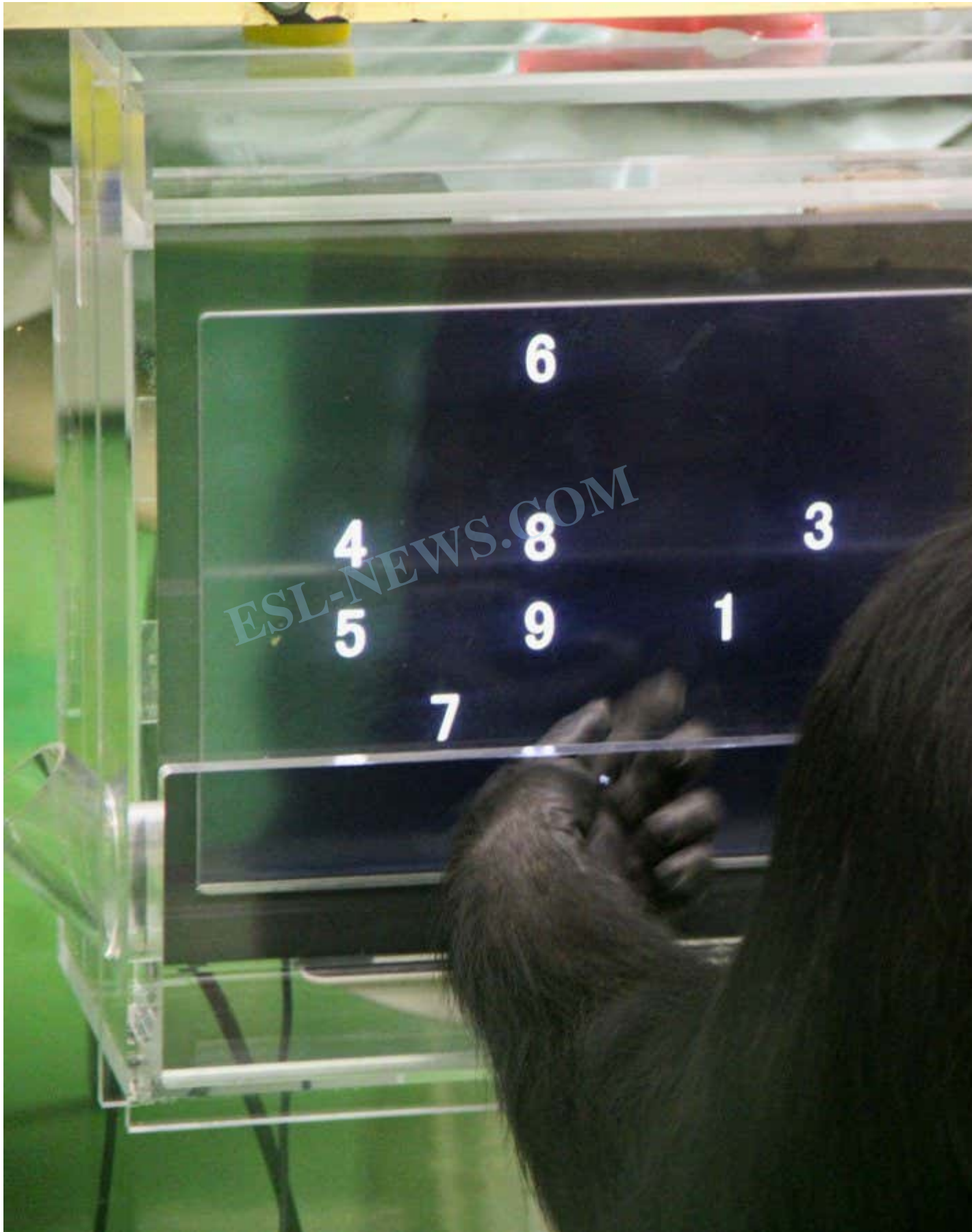




Chimps Excel at Tough Tasks with an Audience

Description

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A chimpanzee tackling a number test on a touch screen

Akiho Muramatsu

The presence of an audience can influence performance in various ways, a phenomenon observed not only in humans but also among our closest relatives, chimpanzees.

Researchers, led by [Christen Lin](#) at Kyoto University, engaged six chimpanzees in a series of three numerical tasks that varied in complexity. In the simplest task, the chimps were required to touch numbers ranging from 1 to 5 on a screen, arranged randomly, to receive a food reward.

The second task presented non-adjacent numbers, while the final and most challenging task involved numbers concealed behind checkered covers, demanding that the chimps recall their locations.

Over a span of six years, the chimps completed these tasks thousands of times in the presence of different audience sizes, from one to eight observers. Interestingly, performance decreased with larger audiences during easier tasks, whereas, in contrast, the chimps excelled under increased audience pressure during the most difficult task.

[Shinya Yamamoto](#), another researcher, expressed surprise at this finding, suggesting the audience's presence may serve as a motivating factor rather than a distraction. He noted, "This audience effect may have roots in the evolutionary history of primates, predating modern societal norms."

Further investigation could delve into how individual personalities among chimpanzees affect their responses to audience dynamics, potentially shedding light on natural behaviors and social interactions.

