ PAGE 138

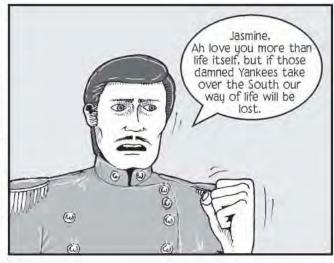
#### Panel 6

The best way to lose weight is to use a combination of moderate exercise coupled with a decrease in food intake. Exercise also helps to lower blood pressure, lower blood cholesterol and generally improve levels of health (Campfield, Smith & Burn, 1998).

# EMOTIONS AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR





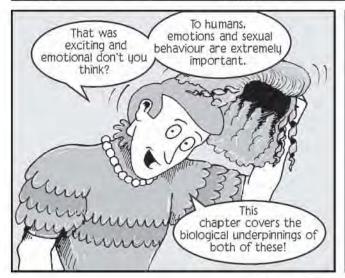


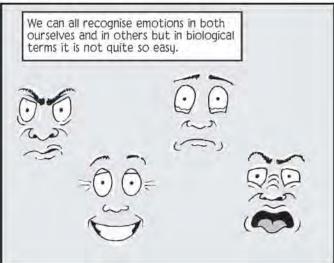


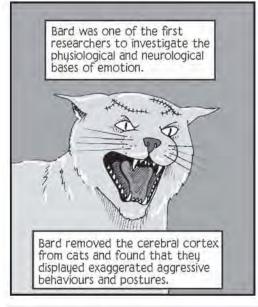








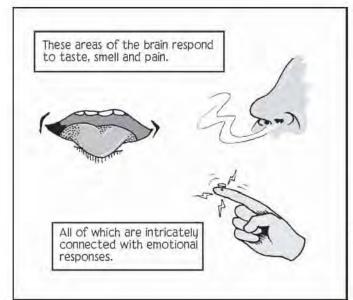




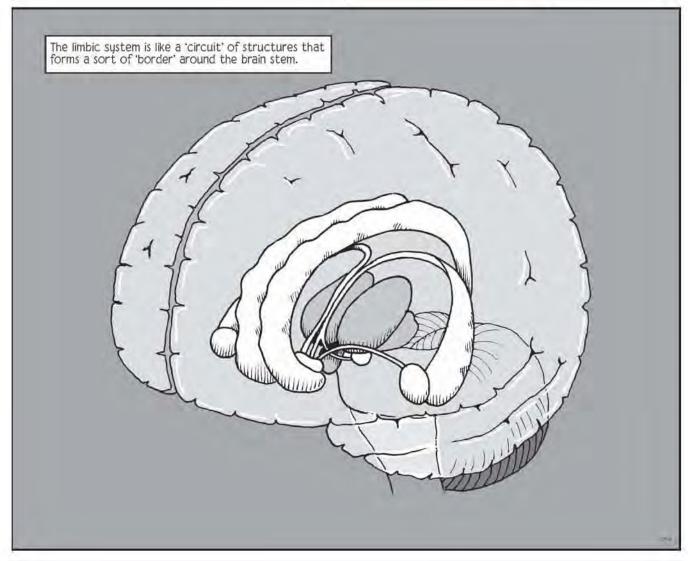


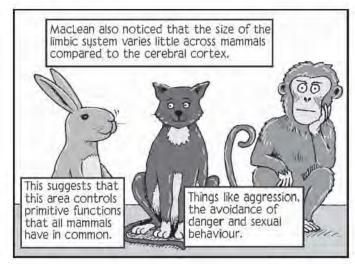
J. W. Papez suggested that emotional responses depend on a number of forebrain structures including the hippocampus, the amygdala, the olfactory bulb, and parts of the thalamus and cortex.

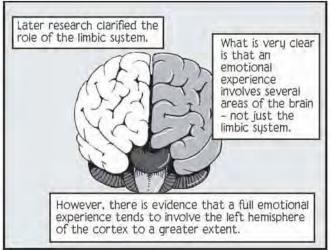


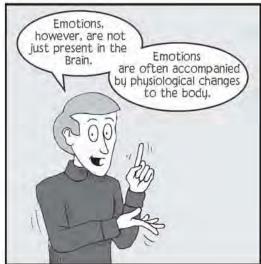




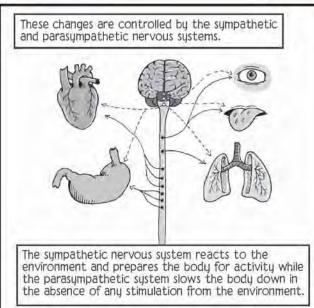


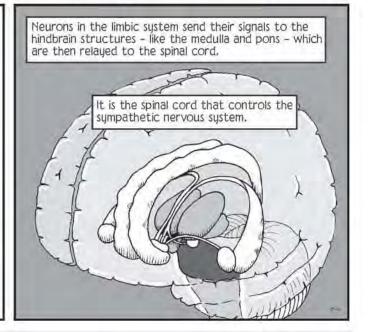


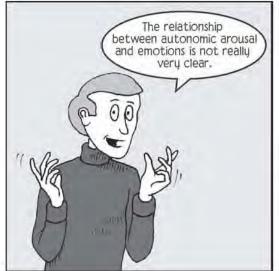




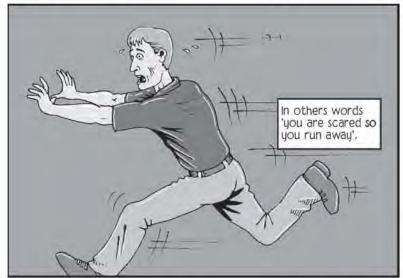


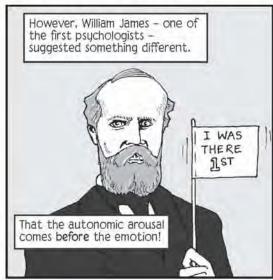






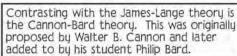






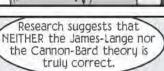








The Cannon-Bard theory suggests that emotion AND the autonomic arousal occur at the same time BUT independently from each other.

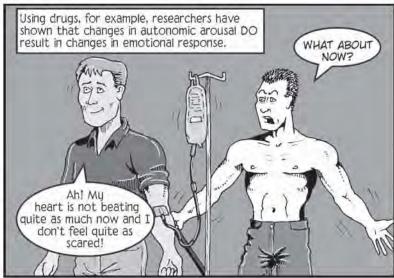


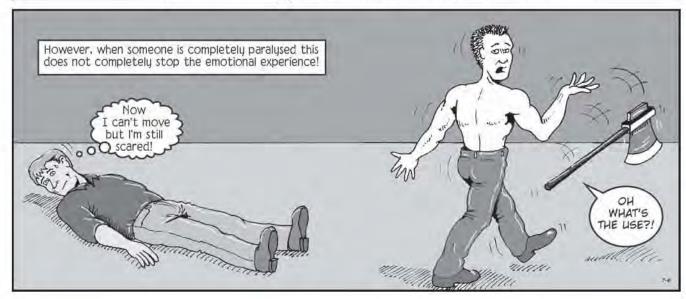
The evidence revolves around the fact that it is possible to enhance or reduce autonomic arousal.

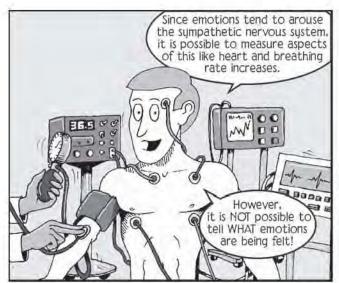
the James-Lange theory is correct then we should see proportional changes in emotion and if the Cannon-Bard theory is correct then there should be no change in the emotion felt.



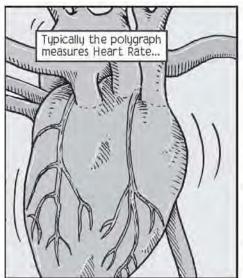


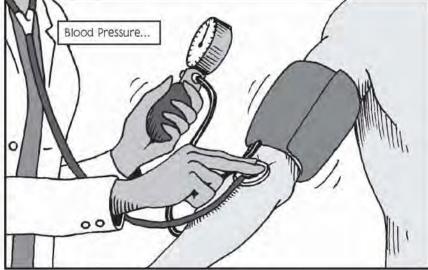


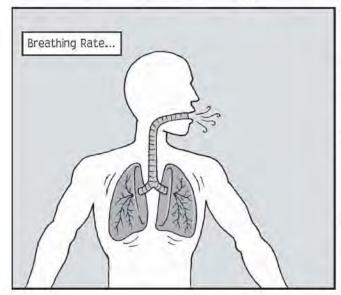


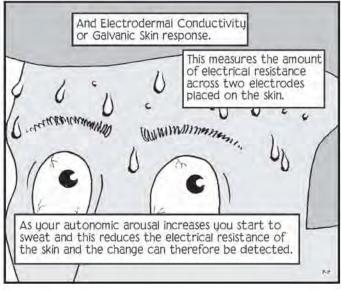


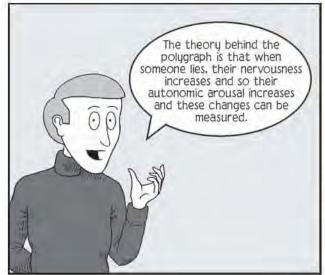










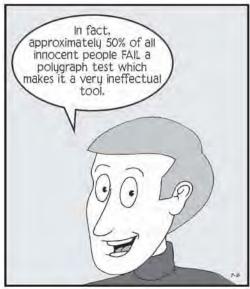




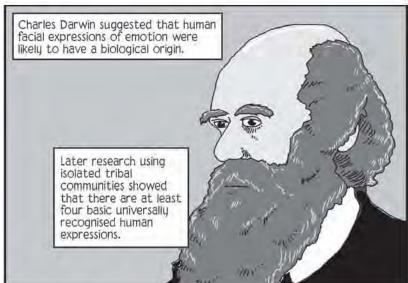


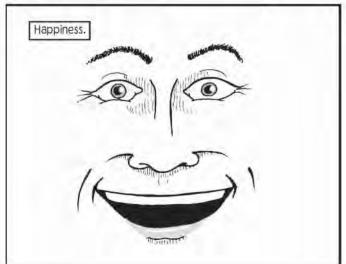


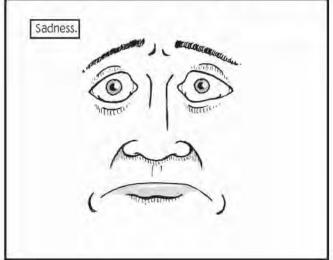


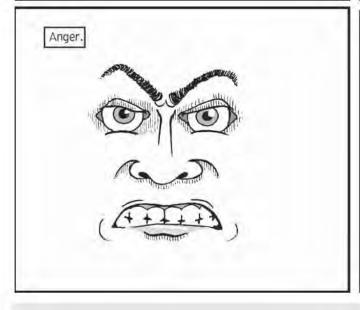


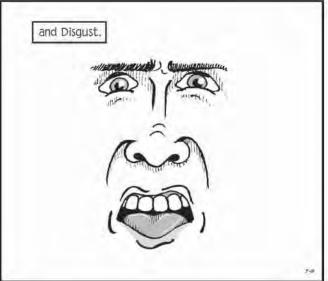




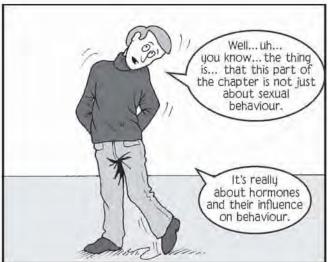


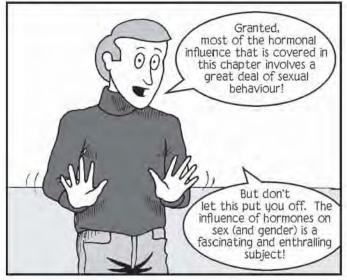






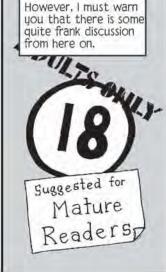




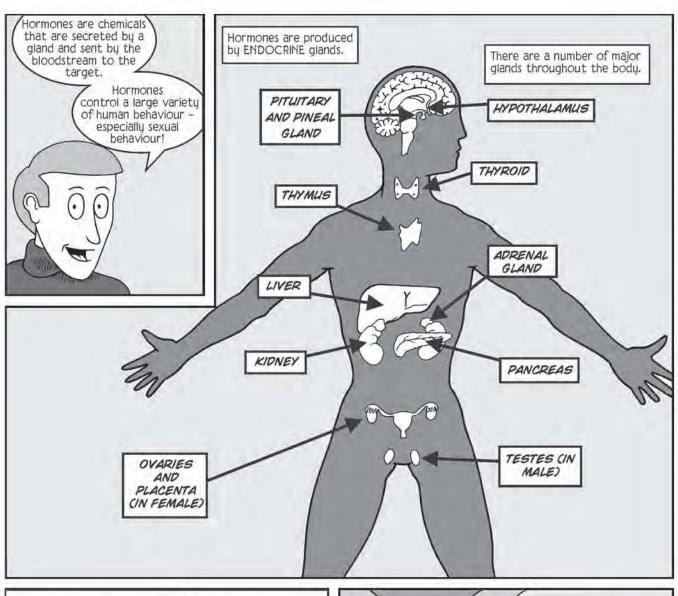


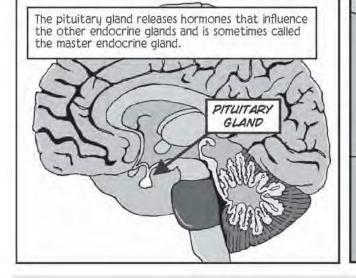


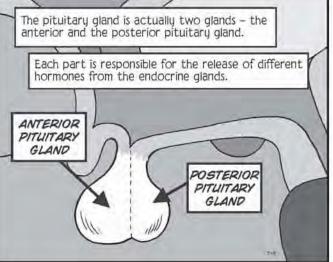


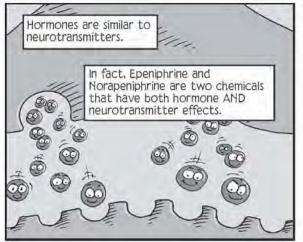




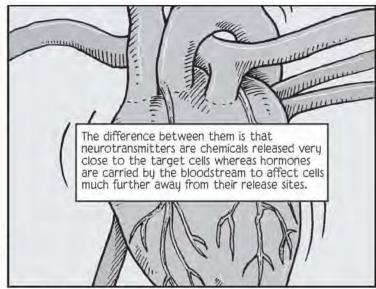






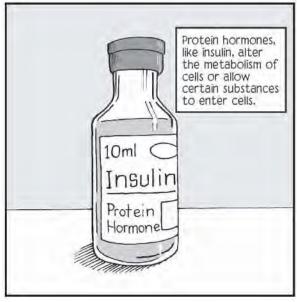


Hormones are also designed to affect a



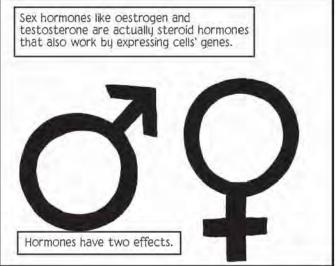
number of different organs and body parts to achieve one overall effect.

