

Ap biology animal behavior



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ethology study of animal behavior and its relationship to its evolutionary origins - what an animal does and how proximate causes immediate, genetic, physiological, neurological, and developmental mechanisms that determine how an individual behaves

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Order Now ultimate causes evolutionary pressures that have fashioned an animal's behavior

Karl von Frisch studied communication in honeybees and described the waggle dance

Konrad Lorenz studied imprinting in goslings

Niko Tinbergen fixed action pattern studies

inherited behavior innate, developmentally fixed, "built in", triggered by stimulus, reflexes/instincts, automatic from birth

learned behavior acquired, modified by experience, variable, triggered by stimulus, habits/reasoning, some genetic predisposition

types of animal

behavior

instinct

fixed action patterns (FAPs)

imprinting

associative learning

trial-and-error learning (operant conditioning)

spatial learning

habituation

observational learning

insight

types of innate behavior

instinct, fixed action pattern,

imprinting

instinct inclination towards a behavior

example: newly hatched turtles walk towards the ocean; human babies

exhibit many instinctual reflexes; in mammals, offspring care is innate

fixed action patterns (FAPs) initiated by a sign stimulus; follows a regular,

unvarying pattern that will be carried out to completion even if the original

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intent can no longer be fulfilled

example: graylag goose will roll eggs back to nest; even if it loses "grip" on the egg, it will complete the rolling motion

example: male stickleback fish will attack anything with a red

underside imprinting innate and learned; specific behavior is acquired when the stimulus is experienced during the critical period. once acquired, the behavior is irreversible

example: graylag goslings will accept any moving object as their mother on the first day of life

example: salmon imprint the odor of their birthplace so they can return to breed critical period a limited time interval during the life of an animal where it is sensitive to optimal imprinting examples of learned behavior associative learning, trial-and-error learning, spatial learning, habituation, observational learning, insight/critical thinking associative learning classical conditioning; an animal recognizes that two or more events are connecting

example: Pavlov's dogs salivate in response to a ringing bell, B. F. Skinner rat trial-and-error learning operant conditioning; basis of punishment and reward systems; animal connects its own behavior with a particular environmental response

example: BF Skinner and the rats in the shock box extinction loss of an acquired behavior; the behavior no longer elicits the expected

responses spatial learning occurs when the animal associates attributes of a location (landmarks) with the reward it gains by being able to identify and return to that location

example: wasps use pinecones or other landmarks to remember the location of the nest habituation animal learns to disregard meaningless stimuli; "cry-

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wolf" effect

example: sea anemones and food OR you don't feel your

clothes
observational learning animals copy the behavior of another animal without having experienced any prior positive reinforcement with the behavior

example: octopus grabs red ball after watching a trained octopus grab a red ball
insightful animal, exposed to a new situation and without prior relevant experience, performs a behavior that generates a desirable

outcome
maturationsome behaviors appear to be learned but are actually innate, they just require a specific age to be attainable

example: birds can fly on their first try as long as their wings and feathers are formed enough to sustain flight
survival responses occur when animals encounter dangerous situations:

1. fight-or-flight response

2. avoidance response

3. alarm response
parental care innate behavior in response to producing offspring; fitness of an individual depends on successful rearing of

offspring
foraging behavior often require responses to visual and chemical stimuli:

1. flower color and scent

2. fruit color

3. body scents

4. herds, flocks, schools, packs

5. search images
animal movement animals move to seek food or shelter, avoid danger, or seek mates. they use kinesis, taxis,

migration
kinesis undirected change of speed of movement in response to a

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stimulus - the animal slows down or speeds up to remain in favorable environments for a longer period of time
taxis directed movement in response to a stimulus, either toward or away from the stimulus
phototaxis response to light
chemotaxis response to chemicals
migration long-distance, seasonal movement of animals, usually in response to seasonal availability of food or degradation of environmental conditions
circadian rhythm biological clock; pattern of physiological or behavioral activity aligned with a 24-hour cycle in a day
diurnal animals active during the day and sleep at night
nocturnal animals active at night and sleep during the day
melatonin produced by the pineal gland in response to darkness; regulates biological clock in humans
hibernation extended period of sleep, dormancy, or other torpid state to avoid hostile environmental conditions. reduce energy by lowering body temperatures and minimizing metabolic maintenance activities
estivation dormancy during summers or hot/dry weather; protection from desiccation (drying out) by burrowing into mud or retreating underground. courtship and mating often occur during spring season, when warmer weather and an abundance of food arrive
animal communication occurs by which mechanisms? chemical, visual, auditory, tactile
chemical communication pheromones - some elicit response when smelled, others when they are eaten. alarm and sex pheromones are included. visual communication many visual displays are observed during acts of aggression or during courtship
auditory communication bird song, insect song - used for mating, species identification, genetically coded
tactile communication common in social bonding, infant care, grooming, mating
social behavior includes... agonistic behavior, dominance hierarchies, pecking order, territoriality, eusocial societies, altruistic behavior
agonistic

behavior involves aggression and submission, and originates from competition for food, mates, or territory. Dominance hierarchies indicate power and status relationships among individuals in a group; minimize fighting for food and mates. Pecking order: linear order of status often used to describe dominance hierarchies in chickens. Territoriality: active possession and defense of territory in which an animal or group of animals lives; ensure inhabitants adequate food and a place to mate and rear their young. Eusocial society: consists of members divided into castes; individual castes have different jobs - foraging, feed/care for young, protection of colony, etc. Altruistic behavior: seemingly unselfish behavior that appears to reduce the fitness of an individual; increases inclusive fitness; occurs by kin selection - a form of natural selection that increases inclusive fitness. Inclusive fitness: fitness of an individual plus the fitness of relatives, who share a percentage of identical genes with the altruist. Sexual selection: selection of mates by particular traits; usually females choose males. Polyandrous: Female mates with more than one male. Polygynous: Male mates with more than one female.