

## Chimpanzees love dancing, say researchers

27th December, 2019



Who knew that chimpanzees love to dance? They also like to clap along to music, and nod their head, tap their feet and move in time with the rhythm. A new study shows that chimpanzees could appreciate music. The researchers are from

Kyoto University in Japan. They say their study could help us understand how early humans developed an interest in music. Researchers Dr Yuko Hattori and professor Masaki Tomonaga conducted tests on seven chimps. They played the apes six two-minute songs on a piano for six days. The researchers said the chimps had a definite sense of rhythm and it changed their mood. The male chimpanzees seemed to respond to the melodies more than the females.

The researchers wrote that chimpanzees could have passed on a liking for music and dance to early humans millions of years ago. This could have happened via a common ancestor around six million years ago. The researchers said the study suggested that our love of dancing was deep inside the earliest humans. Dr Hattori said: "Chimpanzees dance to some extent in the same way as humans." She added: "In humans, listening to music causes rhythmic movement, suggesting a close connection between the auditory and motor areas in the brain." She believes the research could shed light on the evolution of dancing in humans and why we love melody and rhythm so much.

Sources: [sky.com](http://sky.com) / [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

## Writing

Dancing is the best form of exercise we can do. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

chimpanzees / nod / appreciate / music / interest / music / professor / rhythm / mood / dance / millions / ancestor / researchers / listening / movement / brain / evolution

## True / False

- a) Chimpanzees like to nod their head and tap their head to music. T / F
- b) The study on chimpanzees is from a university in Japan. T / F
- c) Researchers looked at how chimpanzees played the piano. T / F
- d) Female chimps responded to the music more than males. T / F
- e) Humans picked up dancing from chimps a million years ago. T / F
- f) A love of dancing was inside early humans. T / F
- g) There is a close link between the hearing and motor areas in the brain. T / F
- h) The article said chimps like dancing in a shed full of light. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. appreciate</b> | a. degree       |
| <b>2. understand</b> | b. occurred     |
| <b>3. conducted</b>  | c. tunes        |
| <b>4. respond</b>    | d. development  |
| <b>5. melodies</b>   | e. carried out  |
| <b>6. happened</b>   | f. value        |
| <b>7. extent</b>     | g. link         |
| <b>8. causes</b>     | h. react        |
| <b>9. connection</b> | i. brings about |
| <b>10. evolution</b> | j. comprehend   |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of dancing chimpanzees?
- b) What do you think of clapping along to music?
- c) What do you think of nodding your head to music?
- d) What do you think of tapping your feet to music?
- e) What music do you think chimpanzees might appreciate?
- f) Why do we like music so much?
- g) How does music change your mood?
- h) Why might male chimpanzees respond to melodies more?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. They also like to clap           | a. areas in the brain           |
| 2. tap their feet and               | b. respond to the melodies more |
| 3. early humans developed           | c. a common ancestor            |
| 4. the chimps had a definite        | d. causes rhythmic movement     |
| 5. male chimpanzees seemed to       | e. along to music               |
| 6. This could have happened via     | f. an interest in music         |
| 7. Chimpanzees dance to some extent | g. of dancing                   |
| 8. listening to music               | h. sense of rhythm              |
| 9. the auditory and motor           | i. in the same way as humans    |
| 10. shed light on the evolution     | j. move in time with the rhythm |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How much do you like dancing?
- What kinds of dancing do you like?
- Do you have good rhythm?
- Would chimpanzees be better at break dancing or ballet?
- Is dancing good for us?
- What can you say about the evolution of dancing?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Spelling

- move in time with the hrmthy
- chimpanzees could epratecapi music
- early nmhusa
- ocdtecndu tests on seven chimps
- the chimps had a efiitend sense
- ospredn to the melodies
- niomisll of years ago
- via a common rcasteon
- to some txenet
- a close incnctoeno
- the rdiayout and motor areas in the brain
- on the envootiul of dancing

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. e	4. h	5. c
6. b	7. a	8. i	9. g	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Hip-Hop

You think hip-hop is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, jazz or rock.

### Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hip-hop, jazz or rock.

### Role C – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, hip-hop or rock.

### Role D – Rock

You think rock is the best music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, jazz or hip-hop.

## Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music genre at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| • Jazz  | • Hip-hop    |
| • Blues | • Classical  |
| • Rock  | • Electronic |
| • Folk  | • Country    |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.