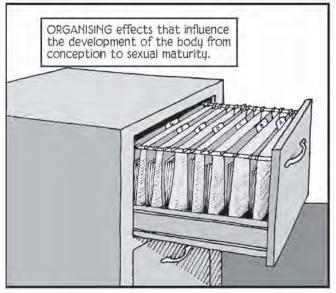


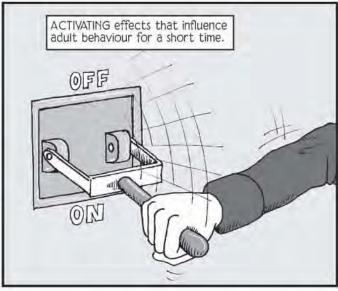


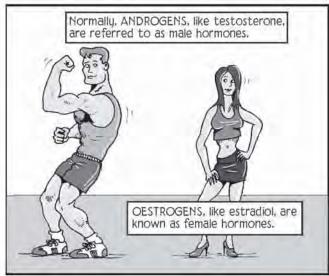


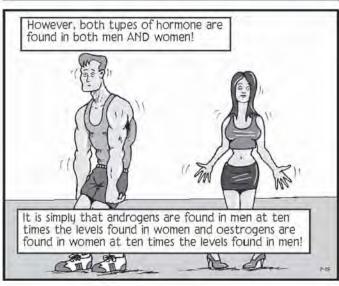


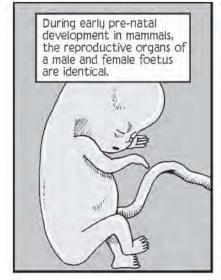


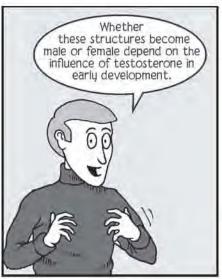


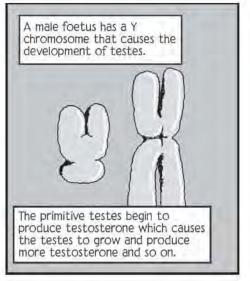


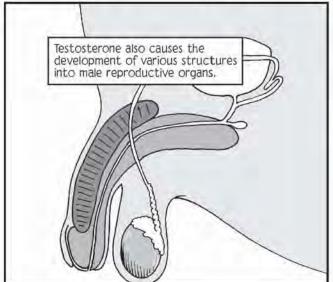


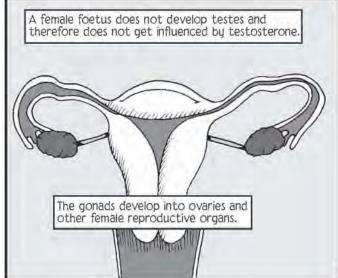


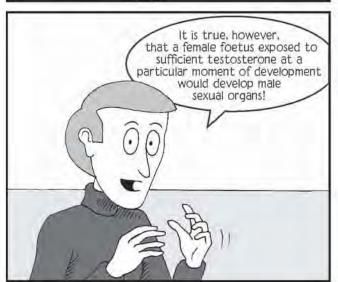


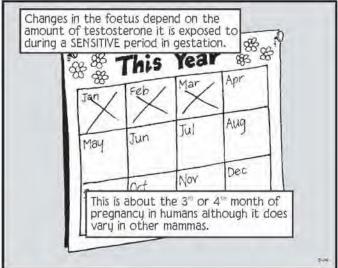


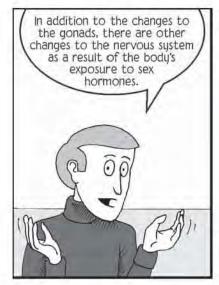


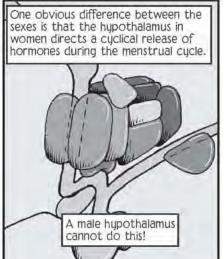


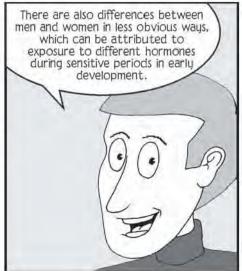


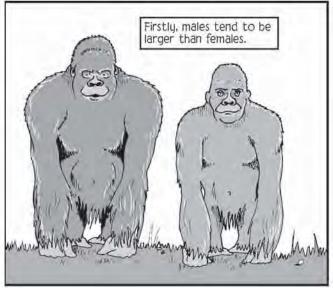


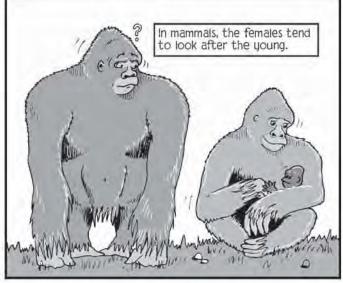


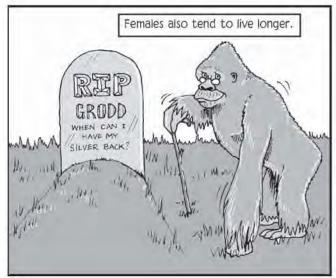


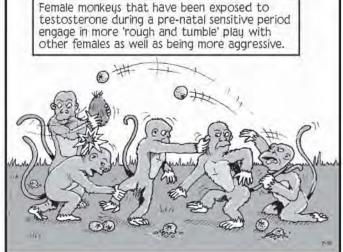










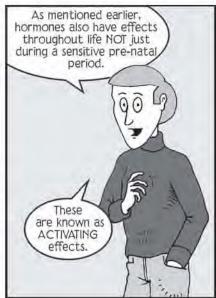


There is some research evidence to suggest that girls who are exposed to male hormones in prenatal development will engage in more boy-like behaviour like playing with boy's toys.



Of course, this finding is controversial and somewhat difficult to uphold since the girls involved had genetic abnormalities and tended to look more masculine.



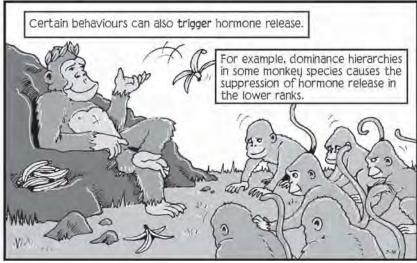


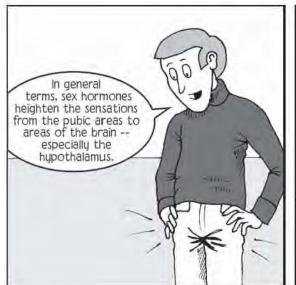
If the testes of a male rat are removed, then its interest in sexual activity decreases.

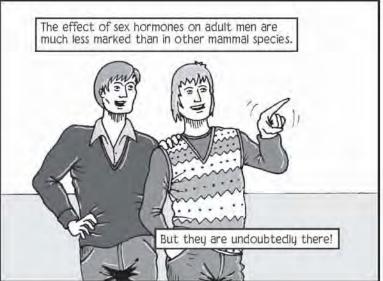
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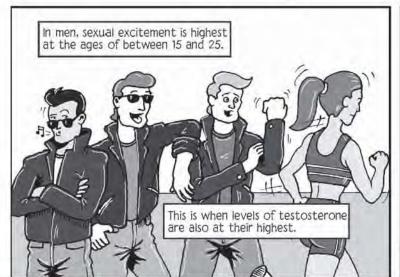








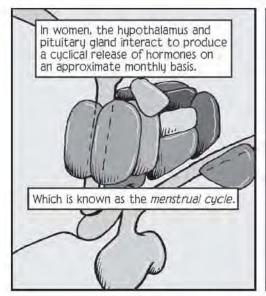










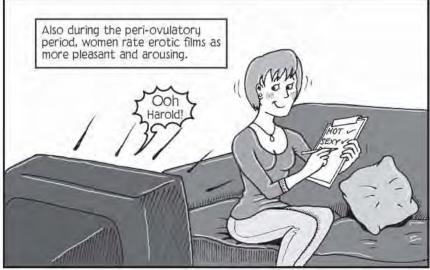




These changes in behaviour tend to occur around the moment just before ovulation – in other words just before the egg is released from the ovary – around the middle of the menstrual cycle.

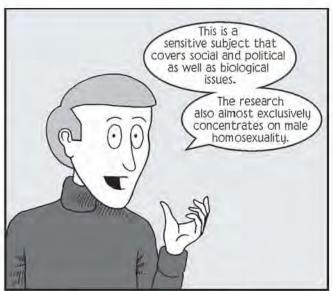
This is known as the peri-ovulatory period and is the time of maximum fertility for a woman and is accompanied by high levels of estrogen.



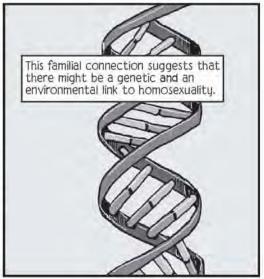


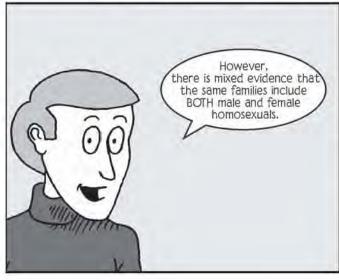




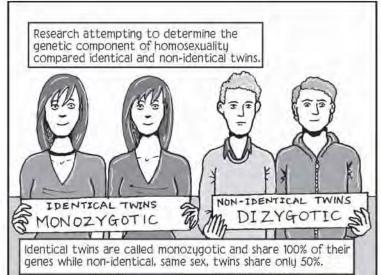


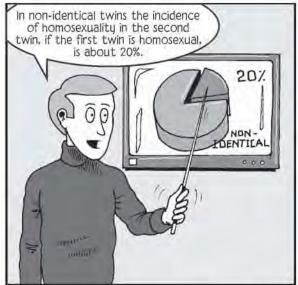


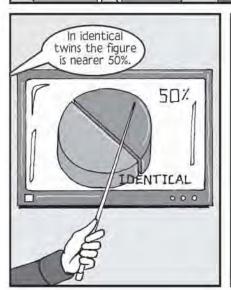


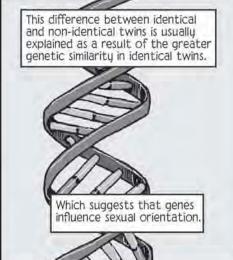




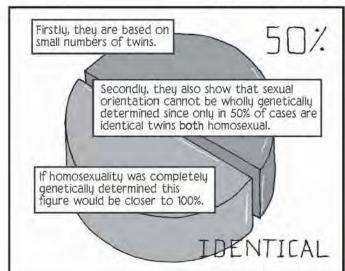


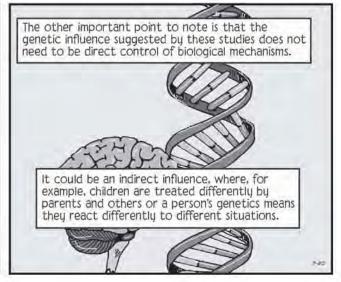


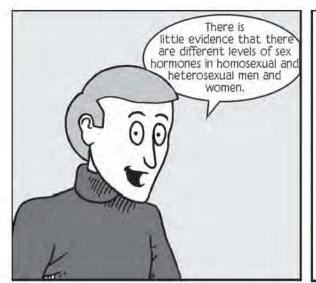




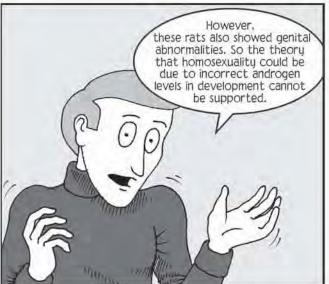


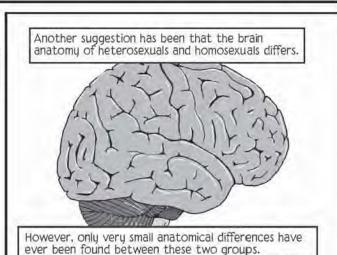




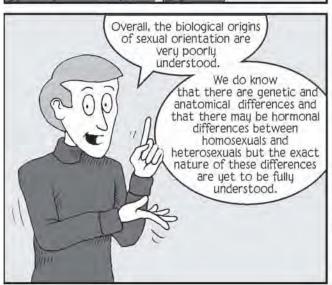


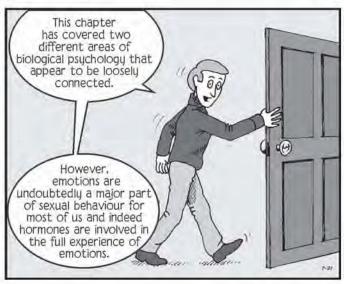






Furthermore, even these small differences are to areas of the brain not known to have any sexual function.





# **Emotions and sexual behaviour**

#### **▶ PAGE 148**

#### Panel 3

Like hunger and thirst, sexual behaviour can be seen as a motivation. However, the problem with seeing sex like this is that unlike hunger and thirst, it is difficult to connect sexual behaviour with a physiological need. Basically, unlike hunger, for example, where you will die if the need for food is not fulfilled, you can go without sex without any damage to your own body. As Garrett (2003) put it 'sex ensures the survival of the species, but not of the individual' (p.155).

#### Panel 4

The biggest problem with studying emotions is that emotion cannot be observed and is very difficult to infer from observed behaviour. This is even more difficult when you consider animal work. How can you infer an emotion in an animal if they cannot communicate? For this and other, similar, reasons Antonio Damasio (1999) concluded that emotions also require consciousness.

### Panel 5

See Bard (1929, 1934).

#### Panel 7

See Papez (1937).

#### ► PAGE 149

#### Panel 2

See MacLean (1949, 1958, 1970).

#### ▶ PAGE 150

# Panel 2

In addition to the structures that make up the limbic system, there are three other brain structures that are important in the control of emotion:

# The Amygdala

This is the brain structure that is most involved in emotion. It receives information from all of the senses. The amygdala's most important emotional role concerns the creation and control of fear and anxiety. It is, however, involved in other emotions.

### **The Pre-frontal Cortex**

Damage to the pre-frontal cortex causes emotional responses to be 'weaker' or 'blunted'. Its role appears to be in using emotional information for other purposes.

# **Right Hemisphere**

Damage to the right hemisphere of the brain often causes difficulties in recognising emotions in others and also impairs emotions involved in autonomic nervous system responses.

### ► PAGE 152

#### Panel 1

There is also the Schacter-Singer theory which is also known as Cognitive-Arousal theory (Schacter & Singer, 1962). This suggests that you feel the arousal and then cognitively assign an emotion to it based on context and previous experience. If the arousal is due to being chased by a lion, for example, you are likely to label this as fear. If, on the other hand, the arousal is due to the effect of a roller coaster then you will be more likely to label this as excitement.

# **▶ PAGE 154**

#### Panel 6

See Forman and McCauley (1986) and Patrick and Iacono (1989).

### **▶ PAGE 155**

# Panel 1

There is research evidence that different facial expressions are related to feeling actual emotions (Ekman, 1992; Izard, 1971).

Actually, the facial expression you make can influence the emotion you feel. Strack, Martin and Stepper (1988) found that people rated cartoons as funnier when they held a pen between their teeth than when they held the pen in their lips. In muscular terms, holding a pen in your teeth represents a smile while holding it in your lips prevents a smile. This idea has led some researchers to suggest that the face and its muscles are the source of emotion (see Tomkins, 1962, 1980).

#### Panel 2

This refers to work by Darwin (1872).

#### Panels 3 to 6

It was work by Ekman and Oster (1979) who demonstrated the culturally universal nature of these six facial expressions. In fact, Izard (1977) found that 'shame' and 'interest' may also be universal facial expressions.

Bear in mind that the influence of culture also comes to bear on facial expressions. These six (possibly eight) expressions may well be recognised by all cultures but facial expressions are also influenced by culture. Different cultures influence how someone controls their facial expression. Each culture (or subculture) has rules about which facial expressions can be made under what circumstances. These are called *display rules* (see Ekman & Friesen, 1975; and Ekman, Friesen & Ellsworth, 1982). Studies have shown that Japanese individuals, for example, will show less revulsion to an unpleasant film when they know they are being observed when compared to American individuals (Ekman, 1977). In general, Japanese culture allows much less emotional expression than western culture.

McCloud (2006) has some very interesting applications of the six universal expressions. He 'mixes' different expressions in order to show how more complex emotional expressions might arise.

#### **▶ PAGE 156**

#### Panel 2

Actually, hormones have a huge influence on our behaviour in general as well as on sexual behaviour. For example, there is evidence for the influence of, especially, testosterone on aggressive behaviour. Archer and Lloyd (1985) linked the action of testosterone to the greater aggression exhibited by males of many animal species. The effect of testosterone on aggression appears to be both during an animal's development and birth.

#### ▶ PAGE 157

#### Panel 4

In an earlier chapter it was noted that the pituitary gland is not made up of neurons, it is an endocrine gland. Actually this is not quite true. The posterior pituitary is actually an extension of the hypothalamus and **is** made up of neurons. This part of the pituitary gland releases the hormones *oxytocin* and *vasopressin*, that are manufactured in the hypothalamus, into the bloodstream.

It is the *anterior* pituitary that is not made up of neurons. Like other hormone glands, it is made up of *glandular tissue*. The hypothalamus controls the release into the bloodstream of the six hormones manufactured by the anterior pituitary gland.

#### ▶ PAGE 158

# Panel 3

Hormones are also very good for causing long-lasting changes in various parts of the body. It is hormones that cause migratory birds to deposit fats that allow them to survive the migration for example.

### **▶ PAGE 159**

#### Panel 1

Actually there are more categories of hormone. There are also *thyroid* hormones and *monoamines*. Thyroid hormones are those released by the thyroid gland and include thyroxine, while monoamines are hormones like dopamine and epinephrine. In addition, there are a number of other hormones that cannot be easily classified and some chemicals in the body that might be considered hormones, although researchers are currently uncertain about them.

#### Panel 2

Sex hormones have effects on the brain, the genitals and other organs.

#### Panel 6

Men and women differ in the manner in which they can be affected by sex hormones. There are certain genes in the body that are affected by sex hormones and are referred to as *sex-limited* genes. The effects of these are different in males and females. An example of this effect is when oestrogen activates the genes in females that cause the development and growth of breasts during adolescence.

Testosterone is sometimes referred to as an anabolic steroid. This refers to the fact that testosterone influences muscle growth. Anabolic steroids have received a poor reputation due to their association with drug abuse by athletes. Anabolic steroids can also be created by artificial means.

#### **▶ PAGE 161**

# Panel 7

See Quadagno, Briscoe and Quadagno (1977) and Young, Goy and Phoenix (1964).

# **▶ PAGE 162**

#### Panel 1

See Berenbaum (1999).

#### Panel 3

Please note that in humans the activating effects of hormones do not cause any behaviour to occur. The effects are on brain activity and sensitivity in pubic areas (Etgen *et al.*,1999).

#### Panels 5 and 6

See Baum and Vreeburg (1973) and Matuszewich, Lorrain and Hull (2000).

