

Psychology of the Natural World

Psychology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which avian species has demonstrated the ability to use 'episodic-like memory' to recall the specific 'what, where, and when' of food caching?

A) *Corvus corax*

B) *Aphelocoma californica*

C) *Cyanocitta cristata*

D) *Pica pica*

2. In the study of 'umwelt' as proposed by Jakob von Uexküll, what does the term refer to in an animal's psychology?

A) The evolutionary history of the species

B) The self-centered world as perceived by the organism

C) The social hierarchy of a pack

D) The genetic coding of instincts

3. Which psychological phenomenon explains why captive animals often exhibit repetitive, invariant behavior patterns known as stereotypes?

A) Environmental enrichment deprivation

B) Operant conditioning reversal

C) Social facilitation failure

D) Habituation to humans

4. What is the primary psychological function of 'alarm calling' in social animals like vervet monkeys?

A) To attract a mate

B) To warn conspecifics of specific predator types

C) To claim territory boundaries

D) To establish dominance in a hierarchy

5. In the study of 'Biophilia', what does Edward O. Wilson hypothesize about human psychology?

A) Humans have an innate tendency to seek connections with nature

B) Humans fear nature due to evolutionary trauma

C) Humans are indifferent to environmental stimuli

D) Humans perceive nature only as a resource

6. What cognitive capacity is displayed by cleaner wrasse fish when they pass the mirror self-recognition test?

- A) Self-awareness**
- B) Spatial navigation
- C) Complex language
- D) Tool usage

7. Which psychological concept explains why certain species, such as honeybees, learn to associate specific floral odors with nectar rewards?

- A) Classical conditioning**
- B) Latent learning
- C) Insight learning
- D) Imprinting

8. What do researchers call the form of communication where chimpanzees adjust their signaling based on the knowledge state of the receiver?

- A) Theory of Mind**
- B) Reflexive mimicry
- C) Operant signaling
- D) Social projection

9. The 'niche construction' theory in evolutionary psychology suggests that organisms do what?

- A) Modify their environment to alter selective pressures**
- B) Compete only with members of their own species
- C) Remain passive to environmental changes
- D) Migrate only during extreme weather

10. In the psychological study of 'neophobia' in animals, what is the primary behavioral observation?

- A) A preference for familiar food sources
- B) A fear of new, unfamiliar objects or food**
- C) An obsession with social status
- D) Aggression toward same-sex rivals

11. Which neurological structure in birds is thought to be the functional equivalent of the mammalian neocortex for higher-order cognition?

- A) The nidopallium**
- B) The cerebellum
- C) The brainstem
- D) The medulla oblongata

12. What does the 'Optimal Foraging Theory' predict about an animal's psychological decision-making?

- A) Animals maximize energy intake per unit time**
- B) Animals choose the most colorful food
- C) Animals always prioritize social bonding over eating
- D) Animals forage only during daylight hours

13. Which species is known for utilizing 'referential signaling' to indicate the precise location of food sources through complex dances?

- A) Apis mellifera**
- B) Formicidae
- C) Dolphinus delphis
- D) Elephas maximus

14. What is the psychological effect known as 'habituation' in animals exposed to constant, non-threatening human presence?

- A) Decreased responsiveness to a stimulus**
- B) Increased aggression
- C) Enhanced learning speed
- D) Loss of memory

15. The study of 'animal personality' usually refers to consistency in which aspect of behavior?

- A) Individual differences in behavioral traits over time**
- B) Only temporary emotional states
- C) Random social interactions
- D) Physical growth rates

16. What mechanism allows migratory birds to perform 'navigational mapping' during long-distance travel?

- A) Magnetoreception**
- B) Olfactory memory only
- C) Auditory cues
- D) Visual mimicry

17. What does the 'Social Intelligence Hypothesis' suggest about the evolution of brain size?

- A) Large brains evolved to navigate complex social relationships**
- B) Large brains evolved solely for tool use
- C) Large brains are a byproduct of cold climate adaptation
- D) Large brains evolved for predator evasion only

18. Which experimental design is used to measure 'delayed gratification' in animals such as primates and corvids?

A) The Intertemporal Choice Task

B) The Skinner Box

C) The Pavlovian paradigm

D) The Mirror test