Topics:

Vocabulary List:

1. **Phenomenon** /fə'nomɪnən/ (noun): A fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen especially one whose cause or explanation is in question.
2. **Engaged** /ɪn'geɪdʒd/ (verb): Participated or involved oneself in a task or activity.
3. **Concealed** /kən'si:ld/ (verb): Kept something from being seen or to hid it.
4. **Challenging** /'tʃælɪndʒɪŋ/ (adjective): Testing one's abilities; demanding.
5. **Motivating** /'mɒʊtɪ,veɪtɪŋ/ (adjective): Providing a reason or incentive to act.
6. **Dynamics** /daɪ'næmɪks/ (noun): The forces or properties that stimulate growth development or change within a system or process.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who led the researchers in engaging six chimpanzees in numerical tasks at Kyoto University?
Option: Christen Lin
Option: Shinya Yamamoto
Option: Akiho Muramatsu
Option: None of the above
2. For the simplest task, what numbers were the chimpanzees required to touch on the screen to receive a food reward?
Option: 1 to 5
Option: 5 to 10
Option: 10 to 15
Option: 15 to 20
3. How many observers were present during the tasks completed by the chimpanzees?
Option: One to eight
Option: Five to ten
Option: Ten to fifteen
Option: Fifteen to twenty
4. What did Shinya Yamamoto suggest about the audience's presence for the chimpanzees?
Option: A distracting factor
Option: Motivating factor
Option: Neutral impact
Option: None of the above
5. According to the text, in which task did the chimps excel under increased audience pressure?
Option: Simplest task
Option: Second task with non-adjacent numbers
Option: Final and most challenging task
Option: All of the above
6. What could further investigation delve into regarding chimpanzees?
Option: Effects of audience dynamics on social behavior
Option: Dietary habits
Option: Physical characteristics
Option: None of the above



True-False

7. The presence of an audience only affects humans, not chimpanzees.
8. Performance decreased with larger audiences during easier tasks for the chimpanzees.
9. Chimpanzees were required to touch numbers ranging from 1 to 10 on the screen for the simplest task.
10. The chimps excelled under decreased audience pressure during the most difficult task.
11. Shinya Yamamoto attributes the audience effect to modern societal norms.
12. Investigating individual chimpanzee personalities can shed light on natural behaviors and social interactions.

Gap-Fill

14. During the tasks, performance decreased with _____ audiences during easier tasks.
15. Shinya Yamamoto suggested that the audience's presence may serve as a _____ factor.
16. Investigating individual chimpanzee personalities can potentially shed light on natural behaviors and social _____.
17. Chimpanzees excelled under increased audience pressure during the most _____ task.
18. The simplest task required the chimps to touch numbers ranging from 1 to _____ on the screen.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Christen Lin 2. 1 to 5 3. One to eight 4. Motivating factor 5. Final and most challenging task 6. Effects of audience dynamics on social behavior

True-False: 7. False



8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 14. larger 15. motivating 16. interactions 17. challenging 18. 5

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to something of considerable size or importance?

- Option: Efficiency
- Option: Substantial
- Option: Challenging
- Option: Metabolism

2. Which term means hidden or not easily noticed?

- Option: Surged
- Option: Concealed
- Option: Vulnerability
- Option: Amino Acids

3. Which term is synonymous with involved or occupied?

- Option: Separation
- Option: Engaged
- Option: Mixture
- Option: Anticipation

4. What term describes a combination of different elements?

- Option: Depleting
- Option: Culinary
- Option: Mixture
- Option: Efficiency

5. Which term describes the repulsion of water?

- Option: Metabolism
- Option: Anthology
- Option: Hydrophobic
- Option: Dynamics

6. Which term is associated with providing incentive or encouragement?

- Option: Anticipation
- Option: Vulnerability
- Option: Metabolism



Option: Motivating

7. Which term means to increase suddenly or rise rapidly?

Option: Remnants

Option: Escapism

Option: Surged

Option: Speculative

8. Which term means to reduce or exhaust the supply of something?

Option: Amino Acids

Option: Depleting

Option: Culinary

Option: Highlight

9. Which term is related to cooking or the art of preparing food?

Option: Separation

Option: Efficiency

Option: Culinary

Option: Vulnerability

10. Which term describes the ability to accomplish a task with minimal waste of time and effort?

Option: Speculative

Option: Efficiency

Option: Anticipation

Option: Metabolism

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A _____ is an observable fact or event.

12. The child's illness left him with a sense of _____.

13. After the fire only a few _____ of the building stood.

14. The library features an _____ of short stories by various authors.

15. The students waited in _____ for the exam results.

16. Investing in cryptocurrency can be highly risky and _____.

17. Your body's _____ affects how efficiently you burn calories.



18. The journey was made easier by the presence of loyal _____.
19. The trip's _____ was seeing the majestic waterfall.
20. The final exam was extremely _____.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

| |
|---|
| 21. The artist created intricate designs in her work. |
| 22. Understanding the _____ of a new team can help improve collaboration. |
| 23. Their relationship was amicable and they remained friends. |
| 24. In harsh conditions finding _____ can be a struggle. |
| 25. The coach gave a speech that inspired the team. |
| 26. Improving _____ in production can lead to cost savings. |
| 27. The chef's skills impressed all the guests. |
| 28. The professor published an _____ of poetry by modern writers. |
| 29. The novel offered readers a form of _____ from their daily lives. |
| 30. The movie's _____ was the stunning visual effects. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Substantial 2. Concealed 3. Engaged 4. Mixture 5. Hydrophobic 6. Motivating 7. Surged
8. Depleting 9. Culinary 10. Efficiency

Gap-Fill: 11. phenomenon 12. vulnerability 13. remnants 14. anthology 15. anticipation 16. speculative
17. metabolism 18. companions 19. highlight 20. challenging

Matching sentence: 1. meticulously 2. dynamics 3. separation 4. sustenance 5. motivating 6. efficiency
7. culinary 8. anthology 9. escapism 10. highlight

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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