### Panel 7

Eberhart, Keverne and Meller (1980) found that levels of the hormone testosterone changed with the social rank of male talapoin monkeys.

#### ▶ PAGE 163

### Panel 1

See Komisaruk, Addler and Hutchinson (1972).

#### Panel 4

See Murphy et al., (1990).

#### Panel 5

See Carter (1992).

#### Panel 6

Given that it is well established that testosterone causes aggression in males and affects sexual behaviour it was hypothesised that male sexual offenders might have abnormal amounts of testosterone in their body. However, research suggests that the levels of testosterone in these individuals are not abnormal. The majority of studies have found that sexual offenders have an average amount of testosterone (e.g. Lang, FLor-Henry & Frenzel, 1990). However, a few studies have found lower levels and some studies have found higher levels (see Rösler & Witztum, 1998).

# **▶ PAGE 164**

#### Panel 1

The menstrual cycle is categorised as a cyclical release of a number of different hormones that affect the level of fertility in women.

### Panel 4

See Adams, Gold and Burt (1978) and Udry and Morris (1968).

#### Panel 5

See Slob et al., (1996).

#### Panel 6

Penton-Voak *et al.* (1999) found that during their peri-ovulatory period, women participants preferred more 'masculine' looking men's faces in photos as possible sexual partners. Outside of their peri-ovulatory period, these women preferred more 'feminine' looking men's faces.

### **▶ PAGE 165**

#### Panel 1

As Garrett (2003) has pointed out, if we find out why some people prefer the same gender, this might allow us some insight into heterosexuality as well.

A particularly tricky aspect of this type of research is that it is difficult to find out exactly how many people are homosexual. Michael *et al.* (1994) conducted a survey in the United States that suggested that 9 per cent of men and 4 per cent of women are homosexual. Other, similar surveys, have suggested slightly lower percentages however.

#### Panel 2

There are two general hypotheses that have been suggested to explain the 'causes' of homosexuality. The first is the *social influence* hypothesis that argues that homosexuality is a result of parental influences as a child. The research has tended to focus on early sexual experiences.

However, Bell, Weinberg and Hammersmith (1982) conducted a large survey of both homosexual and heterosexual men and found no significant difference in their early sexual experiences. In fact most of the research conducted in this area (see, for example, Van Wyk & Geist, 1984) has only found evidence of sexual experiences that could be interpreted as reflecting an early demonstration of homosexuality rather than a cause of homosexuality.

The alternative hypothesis is known as the *biological* hypothesis. This posits that homosexuality has a biological cause. There have therefore been attempts to demonstrate a genetic, hormonal or neural explanation for homosexuality.

## ▶ PAGE 166

#### Panels 2 and 3

In fact the figures are:

# Related to a homosexual man

Monozygotic twin:	Homosexual	52%
	Heterosexual	48%
Dizygotic twin:	Homosexual	22%
	Heterosexual	78%
Adopted brother:	Homosexual	11%
	Heterosexual	89%

# Related to a homosexual woman

Monozygotic twin:	Homosexual	48%
	Heterosexual	52%
Dizygotic twin:	Homosexual	16%
	Heterosexual	84%
Adopted sister:	Homosexual	6%
	Heterosexual	94%

The above figures come from Kalat (2004) based on Bailey and Pillard (1991) and Bailey, Pillard, Nale and Agyei (1993).

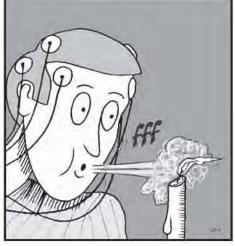
# SLEEP AND BIOLOGICAL RHYTHMS



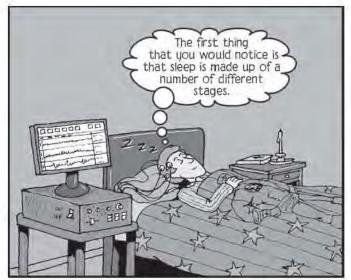


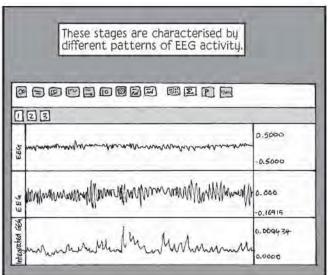












Before sleep, the EEG pattern is mostly BETA WAVES when you are awake and ALPHA WAVES during times of quiet relaxation. Stage 1 of sleep is a general state of drowsiness that is defined by the presence of Theta Waves in the EEG pattern. Alert whitehouse when his house will are B Beta waves Awake Quiet Relaxation a Alpha waves Stage 1 Sleep O Theta waves

that are just a little slower than the waves shown during times of relaxation.

Aah...
What? I wasn't sleeping!

People that are woken during Stage 1 of sleep often will claim that they were not actually asleep!

Theta Waves are quite fast and erratic waves

Stage 2 of sleep is characterised by slower and longer waves accompanied by sleep spindles – short bursts of fast activity.

Stage 2

Spindles

Stage 3

Stage 3

Delta waves appear

The third stage of sleep has

waves that are even slower and

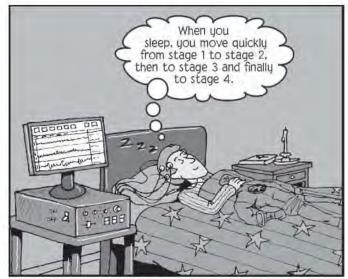
larger - known as DELTA WAVES.

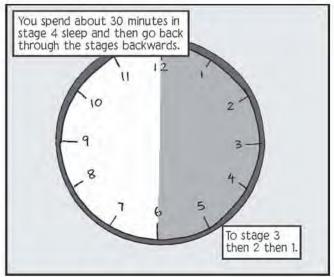
During the fourth stage of sleep, the body's metabolism is at its slowest and the EEG pattern is almost exclusively made up of DELTA waves.

Stage 4

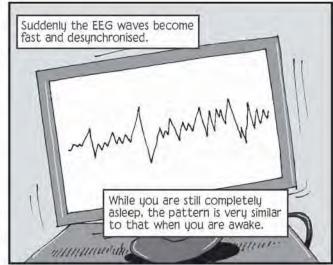
& Mostly Delta waves

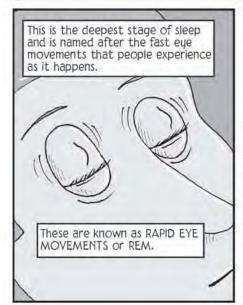
This is a deep stage of sleep.

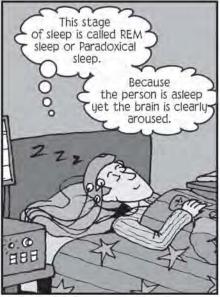


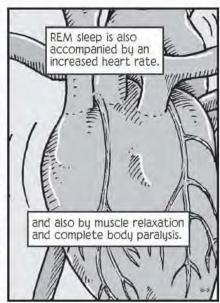






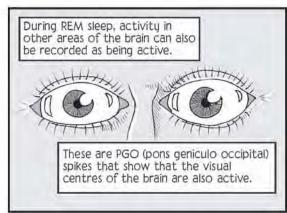


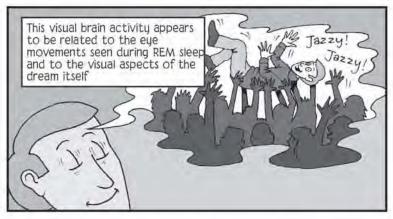


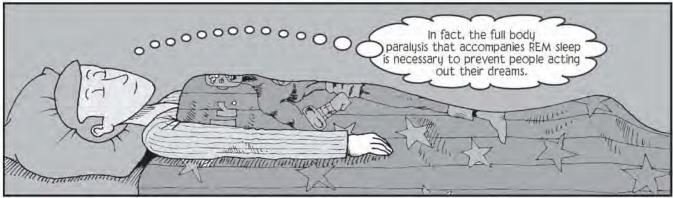






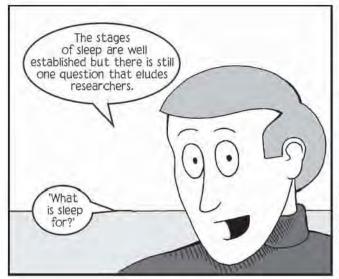


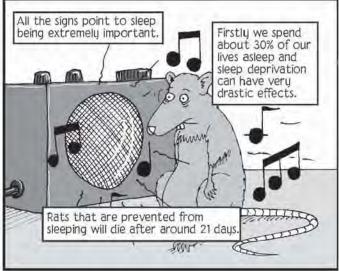




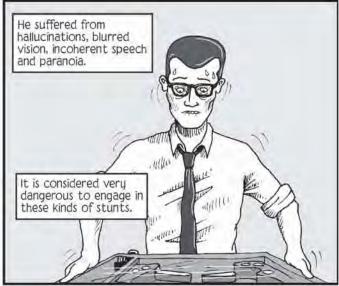


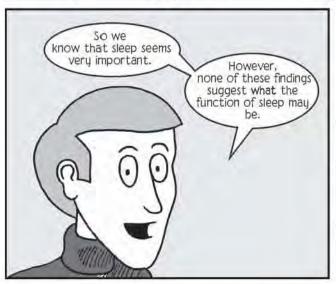




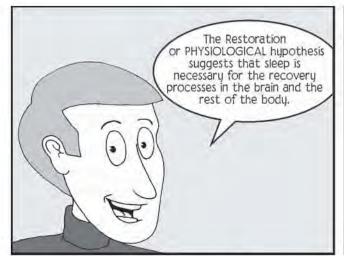


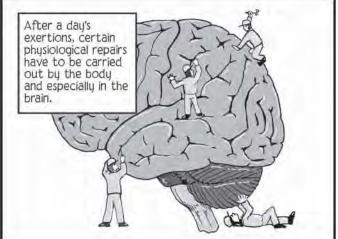


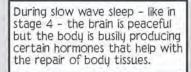


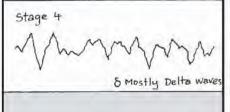


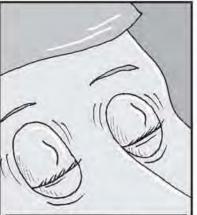




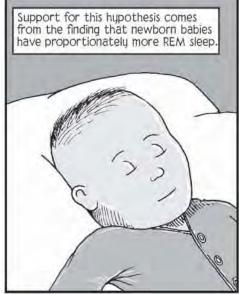


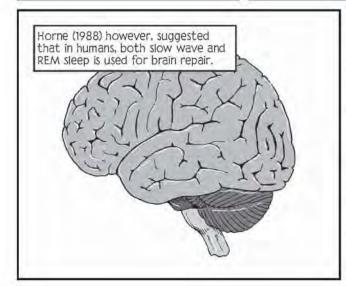


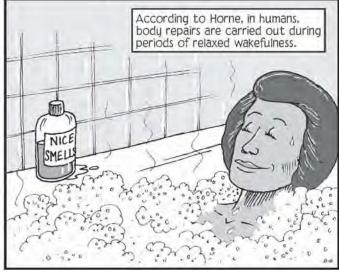




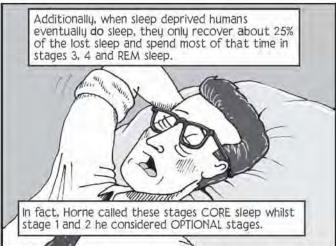
It was Oswald (1980) who suggested that REM sleep is used for brain repair while slow wave sleep is used for bodily repair.



