

Evolutionary Psychology of Spatial Representations in the Hominidae

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Supplemental Experimental Procedures

Additional Analysis

Because the data on children had shown that age had an effect on the propensity to select place over feature, we also analyzed this aspect for nonhuman apes. We calculated the percentage of switch trials in which subjects chose on the basis of place compared to feature. Table S1 presents the percentage of trials in which subjects chose place over feature. There was a significant increase with age in the tendency to focus on place information ($r = 0.62$, $n = 25$, $p = 0.001$). Subjects below 14 years of age selected place over feature on average in 52.5% of the trials, whereas this figure increased to 76.5% of the trials for animals older than 14 years of age. There was no significant relation between age and the percentage of errors committed by subjects ($r = 0.05$, $n = 25$, $p = 0.80$). Although the age range in which we investigated children and apes was not the same, the data suggest that human infants and apes come initially to spatial tasks with the same place bias, but they diverge in opposite directions, toward the feature strategy in the case of children, and toward greater consistency in the use of place in the case of apes.

Table S1. Descriptive Statistics

	Place	Feature	No Switch
3-year-olds	30.9 (24.7)	50.9 (32.0)	75.7 (15.8)
1-year-olds	71.2 (25.2)	46.2 (28.0)	72.1 (20.4)
Apes	60.4 (27.5)	35.7 (16.8)	86.1 (17.9)

Mean percentage (\pm SD) of correct trials in the three experimental conditions (*place/feature/no switch*) for each of the three subject groups.

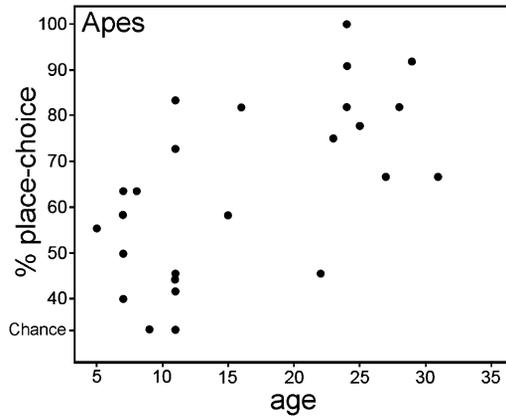


Figure S1. Correlation of Age and Place Choice in Apes

Scatterplot displaying the relationship between the percentage of trials in which a subject chose place over feature and the subject's age for all apes.