

# THE NATURE OF BEHAVIOR

**BY: KAYLA CHARLES, RHYLEIGH TYSON, RACHEL SCHAFFER**

# GENES: OUR BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY

- Genetic makeup has a large role in determining human behavior. Behavior genetics studies heritability of traits, it overlaps with genetics, psychology and ethology. Genetics plays a big part in when and how learning, growing, and development occurs.



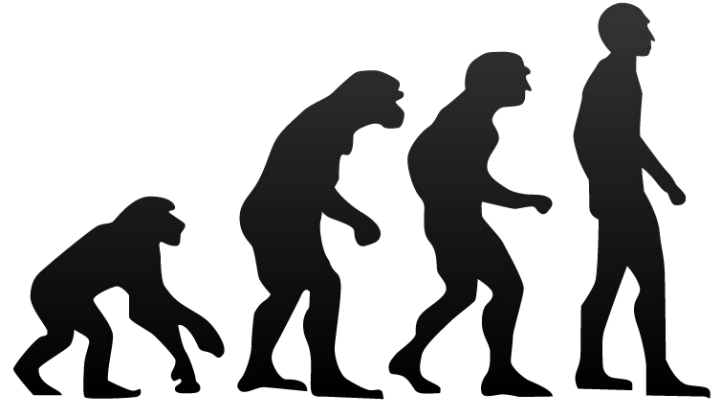
# OUR BIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY CONTINUED...



- Heredity interacts with our experience to create both our universal human attributes and our individual traits.
- Geneticists and Psychologist are interested in the occasional variations found at particular gene sites in the DNA-variations that in their many chromosomes define each person's uniqueness.
- Human traits are influenced by gene complexes- which are many genes acting in concert. For example how tall you are reflects the height of your face the size of your vertebrae and so forth- each of which may be influenced by different genes.

# EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY: MAXIMIZING FITNESS

- Evolutionary psychology is a theoretical approach to psychology that attempts to explain useful mentally and psychology traits—such as memory, perception, or language—as adaptations, i.e., as the functional products of natural selection.



# BEHAVIOR GENETICS: PREDICTING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

- Behavior genetics more intensively assess our differences from one another. It is essentially the study of “nature vs. nurture” debate. The goal in behavioral genetic research is to identify which behaviors are influenced by genes and which are influenced by the environment and situational factors.
- Twin studies are commonly used in behavioral genetics research because they are ideal for teasing apart genetic and environmental influences.



# VOCABULARY:

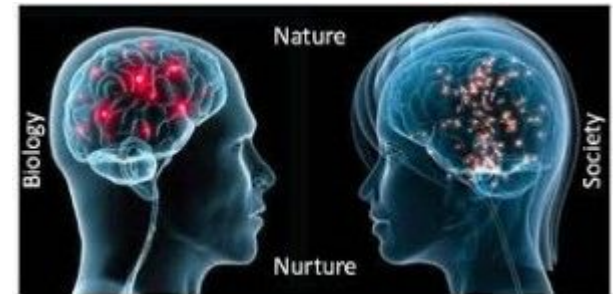


- *Heritability: The proportion of variation among individuals that we can attribute to genes.*
- *Interaction: reciprocal action or influence.*
- *Chromosomes: Threadlike structures made of DNA molecules that contain the genes.*
- *Natural Selection: The principle that, among the range of inherited trait variations, those that lead to increased reproduction survival will most likely be passed on to succeeding generations.*
- *Nature-Nurture: The belief that genes and experience make to the development of psychological traits and behaviors.*
- *Behavior Genetics: The study of the relative power and limits of genetic and environmental influences of behavior.*

# VOCABULARY CONTINUED:



- *Identical Twins: Twins who develop from a single fertilized egg, that splits in two genetically identical organisms.*
- *Fraternal Twins: Twins who develop from separate eggs. They are genetically no closer than brothers and sisters, but they share a fetal environment.*
- *Cross-sectional study: Observational study that analyzes data collected from a population at a specific point in time.*
- *Ethology: The scientific study of human and animal behavior.*



# VOCABULARY CONTINUED PT. II



- *Nature: The physical world including plants, animals, the landscape, and other features and products of earth.*
- *Nurture: The process of caring for and encouraging the growth or development of someone or something.*
- **Longitudinal study:** Observational research method in which data is gathered for the same subjects repeatedly over a period of time.
- **Placenta:** Flattened circular organ found in the uterus of pregnant eutherian mammals, nourishing and maintaining the fetus through the umbilical cord.



# VOCABULARY CONTINUED PT. III

- *“Handling”*: The act of taking care of something; holding something in the hands.
- *Peer influence*: being influenced by your peers
- *Parent influence*: being influenced by your parents.
- *Culture*: A particular society that has its own beliefs.



VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chzDR3feSHY>

#1 Nature VS. Nurture