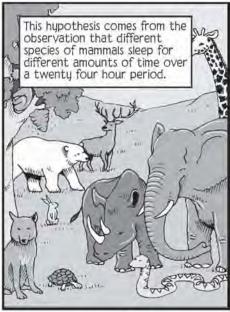


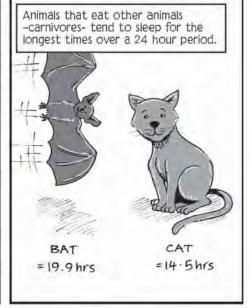


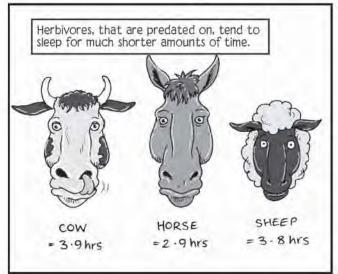


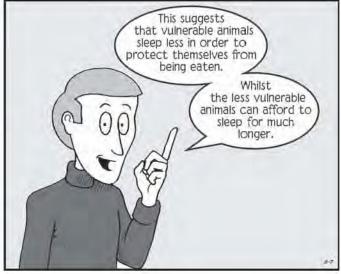


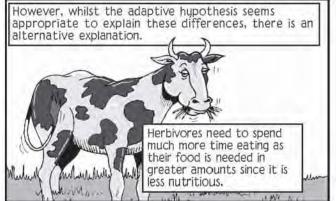


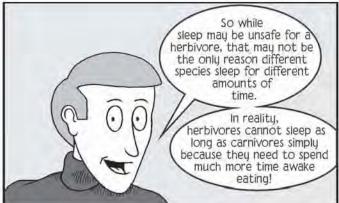


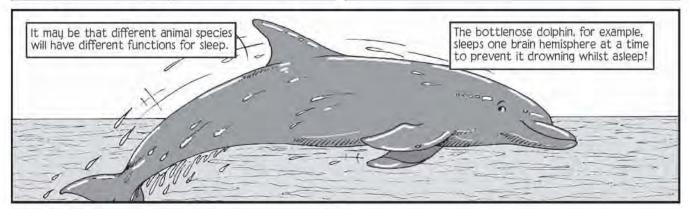


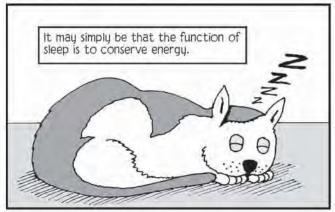


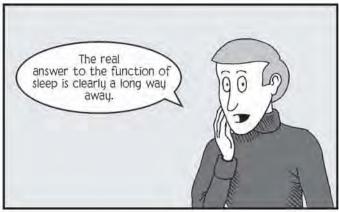


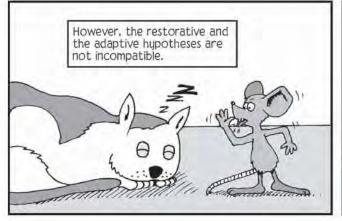












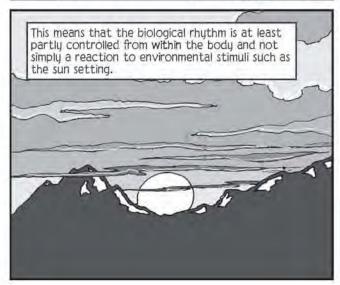


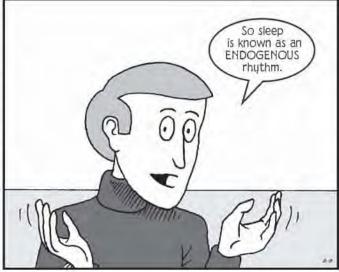


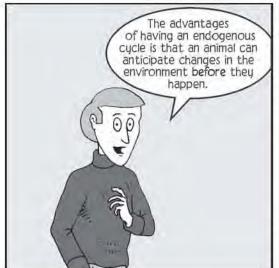












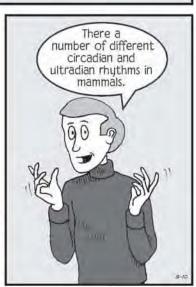




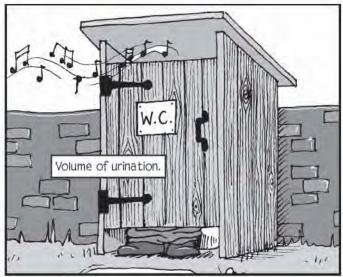


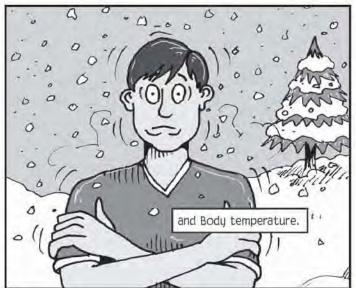




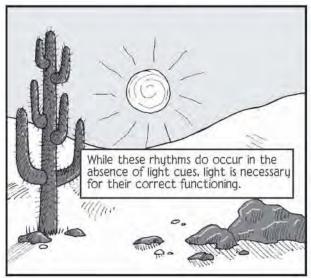




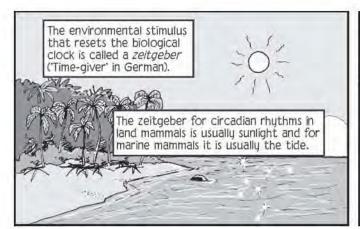






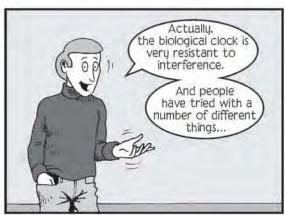




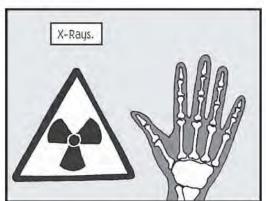






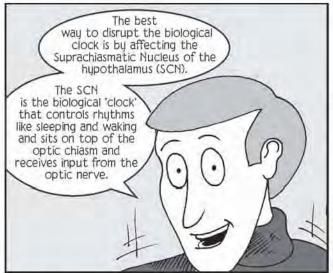


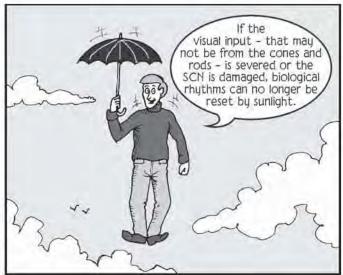


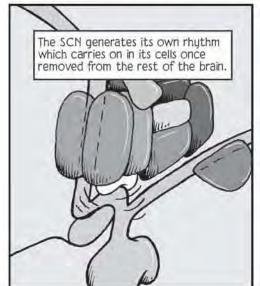




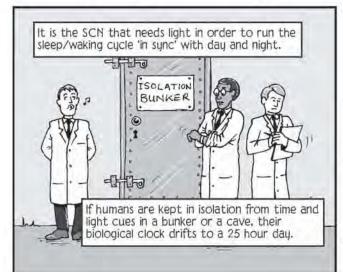


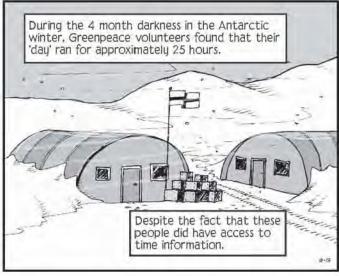


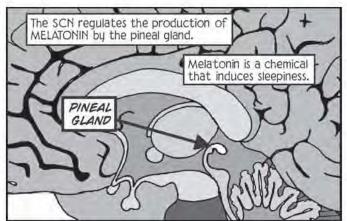




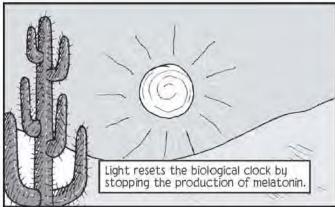






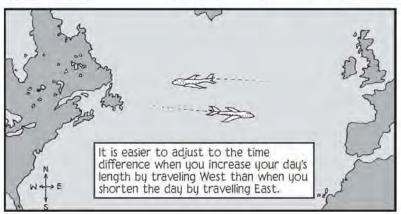


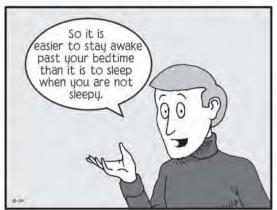




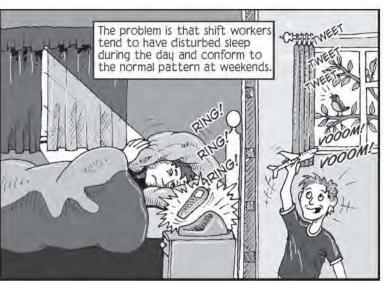


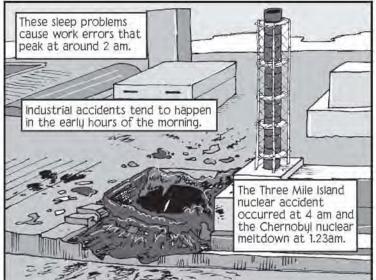






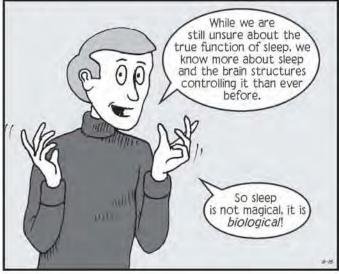












# Sleep and biological rhythms

#### **▶ PAGE 177**

#### Panel 4

The *electroencephalograph* or EEG, is a way of measuring the electrical activity of the brain. Small electrodes (usually up to around eight) are attached to the scalp at various points using some kind of adhesive. Each electrode measures the average amount of electricity created by the collection of neurons just below it. This measure is then amplified and recorded.

The advantage of using the EEG to record brain activity is that you don't have to cut into the brain to take measurements. One of the problems is that since the EEG measures such a huge number of neurons at a time it is difficult to do much with the results except in general terms. Despite this, however, from the output of the EEG trained individuals can tell if someone is asleep, awake, or excited for example. Some abnormalities in the EEG can also suggest problems with the brain, like the presence of a tumour.

#### ▶ PAGE 178

# Panel 2

In the past, EEG results were recorded on paper although most of it is now carried out using computers.

# Panel 3

Slow wave EEG activity shows that all the neurons are synchronised; in other words, all firing at the same time.

#### ▶ PAGE 179

#### Panel 5

REM sleep was accidentally discovered in the 1950s by two separate sets of researchers: Jouvet in France and Arenski and Kleitman in the United States.

#### Panel 7

REM sleep is also accompanied by penile erections in men and vaginal moistening in women.

### **▶ PAGE 180**

#### Panel 2

The finding that REM sleep is accompanied by dreaming was reported by Dement and Kleitman (1957), although other research later found that when people were woken during non-REM sleep they also reported dreaming. It does appear, however, that REM sleep dreaming is accompanied by more visual imagery.

#### **▶ PAGE 182**

#### Panel 2

During sleep, the brain makes proteins and replaces lost energy. However, the brain doesn't recover in the same way that, say runners recover their breath after running. In general, people do not sleep significantly more after a particularly mentally or physically taxing day (Horne & Minard, 1985; Shapiro *et al.*, 1981). So the length of sleep is not dependent on the amount of activity we have carried out.

In addition, people vary a great deal in the amount of sleep they need. Jones and Oswald (1968) found two men who regularly only slept for about 3 hours a night and seemed to suffer no problems as a result. Meddis, Peason and Langford (1973) reported the case of a 70-year-old woman who only slept for 1 hour per night and sometimes did not sleep at all.

The former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher, famously boasted that she only needed 5 hours sleep per night during her time in office. However, she was in her 60s at the time and it is not uncommon for people of this age to need less sleep.

#### ▶ PAGE 183

# Panel 3

See Kleitman (1963) and Webb (1974).

The adaptive hypothesis is a little like the idea of hibernation. By sleeping, animals can conserve energy at a time when food is less available. The approximate 1°C drop in body temperature that accompanies sleep helps to conserve energy. The adaptive hypothesis is supported by the finding that animals sleep longer at times of food shortage (Berger & Phillips, 1995).

# **▶ PAGE 184**

#### Panel 5

We spend a lot of our time asleep and a lot of that time in REM sleep. This has led to the suggestion that REM sleep has an important function. In addition, the fact that many birds and mammals have been shown to have REM sleep leads to the suggestion that it is part of our evolutionary past and therefore has an important survival role.

When animal species are compared, there is a lot of variation in the amount of REM sleep that occurs. Generally those animals that sleep the most also spend the most time in REM sleep (Siegel, 1995). As we

age, we spend less time asleep and this is accompanied by less time spent in REM sleep. Babies spend more time asleep generally and thus spend more time in REM sleep than adults.

Dement (1960) found that deprivation of REM sleep for 4 to 7 nights has a number of effects. He found these by waking subjects as soon as they entered REM sleep thus preventing them from engaging in any REM sleep at all. The effects were firstly that the sleeper increases the amount of REM sleep they engage in on subsequent nights. Participants in this study also reported mild personality changes, increased anxiety, impaired concentration, increased appetite and increased weight.

When these participants were allowed to sleep normally after the study was over, they spent more time than usual in REM sleep as if they needed to catch up.

There are a number of hypotheses that attempt to explain the need for REM sleep:

# **Memory Storage**

One of the major ideas is that REM sleep is needed for memory consolidation and storage. However, the findings in this area are not very conclusive. Some studies show that learning is better if followed by sleep (Stickgold, James & Hobson, 2000; Stickgold *et al.*, 2000), although it is not determined if the crucial aspect in these cases is REM sleep rather than sleep in general. However, there is also evidence that people who take drugs that inhibit REM sleep do not report any memory problems (Parent, Habib & Baker, 1999).

# Oxygen Supply to the Corneas

A more recent suggestion is that REM sleep is necessary to shake the eyeballs so that enough oxygen can reach the cornea (Maurice, 1998). When the eyes are open, the corneas receive most of their oxygen supply from the air and some from the fluid behind the eyes. When the eyes are still, the fluid loses much of its oxygen. According to this suggestion, REM sleep is necessary to arouse the sleeper enough to cause the movement of the eyeballs. This idea still lacks substantive support but is an interesting alternative.

There are two hypotheses that attempt to explain the function of dreaming:

#### **Activation-synthesis Hypothesis**

This hypothesis suggests that dreaming is the brain's way of making sense of the information it receives whilst you are asleep. During the early part of sleep, the pons activates various areas of the brain, but other areas are not activated. This hypothesis posits that during dreams, the brain is just trying to tie up these sources of information and make some sort of sense of it (Hobson & McCarley, 1977; Hobson, Pace-Schott & Stickgold, 2000, McCarley & Hobson, 1981).

Dreams of falling or being unable to move are dreams that support this hypothesis. During sleep you are lying down and without all the other sensory information, the brain may interpret this as falling. Furthermore, the muscle paralysis that accompanies REM sleep may account for the reports of people dreaming about not being able to move.

One criticism of this theory (which involves a detailed knowledge of the areas of the brain that are active during sleep) is that the predictions from it are quite vague. So, for example, if we dream of falling because

we are lying down whilst asleep, why don't we always dream of falling? Another criticism is that patients with damage to the pons still report dreams (Solms, 1997).

# **Clinico-anatomical Hypothesis**

This is very similar to the activation-synthesis hypothesis except that it does not ascribe special importance to the function of the pons. Here, dreams are still seen as the brain's attempt to make sense of information from the senses, recent memories and brain area activity. It is useful to think of this hypothesis as saying that when we dream we are simply thinking without all the usual set of information.

During sleep the brain is deprived of much of the information from the senses and therefore can generate images without interference from, for example, the visual system.

#### ▶ PAGE 185

#### Panel 2

See Richter (1922).

#### **▶ PAGE 186**

#### Panel 2

Actually, the influence of an endogenous cycle on the northern return of migratory birds is quite remarkable. In southern climates, where these birds spend the winter months, there is very little difference in the length of day/night throughout the year since these countries are nearer to the earth's equator. This means that the birds must be almost entirely reliant on their endogenous cycle to trigger their return to the north.

#### **▶ PAGE 187**

# Panel 6

Richter (1967) introduced the concept of the brain generating its own internal rhythm and therefore introduced the idea of a 'biological clock'.

#### **▶ PAGE 188**

#### Panels 5 to 8

See Richter (1967).

# ▶ PAGE 189

# Panel 1

See Refinetti and Menaker (1992).

# Panel 3

See Earnest et al. (1999), Inouye and Kawamura (1979) and Herzog, Kakahashi and Block (1998).

### Panel 4

See Gillette and McArthur (1996).

### **▶ PAGE 190**

# Panel 1

The pineal gland is an endocrine gland that secretes hormones. It is found just behind the thalamus in the brain.

### Panel 5

What we call 'jet lag' is a disruption in the normal circadian rhythms that occurs after you cross time zones. Basically, your zeitgebers of daylight and your internal clock become 'out-of-sync'. The effects are sleepiness during the day and sleeplessness during the night. Other effects are depression and loss of concentration.

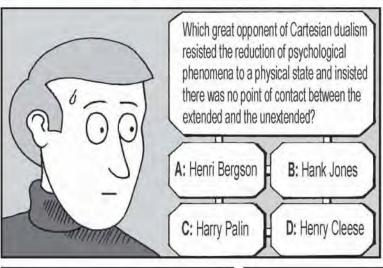
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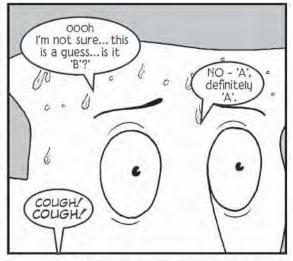
### Panel 1

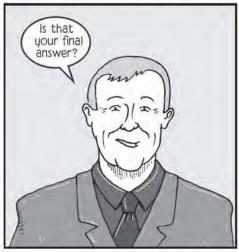
The best way for shift workers to adjust to night work is to work in very bright lights and sleep in a very dark room (Czeisler *et al.*, 1990).

# CHAPTER 9 MEMORY AND LEARNING





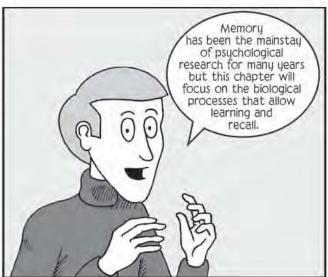


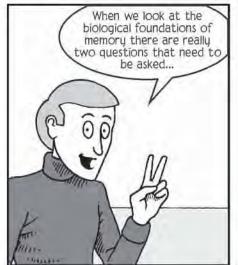


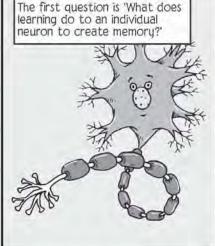


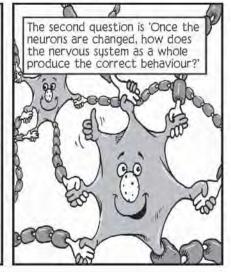


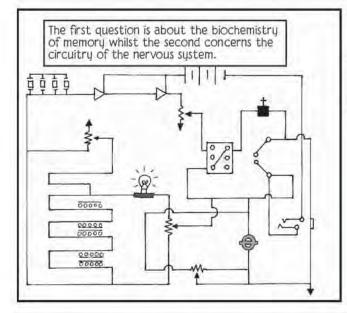


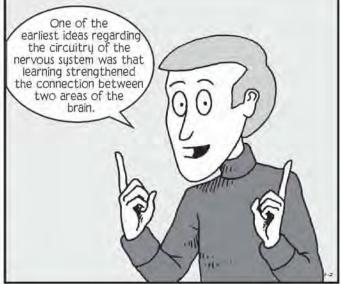


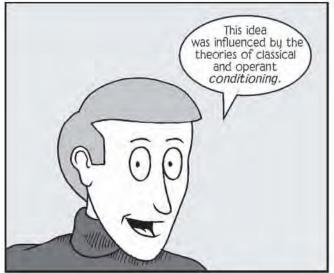


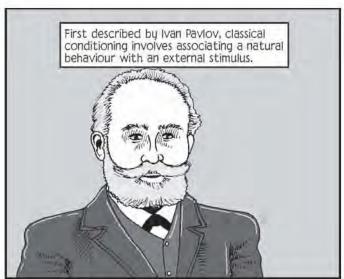










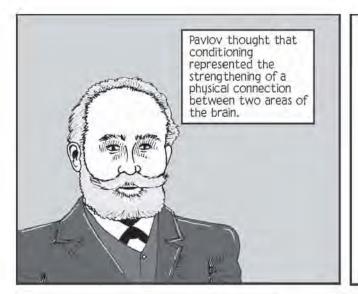


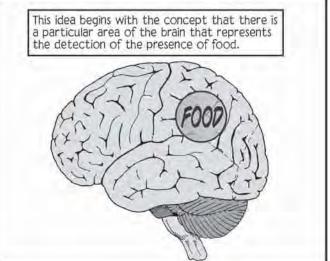




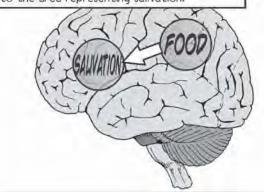


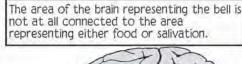


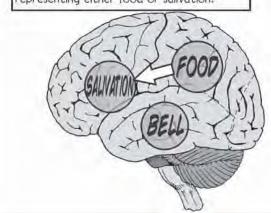




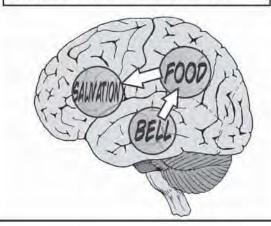
Normally, this section of the brain is physically connected to another area of the brain representing salivation, so that when food is detected by the brain nerve impulses are sent to the area representing salivation.







Through conditioning the bell is paired with the food so that the connection from the area of the brain representing the bell gets strengthened so that the bell alone will cause salivation.

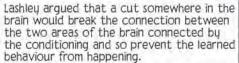


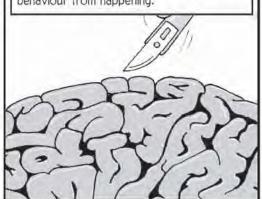
Bear in mind that this idea was largely theoretical and that the areas shown on the brain are just arbitrary and are not where these types of information are actually processed in the brain.

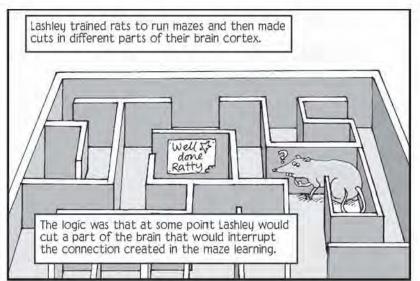


Karl Lashley set out to test Pavlov's idea by searching for the physical representation of conditioning - what he called the Engram.

