

Cultural behaviour

- What does it mean „culture”? It exist about 300 definitions ... ☹
- The most general answer: „The culture is a general knownlage and values proffesed by particular social group”
- Behaviour that has been passed from one generation to another by non-genetic means
- Informations can be passed from parents to offspring through the processes of imprinting and imitation

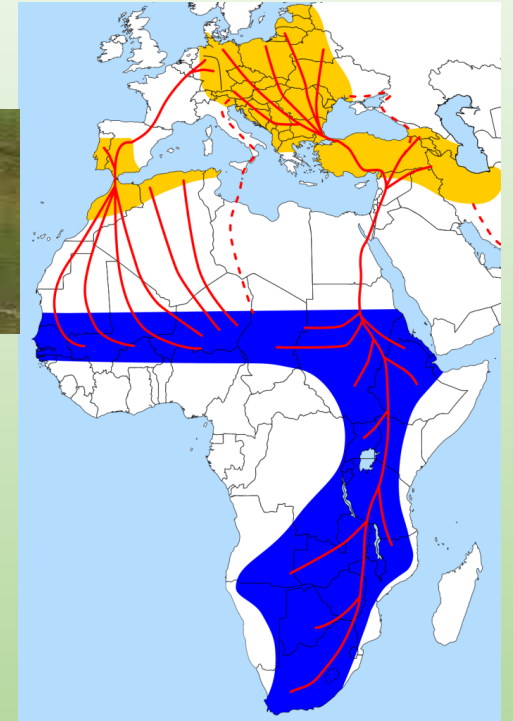
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Example:



Other examples of animal culture:

- Fidelity to the place of birth in salmons and storks



- Two groups of orca whales



The use of tools by animals

- Otters use Stones to break up shells of mussels:
- Chimpanzees use sticks to catch termites



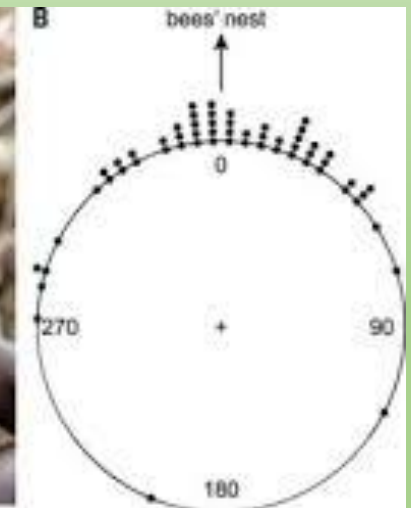


Crows
bend wire to
make a hook



Communication

- Body language
- Interspecies communication
- Vocalization
- Alarm calls in talapoins
- Clever Hans
- Gray parrot Alex

