

Ape Genius?

The non-human great apes—chimps, bonobos, orangutans, and gorillas—are our nearest relatives. They have some of the biggest brains in proportion to body size of any animals and their capacity for intelligence seems to be unsurpassed by other species except our own. But are apes as intelligent as humans? In this activity, learn what studies reveal about the intelligence of great apes.

Procedure

- 1 Circle which of the following category you were assigned on your “Studying Apes and Humans” handout:
 - A Mechanical Aptitude
 - B Imitation
 - C Cooperation
 - D Social Emotions
 - E Math/Symbol Skills
 - F Communication
- 2 Read about what the experiments or field observations in your category entail on the handout.
- 3 While watching the program, take notes on:
 - what was observed in the experiments about apes and humans
 - what conclusions were drawn from the observations
- 4 After watching the program, meet with your team members. Together, come up with a team consensus about what was observed and concluded. Write these answers down on a new sheet of paper.