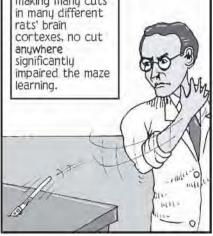




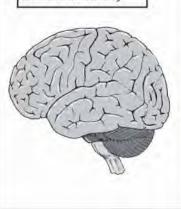




However, despite making many cuts in many different rats' brain cortexes, no cut anuwhere significantly impaired the maze learning.



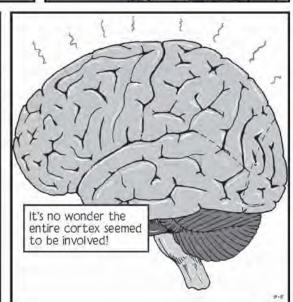
Lashley concluded that the whole cortex was involved in learning.

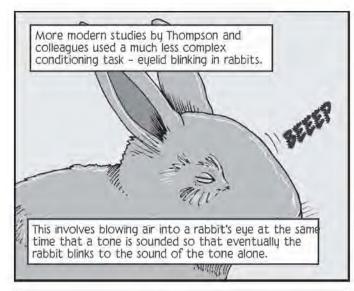


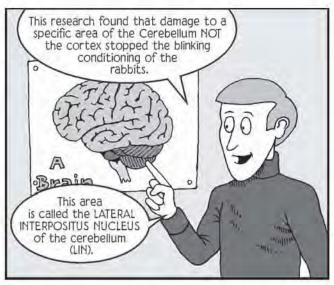
However, Lashley made two assumptions that are not necessarily correct: Firstly that the engram is found in the cortex. and Secondly that all memories are the same in physiological terms.

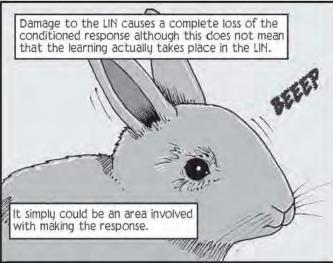
Lashley's maze learning can be especially criticised since it was quite complex and involved visual, information as well as other the rat's own body and so on.



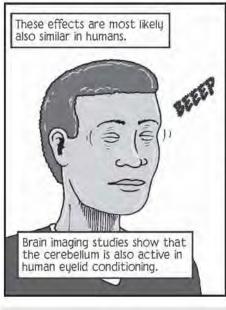


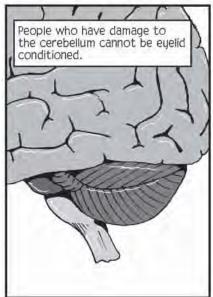


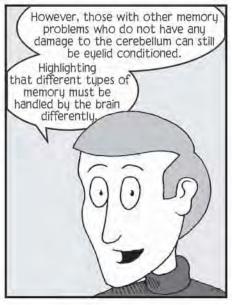




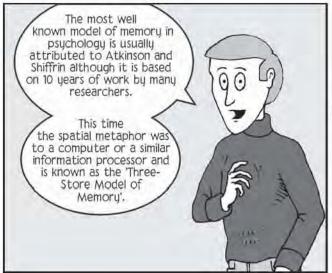


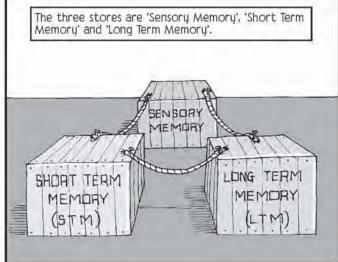


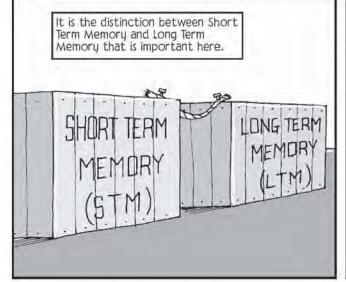


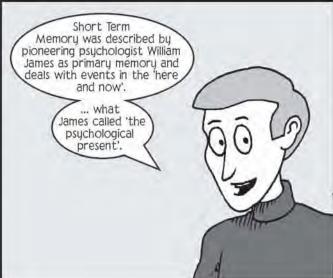


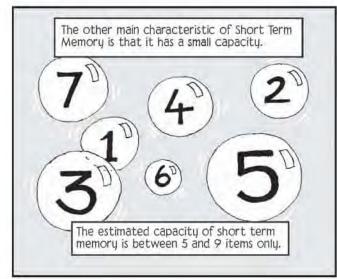


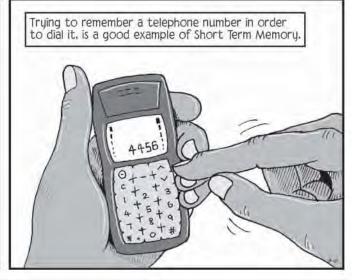


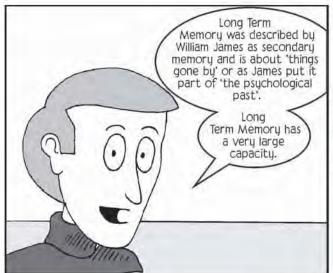


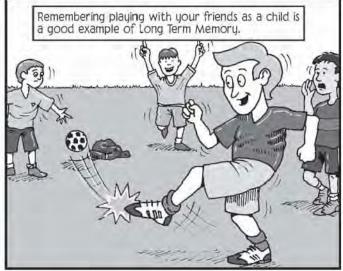


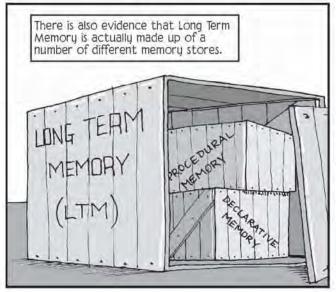




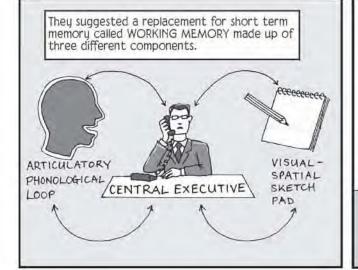


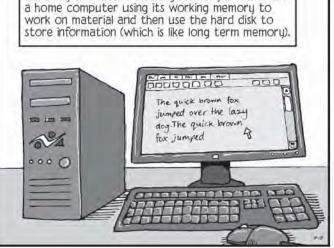




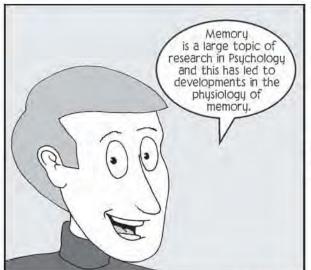


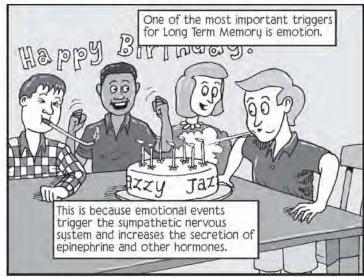


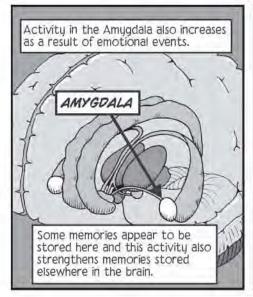


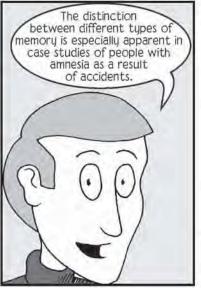


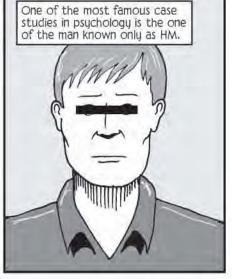
Baddeley and Hitch's working memory is rather like



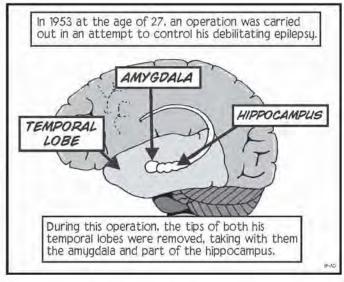


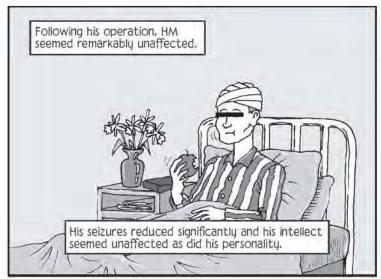














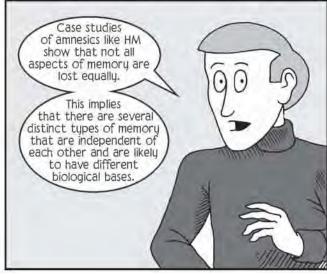


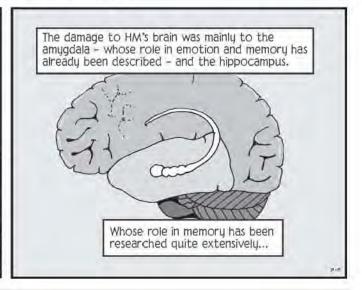
HM was able to read the same magazine over and over again as new, he wouldn't recognise his doctor from one visit to the next and he had difficulty working out where his parents' new home was.

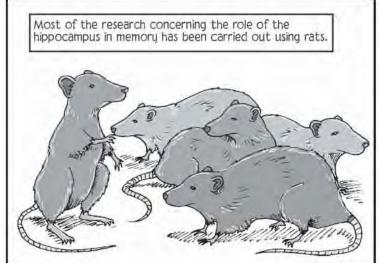


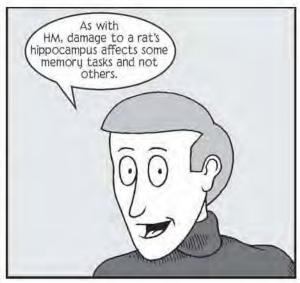
However, HM was able to learn some new skills like a small finger maze.

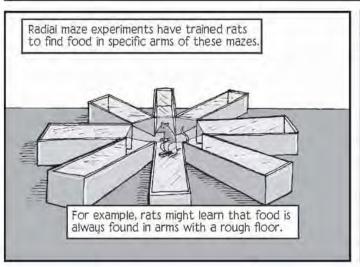
But he had no memory of learning these skills in the first place!



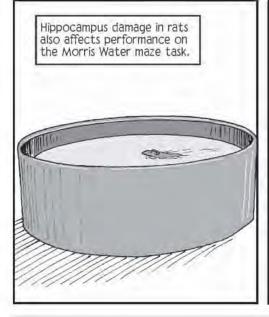


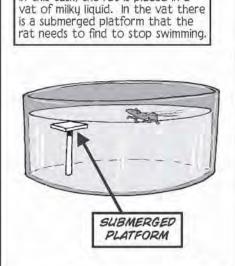






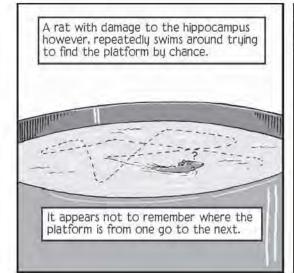


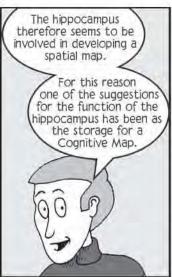


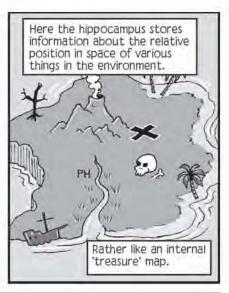


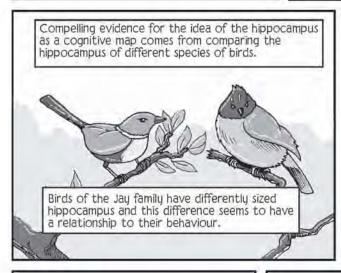
In this task, the rat is placed in a

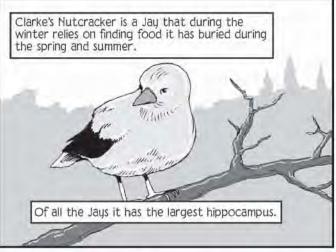


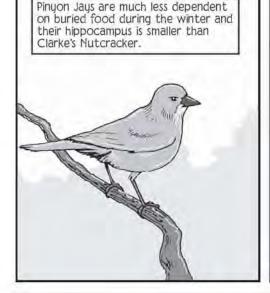


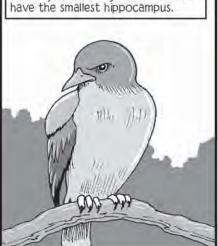








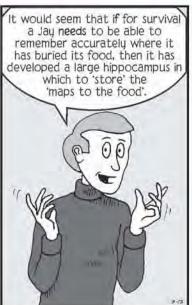




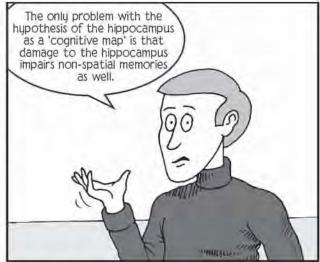
Scrub and Mexican Jays don't bury

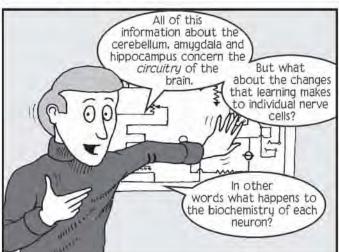
find any of it during the winter and

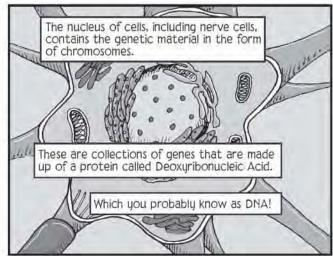
their food at all so don't have to

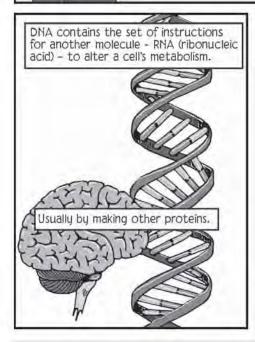






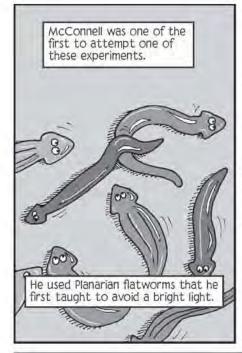




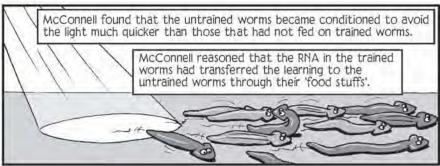




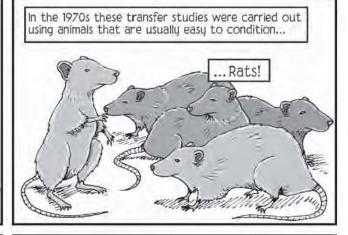


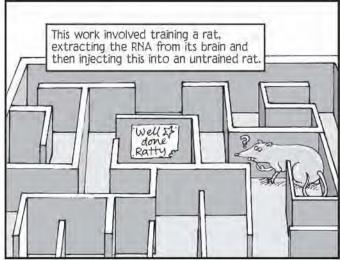




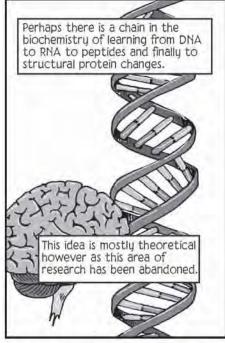


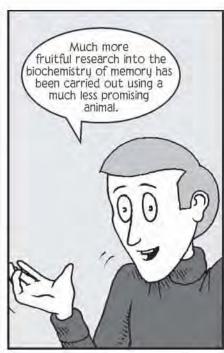


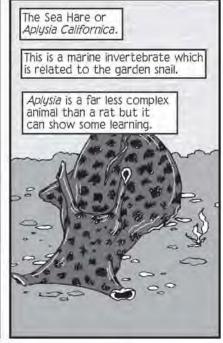




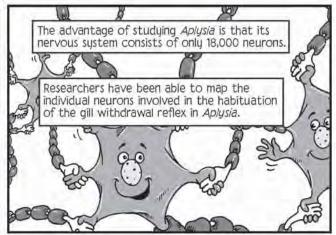


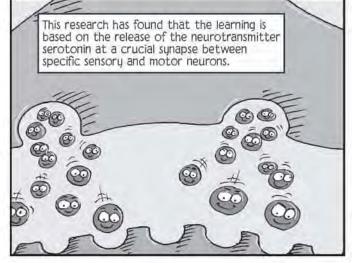


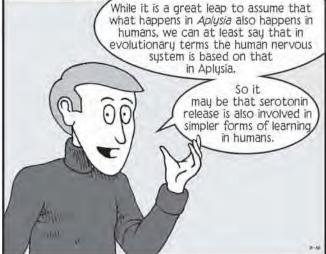




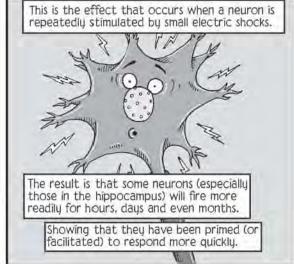


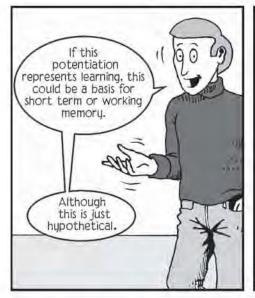


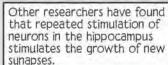


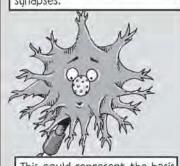






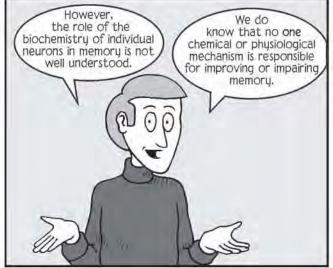


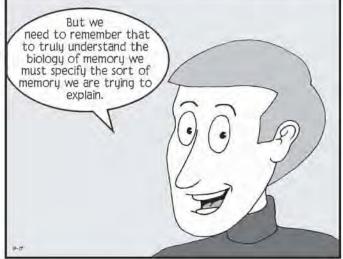




This could represent the basis for long term changes in circuitry and so a basis for long term memory.







