

Chimps beat humans at some games: Are aggressive genetics at play?

We humans assume we are the smartest of all creations. In a world with over 8.7 million species, only we have the ability to understand the inner workings of our body while also unraveling the mysteries of the universe. We are the geniuses, the philosophers, the artists, the poets and savants. We amuse at a dog playing ball, a dolphin jumping rings, or a monkey imitating man because we think of these as remarkable acts for animals that, we presume, aren't smart as us.

But what *is* smart? Is it just about having ideas, or being good at language and math?

Chimps are a scientist's favorite model to understand human brain and behavior. Chimp and human DNAs overlap by a whopping 99 percent, which makes us closer to chimps than horses to zebras. Yet at some point, we evolved differently.

Our behavior and personalities, molded to some extent by our distinct societies, are strikingly different from that of our fellow primates. Chimps are aggressive and status-hungry within their hierarchical societies, knit around a dominant alpha male. We are, perhaps, a little less so. So the question arises whether competitive behavior is hard-wired in them.

In the present study, chimp pairs or human pairs contested in a two-player video game. Each player simply had to choose between left and right squares on a touch-screen panel, while being blind to their rival's choice. Player A, for instance, won, each time their choices matched, and player B won, if their choices did not. The opponent's choice was displayed after every selection, and payoffs in the form of apple cubes or money were dispensed to the winner.

Read the full, original story: [Chimps outplay humans in brain games](#)