

More choice means more mistakes. Learned behavior in humans.10/18

At birth a human brain and a chimpanzee or gorilla brain weighs 350g. The ape's brain grows to 450 g. The human brain, with amazing speed, grows five times larger - to 1500 g.

A beaver knows how to build its house, a duck knows how to swim, a homing pigeon knows how to navigate, all without learning how. An animal can take grass or water into his mouth and know if it is deadly. In comparison, humans begin life with almost no instincts or reflexes relative to dealing with the outside world We can initially flex and round into a ball to protect our head when we fear falling. We can root (look for a nipple) and suck on one when we find it. Loud noises shock us. That's about it.

However, we have an enormous capacity to learn in ways animals can't and thus an enormous capacity to make mistakes We can learn to read and write in about 3000 different languages. We can create things. We can reason about abstract concepts. We can become aware of our behaviors, habits and thoughts. We can even reflect on them and change them. We can imagine different futures. We can and do organize our lives differently from all the other billions of humans doing such a creative thing.

Animals walk instinctively. Humans walk in different ways because we have learned to walk. How we walk is the readout of our personal history. If we watch the outline of any 5 cats walking along, the top of the fence, as long as they are all the same size, they will move the same. If we watch the outline of 5 humans, the same size, walking away from us in a dim light, we could pick out the one that was family or friend.