## Memory and learning

#### **▶ PAGE 200**

#### Panel 2

The connection between learning and memory is not straightforward. Learning is demonstrated by many different animals. Even single-celled organisms can be shown to have 'learnt' something. These learnt behaviours tend to be quite simple though. Things like avoiding swimming towards a light. A problem arises with the retention of this information. These simple animals don't remember the learning after a short period of time. In other words, they do not create any memories for the learning. So while learning is necessary for memory, memories are not always a consequence of learning.

#### ▶ PAGE 201

#### Panel 2

See Pavlov (1927).

#### Panel 6

There are three types of conditioning according to Learning Theory:

#### Classical Conditioning ('Learning by Association')

This is also called Pavlovian conditioning and involves learning by association. A 'natural' behaviour, that is normally triggered by one event, is associated with an external stimulus so that eventually the stimulus alone causes the behaviour. It tends to occur in behaviours that you don't have much control over like salivating or blinking. Emotional responses are also said to be classically conditioned.

#### Operant Conditioning ('Learning by Consequences')

This type of conditioning involves learning by consequences. Behaviour that an animal has conscious control over (i.e. voluntary) is repeated if the consequences of that behaviour have positive benefits for the animal. Conversely behaviours that have negative consequences will not be repeated. This type of conditioning is associated with B. F. Skinner who developed 'skinner' boxes where animals (usually rats) had to learn to press levers to obtain a food reward.

#### Social Learning Theory ('Learning by Imitation')

This type of learning is associated with Albert Bandura who suggested that in addition to learning by association and consequences, we also learn by copying others. We will copy behaviours that we see others obtaining rewards for and stop those behaviours we see others being punished for.

#### **▶ PAGE 202**

#### Panel 7

See Lashley (1929, 1950).

#### **▶ PAGE 203**

#### Panel 4

Lashley's conclusions were a little more complex than is suggested here. Because he found that no cut in a rat's cortex could interfere with learning, he suggested two principles about the biology of memory.

Firstly, he said that there was a principle of *Equipotentiality* whereby all parts of the cortex are involved in the control of complex behaviour and that any damaged part can be replaced by any other.

Secondly, he suggested the principle of *Mass Action*. Here he was suggesting that the cortex works as a whole rather than different tasks being carried out by different parts of the cortex.

While these seemed reasonable conclusions at the time, Lashley did not account for the complexity of the learning tasks that he had taught to the rats. The tasks involved the whole cortex because many aspects of the rats' behaviour were needed to carry out them out.

#### ▶ PAGE 204

#### Panel 2

See Thompson (1986).

#### Panel 5

A PET scan or Positron Emission Tomography is a brain imaging technique that involves injecting a radioactive chemical into the blood that is taken up by parts of the brain. Active parts of the brain will take up more of this chemical than non-active parts. The PET scanner can then detect which areas of the brain are most active during a particular behaviour. In this way we can determine what parts of the brain are activated when we do something.

Using PET scans Logan and Grafton (1995) found that the classical conditioning of eyelid blinking in young adults showed increased activity in the cerebellum and other areas.

Other imaging methods are CAT scans (Computerised Axial Tomography) and MRI scans (Magnetic Resonance Imaging).

#### Panel 6

See Woodruff-Pak, Papka and Ivry (1996).

#### ▶ PAGE 206

#### Panel 1

See Atkinson and Shiffrin (1968).

#### Panel 4

See James (1890).

#### Panel 5

Miller (1956), in a classic paper in Cognitive Psychology, reviewed several different studies on short-term memory and found that its capacity was limited to about seven items of information plus or minus two. In other words the capacity was between 5 and 9 items. What constitutes an 'item' varies. It can mean a single number or letter or a meaningful combination of a few numbers or letters.

#### **▶ PAGE 207**

#### Panel 4

See Baddeley and Hitch (1974).

#### **▶ PAGE 208**

#### Panel 5

The case of HM, sometimes known as Henry M., was described by Scoville and Milner (1957). At the age of 7, HM was involved in a bicycle accident that was thought to have been the cause of his minor epileptic seizures that started three years later. At the age of 16, HM had his first major seizure. Eventually these became more frequent and he was forced to give up his job in a local factory. Given that anti-convulsant drugs were no longer helping him, it was decided that experimental surgery had to be performed. As a result, in 1953, at the age of 27, HM underwent surgery that removed most of both of his temporal lobes where the seizures originated.

The results upon his epilepsy were quite successful. With the aid of drugs, his seizures became much milder and the major ones were reduced to one a year.

In terms of side-effects of the procedure, HM seemed amazingly unaffected. His personality and intelligence were not affected and in fact his IQ score increased.

However, in terms of memory, HM was severely impaired by any definition. Technically speaking he had severe *anterograde anmnesia*. This refers the fact that his memories for events that occurred after the surgery were almost non-existent. He also suffered from mild *retrograde amnesia* for events that occurred about one year before the surgery. This refers to the fact that his memories for events prior to the surgery remained intact (apart for some events that happened a little time before the operation). This basically means that whilst his old memories remained intact, HM was unable to create any new memories.

This had a profound effect on HM's life. He was said to be a man who perpetually 'lived in the past' and always spoke as if he was still living in the 1950s. One of the best descriptions of his condition is by HM himself:

'Every day is alone in itself, whatever enjoyment I've had, and whatever sorrow I've had...Right now, I'm wondering: Have I done or said something amiss? You see, at this moment everything looks clear to me, but what happened just before? That's what worries me. It's like waking from a dream; I just don't remember' (Milner, 1970, p. 37).

#### **▶ PAGE 210**

#### Panel 1

There are three hypotheses that suggest how the hippocampus is involved in memory:

#### The Hippocampus and Declarative Memory

Squire (1992) has suggested that the hippocampus is essential for what is described as declarative memory. This is memory for events in your life that you declare about. One example of declarative memory is to recall what occurred during your holidays.

This idea fits in well with HM and other cases of amnesia. Most amnesiacs lose the ability to recount events but are able to learn new skills. However, it is difficult to obtain much animal study support for this hypothesis since animals cannot declare anything.

Despite this problem, there is some evidence for this idea in rats and chimpanzees, but it is a little mixed and open to other criticisms (for example see Fortin, Agster & Eichenbaum, 2002; Kesner, Gilbert & Barua, 2002; and Zola *et al.*, 2000)

#### The Hippocampus and Spatial Memory

This suggestion is that the hippocampus is especially important for the development of memory for spatial locations. This is the work that involves the radial search maze, the Morris Search task and the comparative work on Jays described in this chapter.

Human evidence for this study comes from work on brain imaging studies in London Taxi drivers. Maguire, Frackowiak and Frith (1997) found that the hippocampus was activated when the taxi drivers were asked questions about how to go from one London landmark to another. Bohbot, Allen and Nadel (2000) found that people with damage to the hippocampus had difficulty on tests of spatial memory.

Overall, whilst the hippocampus is indeed involved in spatial memories, this is not its only memory function. Damage to the hippocampus also causes a number of non-spatial impairments.

#### The Hippocampus and Configural Learning

The last suggestion is that the hippocampus is involved in memory for tasks that require a response to a number of different stimuli and the combinations between them. So, for example, an animal might need to learn that the colour red means food, the colour green also means food but red and green means no food.

There are studies which show that damage to the hippocampus causes impairment in configural learning tasks (Rickard & Grafman, 1998). However, this finding is not exclusive and the idea that the hippocampus is **essential** for configural learning has been changed.

A more recent suggestion is that the hippocampus stores a kind of 'map' for working out where all the different memories for a single event are stored in the brain so that the cortex can bring them all together.

The last suggestion concerning the function of the hippocampus is that damage to it causes an interruption in the production of certain hormones from the adrenal glands. Hippocampal damage in rats results in increased levels of adrenal hormones (e.g. cortisol) AND a disruption of spatial memories. Roozendaal *et al.* (2001) found that if these rats are given drugs that block the effects of the cortisol then their spatial memories return.

#### ▶ PAGE 213

#### Panel 1

See McConnell (1962).

#### Panel 5

See Babich et al. (1965), Dyal (1971) and Fjerdingstad (1973).

Babich *et al.* (1965) trained rats to follow a clicking sound in order to find food. Once they established that the rats had adequately learnt this skill, they removed their brains and extracted the RNA within. After this, they injected the extracted RNA into untrained rats. These rats learned to follow the clicking sound in fewer trials than before.

This research led to a rush of similar studies that unfortunately found it difficult to replicate Babich *et al.*'s (1965) findings. Eventually this line of research was completely abandoned.

#### **▶ PAGE 214**

#### Panels 3 and 4

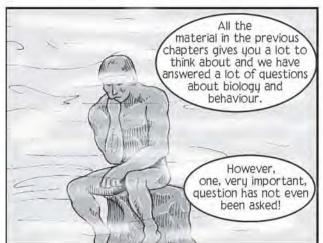
See, for example, Kupferman et al. (1970).

#### **▶ PAGE 215**

#### Panel 1

See, for example, Bliss & Lømo (1973) and Weinberger, Javid & Lepan (1995).

# EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY



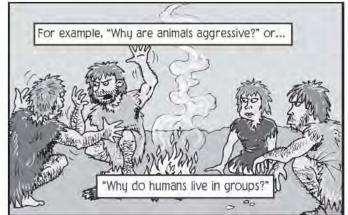


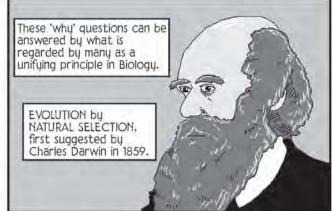


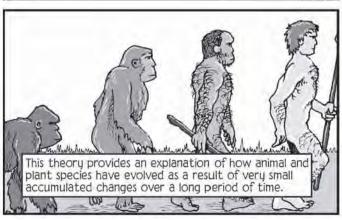


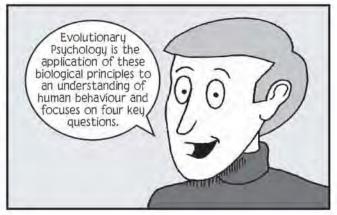


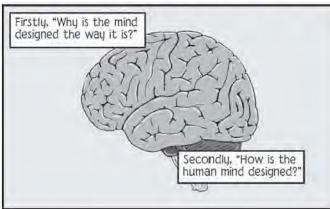


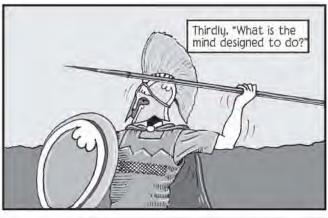


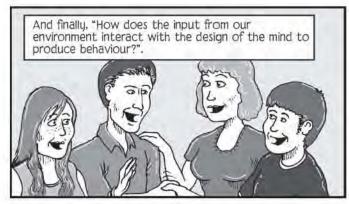


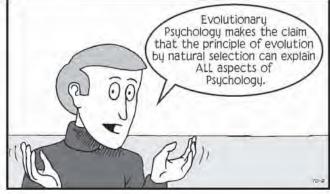


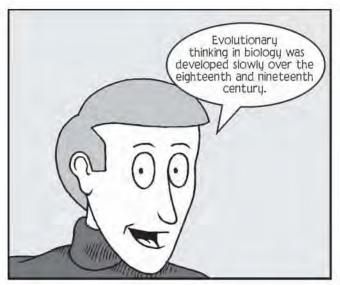


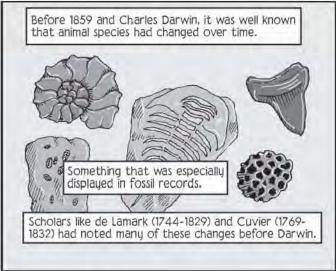


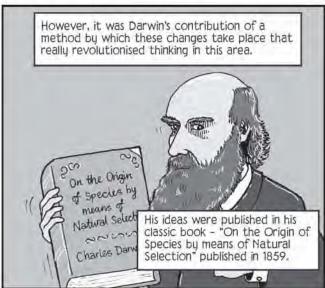


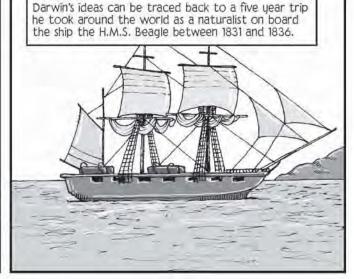


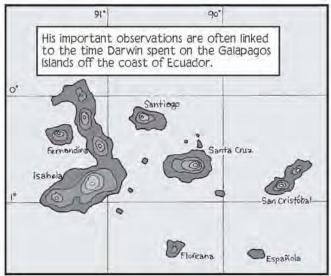


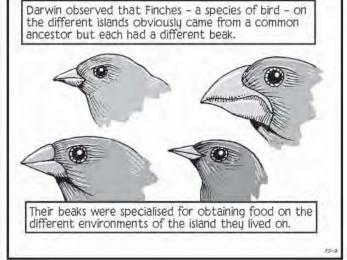


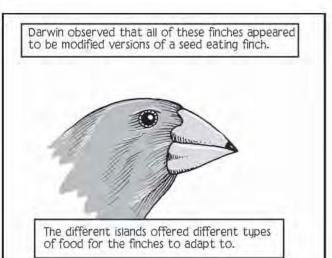


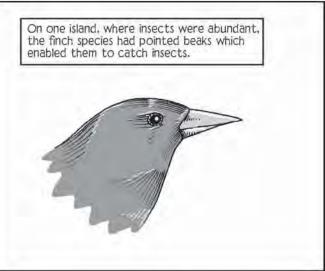


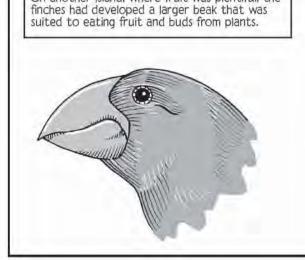




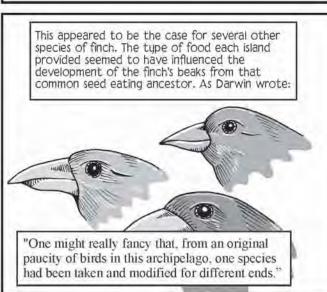


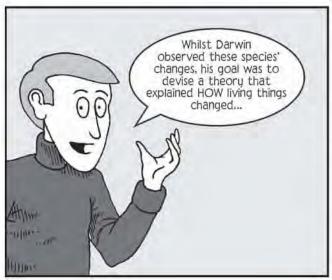


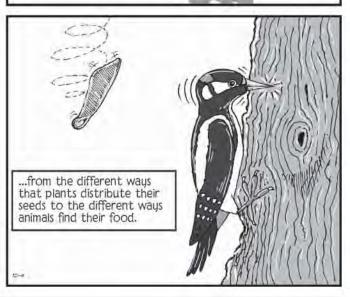


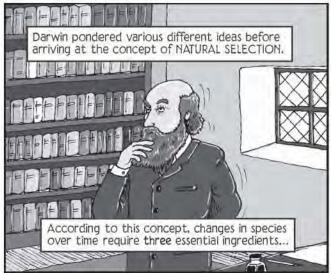


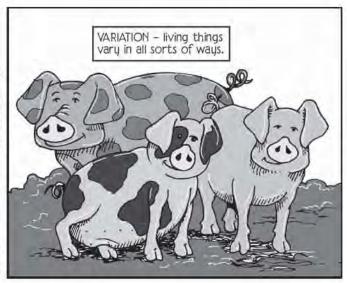
On another island, where fruit was plentiful, the

