SN IN HIGH SCHOOLS December 10, 2016

Animal Math

Quest Through the Archives

Directions: After reading the article "Animal math," use the archives at www.sciencenews.org to answer these questions:

1. Find an example of another *Science News* article that discusses the evolution of a human characteristic. What is the topic of the article? Support your answer with a specific article.

2. Find another *Science News* article about how humans use or manipulate numbers. Have there been changes in this use over time?

3. Are there any people around the world who do not use or express numbers the same way you do? Find a related *Science News* article. Explain how this article relates to "Animal math."

SN EDUCATOR GUIDE

December 10, 2016

Animal Math

Responses to Quest Through the Archives

1. **Find an example of another *Science News* articles that discusses the evolution of a human characteristic. What is the topic of the article? Support your answer with a specific article.** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/evolutions-ear. "Evolution's ear" suggests that genes related to hearing may have influenced the development of language.

2. **Find another *Science News* article about how humans use or manipulate numbers. Have there been changes in this use over time?** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/units-measure-are-getting-fundamental-upgrade. The article "Units of measure are getting a fundamental upgrade" summarizes the desire scientists have to define units of measurement based on absolute properties of nature, the fundamental constants, rather than based on a physical object.

3. **Are there people around the world who do not use or express numbers the same way you do? Find a related *Science News* article. Explain how this article relates to "Animal math."** Possible student response: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/pirah%C3%A3-challenge. The Amazonian tribe described in this article has a limited counting vocabulary. Scientists are exploring how this vocabulary affects the way these people live their lives. The scientists described in "Animal math" are trying to understand how the quantitative abilities of nonhuman animals affect the decisions they make.