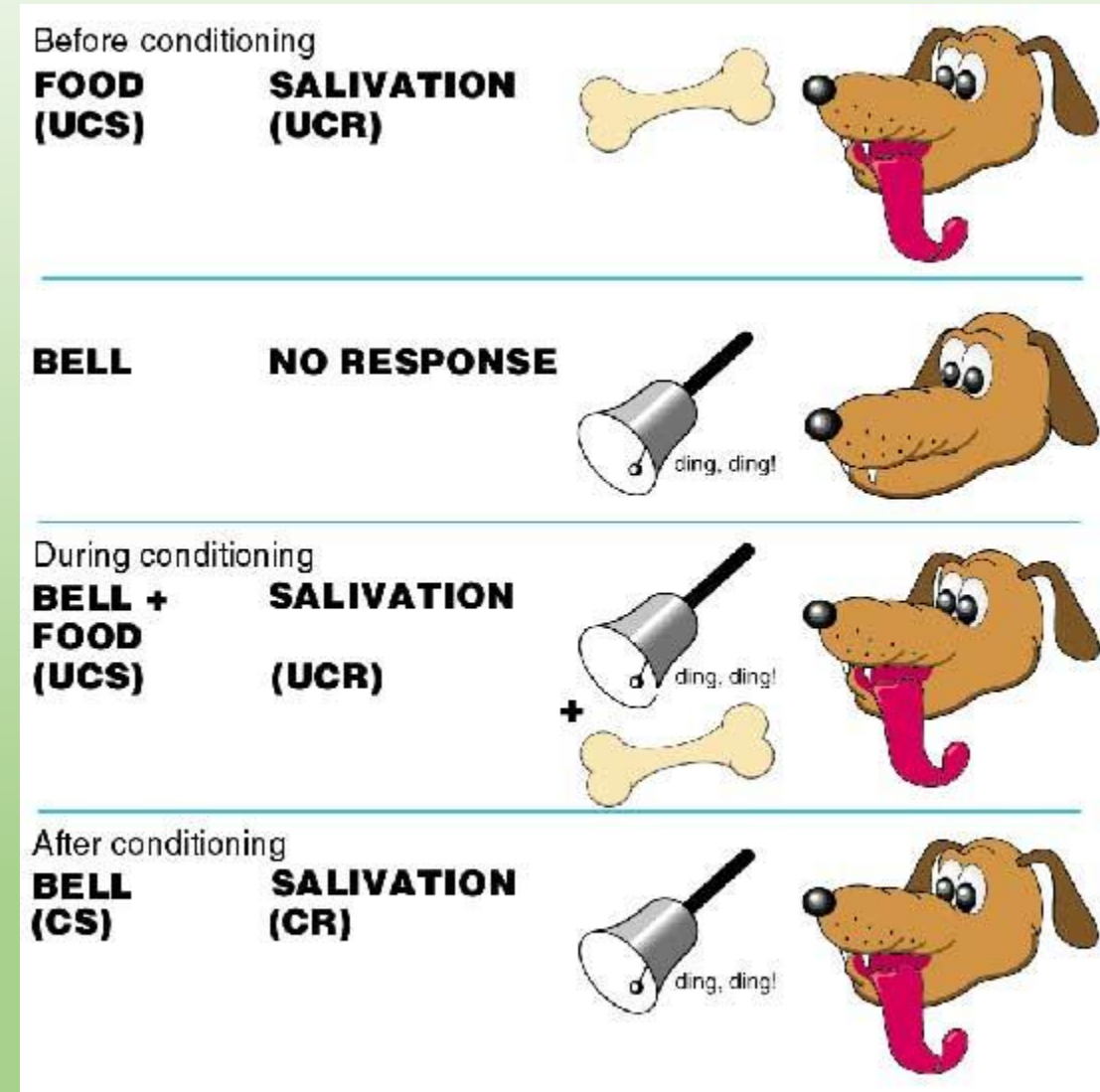


Ability to learn - habituation

- Habituation - a decrease in response to a stimulus after repeated presentations, when this stimulus has not any biological importance
- Example: goldfish and pike in the aquarium partitioned with glass

Ability to learn – classical conditioning

learning procedure in which a biologically potent stimulus (e.g. food) is paired with a previously neutral stimulus (e.g. a bell)



Ability to learn – instrumental conditioning

reinforcement or punishment are used to either increase or decrease the probability that a behavior will occur again in the future

Positive Reinforcement

Give something Good
give a treat, give attention

no jumping is encouraged



Negative Punishment

Take Away something Good
take away your attention

jumping is discouraged



Positive Punishment

Give something Bad
give a bump on the nose,
push dog down
jumping is discouraged



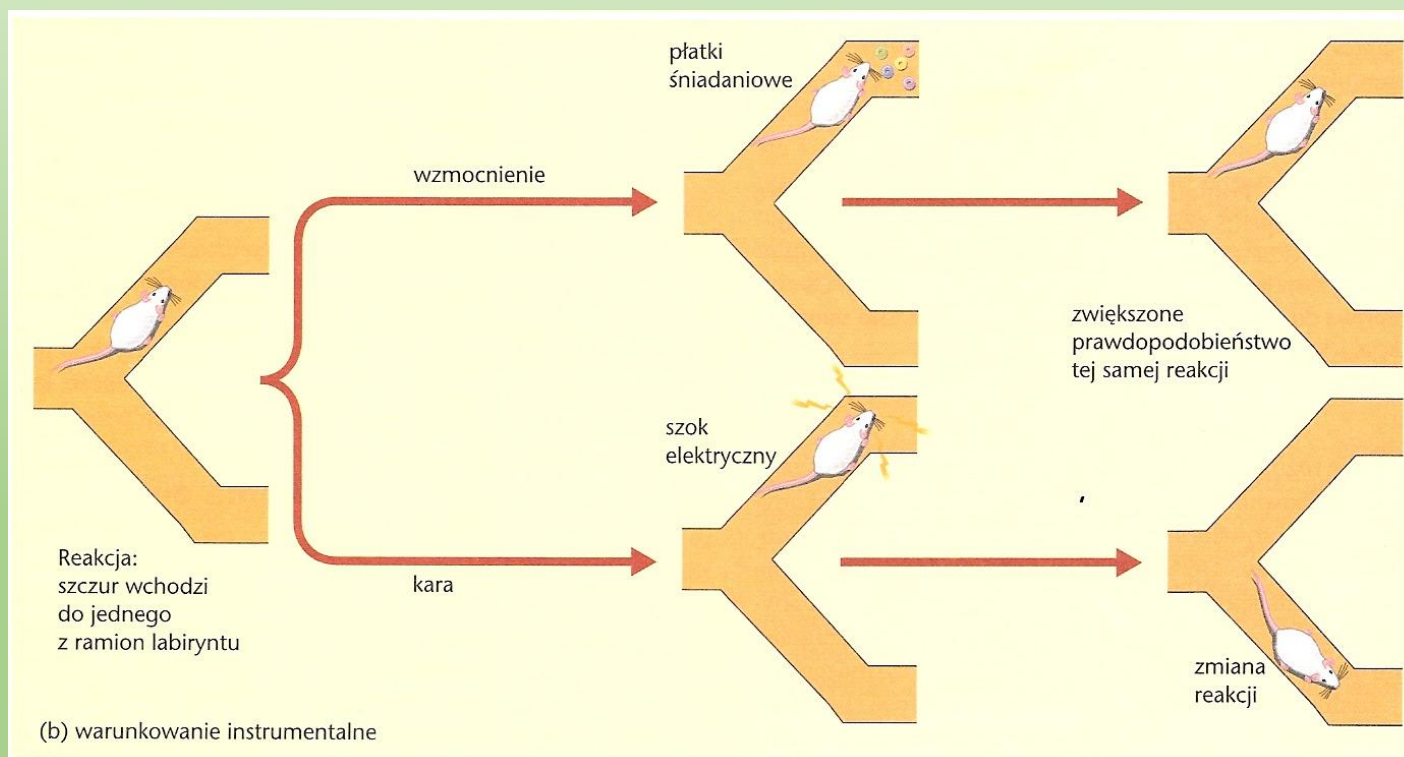
Negative Reinforcement

Take Away something Bad
stop pushing the dog down

no jumping is encouraged



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Some aspects of behaviour modification

- Sense of environmental control
- Experimental neurosis = learned helplessness
- Latent learning (earthworm)
- Imitation
- Imprinting
- Developmental stimulation / sensory deprivation