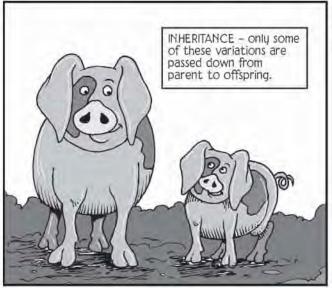


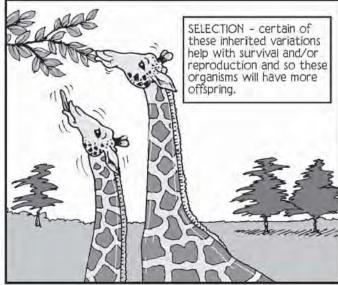


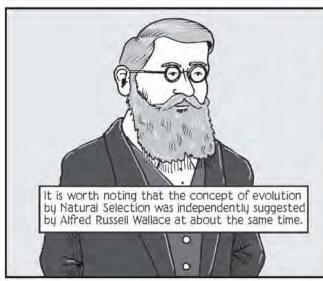






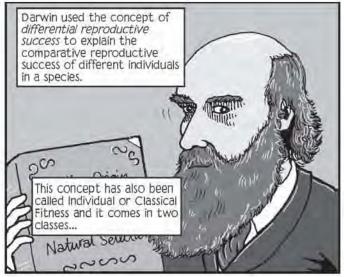


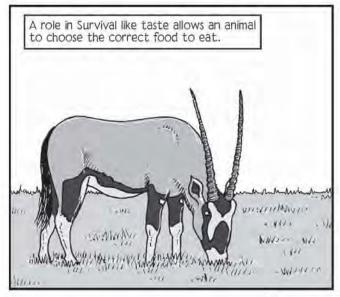




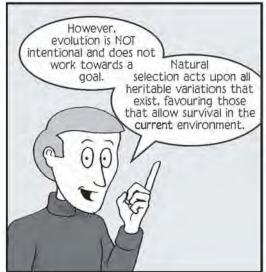


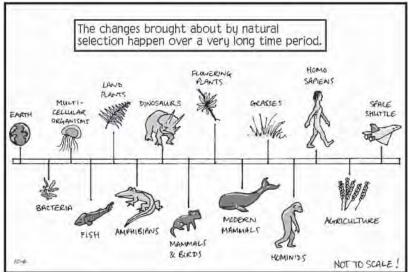


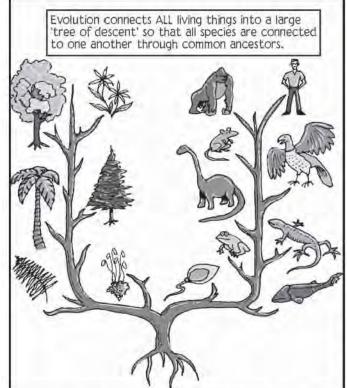


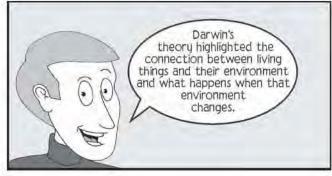




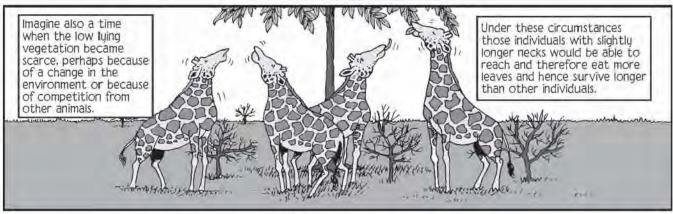


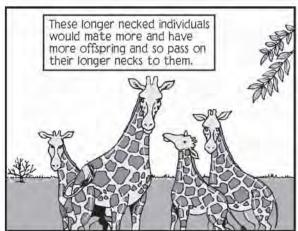


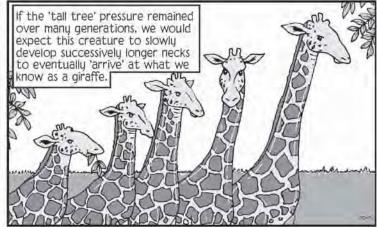


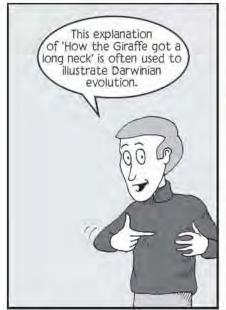










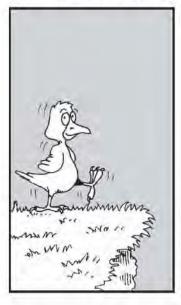


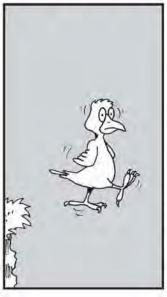




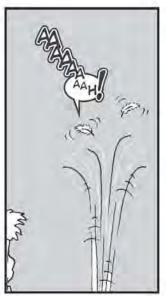
The first criticism of Darwin's theory concerned the usefulness of early stages of evolutionary changes. For example, how could a partial wing be an advantage?

### GOOD OL' CHARLIE D & EWAN MEE

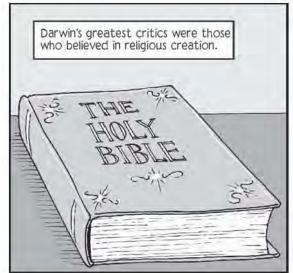


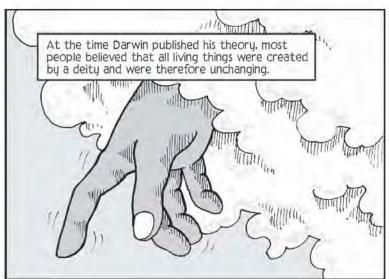


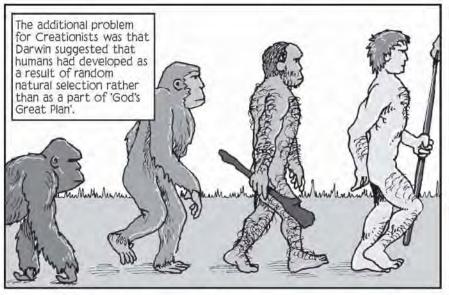


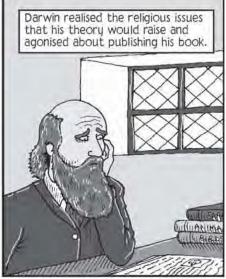


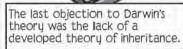
Darwin's point was that partial physical changes MUST convey a reproductive or survival advantage regardless of whether we can imagine how.

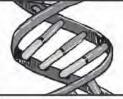








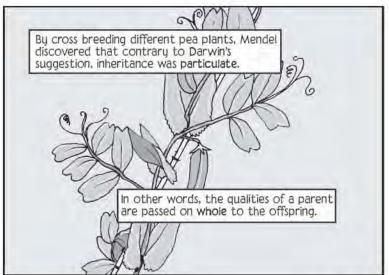


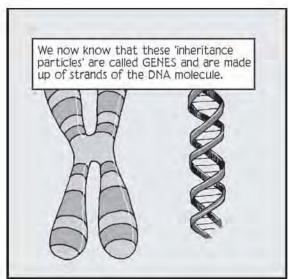


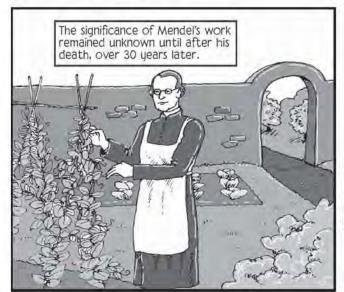
Darwin was unaware of genetics and favoured a theory whereby parents' inherited factors were blended in offspring. So that a tall man and a short woman would have average height children for example.

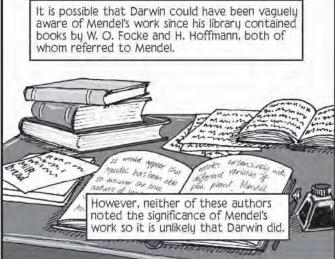




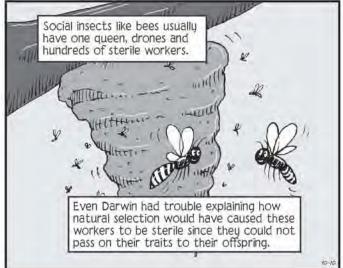


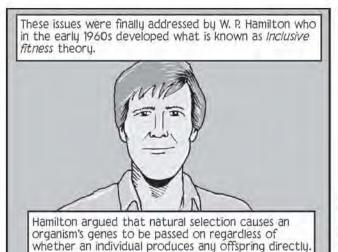


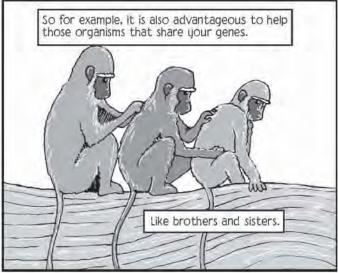


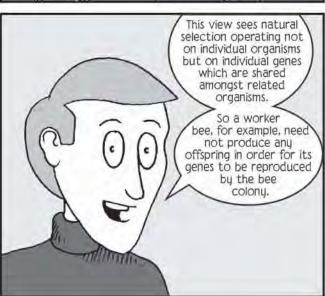


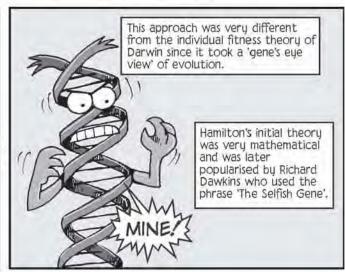




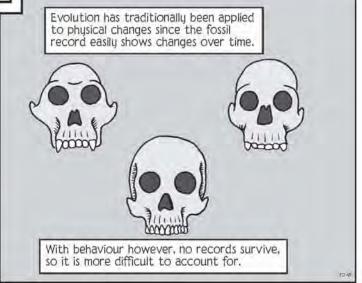






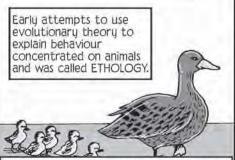




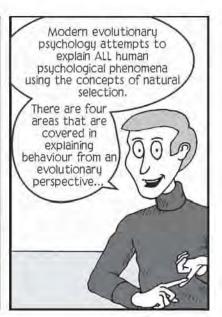


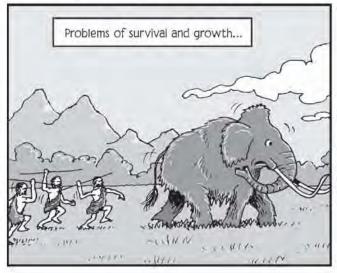


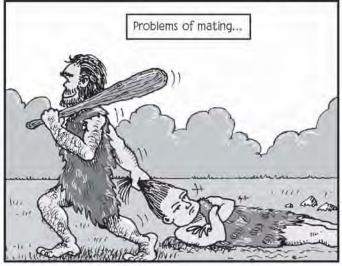
Darwin argued that natural selection must play a part in, for example, aggression in dogs since aggressive dog breeds have been developed by cross breeding.



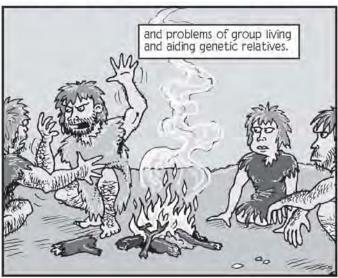
This looked at concepts like imprinting that describes how a new born duck follows the first thing it sees when it hatches.

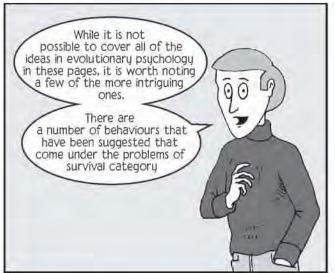




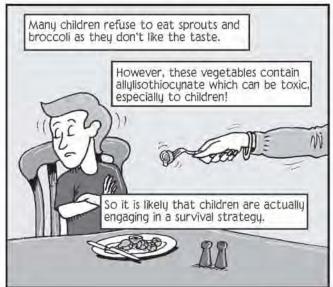


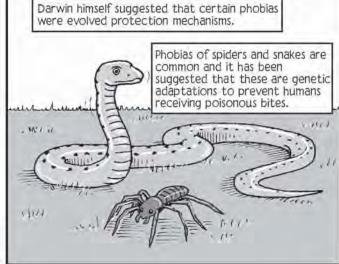


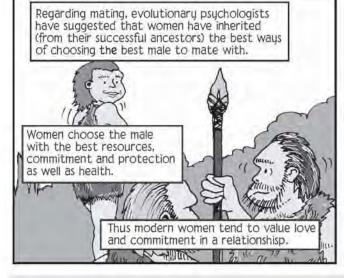


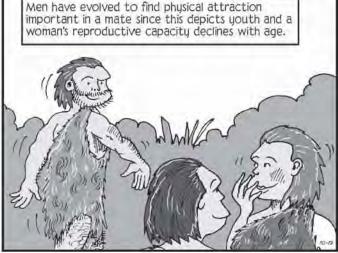


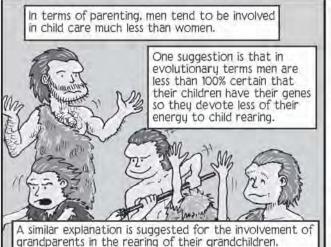




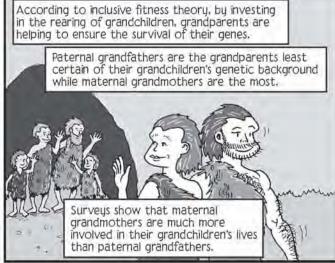




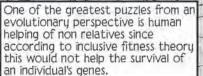




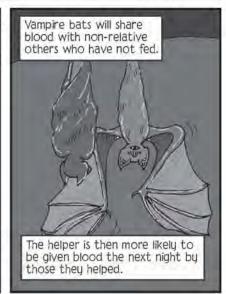
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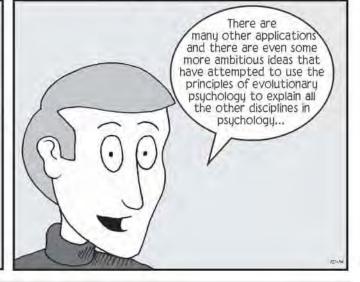




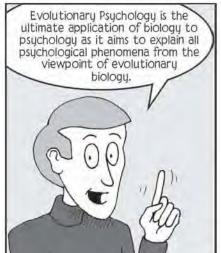




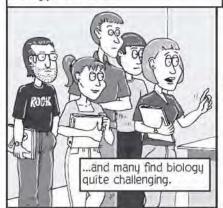


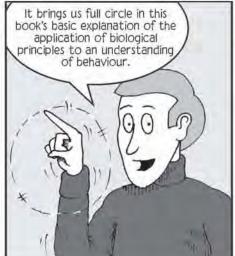






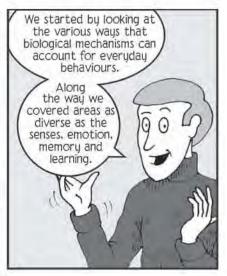
Many students first encountering Biological Psychology are quite nervous, especially if they haven't studied any biology beforehand...

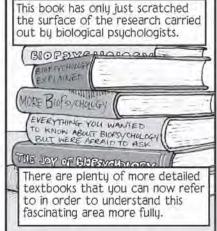




Hopefully, after reading this book you now understand that biology is simply another way of approaching the study of human behaviour.

Even if you don't agree with the idea of evolutionary psychology as a unifying principle!







# **Evolutionary psychology**

Most introductory books on Biological Psychology do not have a separate chapter on evolution and evolutionary psychology. It is true that all of these mention evolution and natural selection at some point but choose not to highlight this on its own. It is included here because it follows from the aim of this book to apply biological principles to an understanding of psychology. This chapter is an acknowledgement that Darwinian evolution is another biological theory that needs to be considered when attempting to understand human behaviour. Additionally, it is hoped that the basic principles introduced here will allow a better understanding of those texts that do refer to evolution in the course of their, more detailed, explanations of other areas.

#### **▶ PAGE 224**

#### Panel 3

This image (and many other common variations) is based on a painting by Rudy Zallinger usually referred to as 'The March of Progress'. It was used as the cover to a book called *Early Man* published in the 1970s. See the notes on the implications of this image below (Page 229 Panel 1).

# **▶ PAGE 225**

#### Panel 2

The idea that living things change over time was originally known as *transmutation* (see Hosler, 2003). Darwin's ideas, observations and experiments on what he eventually termed *natural selection* were written over decades in journals that Darwin called 'The Transmutation Notebooks'. Transmutation is what we now know as *evolution*.

### Panel 3

Common misunderstandings of Darwin's ideas often attribute to him the idea of evolution. He did not 'invent' the idea of evolution. Darwin's real breakthrough was the contribution of a method by which species evolve: Natural Selection.

#### Panel 4

Darwin was not originally brought on to the Beagle as a naturalist. He was accepted on the Beagle's five-year voyage (the ship's mission was to map and survey the coast of South America) as a dinner companion for the Captain, Robert Fitzroy. Apparently, Fitzroy wanted someone of a similar social standing to keep him company. When the ship's surgeon-come-naturalist Robert McCormick left, Darwin became the ship's full time naturalist even though he was not really qualified (he had failed to study Medicine at

Cambridge University and had then scraped through a Bachelor of Arts course – something his father hoped would qualify Darwin as a clergyman!).

As the ship's naturalist, Darwin excelled at carefully documenting the variety in the geology, the plants, animals and fossils in the places he visited. He collected an enormous number of fossils, many of animals unknown to science at the time. Some of these fossils fuelled his ideas on natural selection as they showed extinct versions of modern animals such as giant sloths. Before Darwin came to prominence as a result of his ideas on natural selection, he had become quite well known amongst the scientific community for the fossils that he had shipped back to England while he was still on the voyage. Darwin spent more time on land than on the ship over the five years which was probably a good thing since he suffered terribly from seasickness!

#### Panel 5

The Beagle visited the Galapagos Islands in 1835. The islands lie in the Pacific Ocean approximately 1000 km from the South American coast, either side of the Equator. There are a total of 13 large islands, 6 smaller ones and 107 islets and rocks. The islands have a total area of around 8000 km2. They are volcanic in origin and there are still several active volcanoes upon them. Currently, some of the islands are inhabited as was the case when Darwin visited.

#### Panel 6

Darwin's ideas on the finches were not developed until after he had returned to England. The birds he had thought were merely different varieties of 'mockingbirds' turned out, when examined by an expert, to be different species related to the finch. This led Darwin to wonder whether the different islands of the Galapagos – with their different environments – were the reason these finches were different. Unfortunately, Darwin had not labelled his stuffed specimens of these birds by island! Luckily other members of the Beagle's crew, including Robert Fitzroy, had been more meticulous in labelling their specimens.

# ▶ PAGE 227

# Panels 5 and 6

Darwin had secretly pondered and worked on his theory since around 1838. He had only confided his ideas with two friends: Charles Lyell and Joseph Hooker. In 1858, however, he received a letter (dated 18 June) from a young naturalist called Alfred Russell Wallace, with whom he had previously corresponded. In it Wallace described a very similar evolutionary mechanism and asked Darwin to pass it on for publication. This prompted Darwin to finally want to present his ideas in public and it was decided that both Darwin and Wallace should present the theory jointly to the Linnaean Society on 1 July 1858 (although Darwin did not attend as his son had recently died of scarlet fever). However, there is absolutely no question that Darwin's ideas came first. Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* was published the following year.

The full title of Darwin's book was 'On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection or The Preservation of the favoured races in the struggle for life' (it is normally just referred to as 'On the Origin of Species').

#### ▶ PAGE 228

#### Panel 6

Evolution by natural selection is very gradual. It has taken dozens, hundreds, thousands and sometimes millions of generations to arrive at the animal and plant species that are alive today. Some changes are relatively quick while some are extremely slow; it all depends on the specific conditions. There are even situations where a great deal of time goes by without any evolutionary changes at all, followed by a relatively swift change called 'punctuated equilibrium' (Gould & Eldredge, 1977). Bear in mind that even a sudden change results in only very small adaptations.

#### ▶ PAGE 229

#### Panel 1

The idea of visualising evolution as a tree rather than on a line, as was the convention at the time, was another contribution made by Charles Darwin.

The problem with the 'tree of life' image is that it suggests that those species on the lower branches are somehow 'less evolved' than those at the top and that there is a sort of 'march of progress' (see Page 224 Panel 3) whereby single celled organisms are 'waiting' to change into the more complex species above. However, there is nothing in natural selection that suggests that a move towards complexity is its 'goal'. It is wrong to think of evolution as having any 'goal'. As Hosler (2003) puts it '...evolution isn't necessarily a process of increasing complexity. It is a process of surviving the prevailing environmental conditions' (p.148). From this viewpoint, the most successful living things on this planet are also the least complex: bacteria. These livings things thrive in the harshest environments and attest to the success of their simple design. For an excellent discussion of these issues see chapter 3 in Pinker (1997).

# Panels 3 to 6

The visualisations of these early 'giraffes' are invented and bear no resemblance to any actual scientific ideas.

# ▶ PAGE 230

#### Panel 2

Darwin himself suggested the long neck of the giraffe as a feeding strategy in the sixth edition of *On the Origin of the Species* in 1872. However, there a few problems with the idea:

- 1) The longer necked giraffes would be able to reach taller branches but would also be much heavier and therefore require more food.
- 2) Pincher (1949) pointed out that male giraffes are about one metre taller than females and so if the long neck was for feeding, the males would have been able to reach taller branches and the females would have died, killing off the entire species!
- 3) Ginnett and Demment (1997) found that female giraffes tend to feed from branches at their belly height which seems contrary to the idea of long necks as a feeding strategy. Other giraffe feeding studies including Leuthold and Leuthold (1972); Pellew (1984); Woolnough and du Toit (2001);

- and Young and Isbell (1991) cast further doubt on the feeding strategy hypothesis. These show that giraffes actually do most of their feeding at shoulder height and during dry spells (when the theory suggests they should eat from higher branches) they seek out food from bushes below shoulder height.
- 4) There are other ways to eat from taller trees. Goats, for example, have been known to climb trees in order to eat from their top branches (Butzer, 2000) and elephants sometimes rear on their back legs to reach food.

Several other ideas have been suggested to account for the evolution of the giraffe's long neck. Pincher (1949) suggested that it was the giraffe's long legs that gave it the advantage of being faster and more able to escape predators while Brownlee (1967) suggested that the long neck and larger bulk of the giraffe would create a larger surface area to help with cooling down. It was Simons and Scheepers (1996) who suggested that it was sexual selection that caused the lengthening of the male giraffe's neck. However, none of these (and other) explanations are without their criticisms.

#### Panels 4 to 7

The issue of 'intermediary' advantages is something which caused Darwin a great deal of criticism. For example, how could a partial eye help an animal if it is insufficient for seeing things? Darwin's theory of natural selection requires each intermediary stage to offer some kind of advantage to the organism. So a partial eye must be an adaptive change. As Dawkins (1982) has pointed out, simply because someone cannot imagine the usefulness of a particular intermediate structure is not a good way to discredit the theory.

# **▶ PAGE 231**

#### Panels 1 to 3

The controversy of religious creation continues to this day. It is the application of the theory to humans that creates the greatest resistance.

Darwin himself worried a great deal about the religious implications of his theory and is one of the reasons he took so long to publish his ideas. His wife, Emma, was devotedly religious and was openly worried about Darwin's theory, going so far as to be concerned for his soul.

#### PAGE 231 (Panels 6 to 7) and PAGE 232 (Panels 1 to 2)

The significance of the work of Gregor Mendel remained unknown to the scientific community for 30 years. It was not until the 1900s that his work was rediscovered and its importance noted.

The combination of Darwin's theory of natural selection with Mendel's work on genetics occurred in the 1930s and 1940s and was called the *Modern Synthesis* (see Dobzhansky, 1937; Huxley, 1942; Mayr, 1942; Simpson, 1944).

#### Panel 4

Many writers have claimed that Mendel had sent Darwin copies of his papers and that these remained unopened or their significance un-noted by Darwin. However, none of these papers have been found

amongst Darwin's collection which still survives (Sclater, 2003). Furthermore, even if Darwin had read these papers, he (like everyone else at the time) is unlikely to have fully understood their significance.

# **▶ PAGE 233**

#### Panel 1

Hamilton's theory was developed as part of his doctoral dissertation. It was eventually published in 1964 (Hamilton, 1964). Buss (1999) suggests that this publication caused a 'revolution' that completely changed the field of biology.

#### Panel 4

Richard Dawkins popularised Hamilton's inclusive fitness theory in The Selfish Gene (Dawkins, 1989).

#### ▶ PAGE 234

#### Panel 2

The application of evolutionary principles to behaviour is quite obvious. This is because firstly, all behaviour requires physical structures to operate. For instance, people need legs to be able to walk somewhere! Secondly, it is known that certain animals can be bred to exhibit certain behaviours. Dogs, for example, have been selectively bred by people over the years to produce breeds that are known to be aggressive. Breeds such as the Pit-bull, the Rottweiler, the Doberman and so on are well known to be aggressive.

# Ethology

*Ethology* is in essence the study of animal behaviour. The principles developed were not meant to be applied to human behaviour (that application came later). The origins of ethology can be traced to the naturalists of the 1800s. Von Pernau and Spalding both investigated the behaviour of birds and concentrated on what was termed their 'innate' behaviour (see Plotkin, 1997).

The real start of the ethology movement was begun by Konrad Lorenz in the 1930s. One of the first phenomena to be investigated by Lorenz was *imprinting*. Lorenz found that baby ducks will follow the first moving object they see the moment they hatch. This is called imprinting. Normally this will be the ducks' mother and the young ducks will then follow the mother around. Lorenz found that if he exposed newly hatched ducks to his leg, they then followed him rather than their mother (see Lorenz, 1965). This behaviour, it was argued, was an evolved behavioural adaptation that followed Darwinian principles. It was upon this basis that ethology was founded as a branch of biology.

The other notable researcher in this area was Niko Tinbergen who is known for defining the subject matter of ethology (Tinbergen, 1951). These were:

- The *immediate* causes of behaviour.
   In the case of imprinting in baby ducks, this is the mother's movement.
- 2) The *developmental* causes of behaviour.
  - such as the events in the baby duck's life.

- 3) The function of behaviour or its adaptive purpose.
  - keeping a baby duck close to its mother helps it to survive.
- 4) The evolutionary causes of behaviour.
  - the events, in evolutionary terms, that have led to the development of imprinting in ducks.

Ethology developed a number of other important concepts including *fixed action patterns*. These are sequences of behaviour that animals make that are started by a well defined stimulus. An example of a fixed action pattern is the courtship ritual of a male duck when exposed to a female duck.

Buss (1999) suggested that ethology 'died' out because it ran into three problems: firstly, concepts like imprinting acted more like labels than explanations; secondly, ethologists tended to ignore anything 'internal' that was not observable and hence did not try to understand the internal mechanisms that controlled animals' behaviour; thirdly, as a discipline, ethology did not develop adequate criteria for investigating behavioural adaptations.

However, Buss also stated that in ethology were the 'glimmers' of modern evolutionary psychology because it focused attention on the adaptive nature of behaviour and pointed psychologists in the direction of evolution as an explanation for human behaviour.

# Sociobiology

The next major advancement in the application of Darwinian principles to human behaviour was outlined in a book by Wilson (1975) called *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*. This was an in-depth examination of a large variety of biological and psychological principles and it argued that both animals and humans were unified by the principles of evolution. This was a controversial publication, especially the chapter dealing with humans. Many were appalled that Wilson suggested that a number of uniquely human phenomena, such as culture, ethics, religion, consciousness, rationalisation and so on, could be explained by evolution rather than the established psychological and sociological theories.

Buss (1999) suggested that the extreme reaction to Wilson's ideas (which did not include a great deal of 'new' theory or supporting evidence for human behaviour) was due to four common misunderstandings of evolutionary theory. It is worth detailing these here as they shed some light on the ideas themselves.

# Common Misunderstandings of Darwin's Theory

There are five common misunderstandings that are sometimes made by both lay and more scholarly individuals:

- 1) The first misunderstanding is that to accept evolutionary theory is to accept that human behaviour is therefore genetically determined.
  - it is often said that evolution is about genetic determinism. This is the theory that behaviour is wholly determined by genes rather than environment since it is the genes that are passed on from generation to generation. However, evolutionary theory does not suggest this. In fact, for natural selection to occur there needs to be a true interaction between genes and the environment. Genetic changes through natural selection are a result of adaptations to changes to the environment.
- 2) The second is that if behaviour is determined by evolution it means that the behaviour cannot be changed.
  - this misunderstanding is related to the one above concerning genetic determinism. However, this is both a misunderstanding of evolution and genetics. Human beings constantly change their

environment so that evolutionary adaptations are no longer applicable. Often used examples are calluses. The skin on our feet has been developed, through evolutionary forces, to harden when friction is applied. This would have helped to protect feet over harsh terrain. However, in modern times people wear shoes that prevent the application of friction, so the skin adaptation is no longer necessary. Therefore discovering that feet are adapted to develop callused skin does not mean that we should suddenly stop wearing shoes! Behavioural adaptations that may be evolutionary adaptations also do not have to be slavishly adhered to. In fact, knowing about behavioural adaptations gives us the power to change that behaviour for the better.

- 3) The third misunderstanding is that evolutionary theory requires complicated mathematical abilities in animals.
  - some critics of natural selection have focused on Hamilton's inclusive fitness theory. As mentioned before, this theory is very mathematical and it suggests that the likelihood people would, for example, help a relative's child depends on their genetic relationship which is expressed in a complex mathematical formula. Critics have argued that it is improbable to suggest that people would make decisions (about whether to help a relative for example) based on the complicated mathematical formulas developed by Hamilton. In other words, people cannot have the mathematical ability to behave in such ways, so inclusive fitness cannot be correct.

However, again this is incorrect. No one expects a spider to use a calculator to make a web that can clearly be described in mathematical terms like angles and formulae (Dawkins, 1979). Nevertheless, a spider's web is clearly seen as a behavioural adaptation. The web is constructed using 'rules of thumb', that are complex but do not require the spider to be a maths 'whizz'. Similar mechanisms are thought to exist in humans and their adapted behaviour towards relatives.

The point is that while we may need mathematics to describe adaptations (either helping relatives or spiders' webs!) this does not mean that the animal or person needs to have knowledge of this mathematics.

- 4) The fourth misunderstanding is that current behaviours are the best that they can be.
  - again, this misunderstanding is related to the two above regarding both the genetic and the unchangeable nature of adaptations. There is often the additional assumption that any current adaptations that are identified must be 'optimally designed'. This is often phrased in terms of if something is an adaptation it is therefore 'natural' and hence it is the best way to behave. In fact, there are many reasons that current adaptations will not be perfect. Two of them are especially important to mention here.

Firstly, there is a time lag for the adaptations. Since it takes at least hundreds of generations for a species to adapt to an environmental change it follows that our current adaptations are necessarily out of date for our current needs. As Buss (1999) has stated 'we carry around a stone-aged brain in a modern environment' (p. 20).

Secondly, all adaptations have an associated cost. Therefore there is often a trade-off between an ideal adaptation and the cost to the organism of doing that. For example, if everyone was given such an extreme fear of spiders that they never ventured outside, then the chances of people ever being killed by venomous spider bites would be reduced to nothing. However, this 'ideal adaptation' would have associated the costs of people not being able to go out and find food or to meet others to reproduce. A preferable alternative would be to give people a moderate fear of spiders to reduce the likelihood that someone would be bitten and to allow other behaviours to occur. Therefore any adaptation is balanced against the associated cost it may have for the organism. Natural selection favours adaptations where the benefits outweigh any costs, not the best adaptations that are possible.

5) The last misunderstanding is that evolutionary theory implies that human motivation is to maximise gene reproduction.

- we all have goals in our lives. Some are small, such as saving for a summer holiday, while others are larger, such as getting a degree or raising children successfully to adulthood. However, in all likelihood you do not see 'maximising gene reproduction' as a goal in your life. Natural selection does not suggest that the ultimate human motivation is to reproduce our genes. The expression of this is made through other mechanisms like the drive to survive by avoiding predators, obtaining food, finding a mate, helping relatives and so on.

From a theoretical point of view, since gene reproduction (in evolutionary terms) cannot be seen in one lifetime this cannot constitute a human motivation since one individual can never see the results of their actions. Furthermore, the factors that affect gene reproduction are different for males and females and also for children in different situations. Hence, maximising gene reproduction cannot be the overt motivation in an organism.

#### Panels 4 to 7

These four areas were highlighted by Buss (1999).

#### **▶ PAGE 235**

#### Panel 3

See Nesse and Williams (1994).

# Panel 4

That common human fears have an evolutionary background is discussed by Darwin (1877) and Nesse (1990) amongst others.

#### Panel 5

Women's preference for mates with good resources was reported by a number of researchers including Buss (1989) and Kendrick, Sadalla, Groth and Trost (1990). Women's preference for commitment was investigated by Buss *et al.* (1990). Women's preference for men with symmetrical faces has been suggested as an indicator of health in men (e.g see Gangestad & Thornhill, 1997).

Please note that women's long-term mating strategies have received detailed investigation in a number of other, more specific, areas.

### Panel 6

See Buss (1989) and Kendrick and Keefe (1992).

The research in this area is much more detailed than is suggested in the body of the chapter.

# ▶ PAGE 236

#### Panel 1

The idea that fathers are less than 100 per cent sure that their children have their genes is called the *paternity uncertainty hypothesis*. This is only one of three suggestions concerning the question of why men tend to be less involved in the parenting of their children (see Alcock, 1993 and Pedersen, 1991).

#### Panel 2

This idea has become known as the grandmother hypothesis (Hill & Hurtado, 1991).

There are also similar studies concerning other relatives like aunts and uncles that show similar patterns with maternal aunts, on average, investing more time in their relationships with their nieces and nephews (Gaulin, McBurney & Brademan-Wartell, 1997).

#### Panels 3 to 4

See, for example, Cosmides and Tooby (1992).

#### Panel 5

Vampire bat blood sharing was reported by Wilkinson (1984).

# **▶ PAGE 237**

# Panel 6

Pinker (1997) provides a good discussion of the application of evolutionary principles to an understanding of culture. In the final chapter of this book, he discusses the possible adaptive value of art, music, films and humour.

# **▶ PAGE 238**

# Panel 6

There are many books on the market that have detailed information on most of the issues discussed in the present text. The best advice we can offer is that you examine as many of these as you can before deciding on any one.

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