



**CALCULATING CHIMPANZEES, BRAINY BEES,
AND OTHER ANIMALS WITH MIND-BLOWING
MATHEMATICAL ABILITIES**

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illustrated by Jaclyn Sinquett

Could your pet help you with your math homework? Discover how amazing animals use number sense in this fun and fact-filled investigation.

Each chapter in *Calculating Chimpanzees, Brainy Bees, and Other Animals with Mind-Blowing Mathematical Abilities* includes an activity at the end. Use these activities in your classroom with these additional ideas to teach about scientific experiments and math sense.



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- Ask students which of the animals in the book they think has the most surprising mathematical ability. Have them explain why they chose that animal.
- Read the “Fish Figures” chapter aloud and then challenge the class to design an experiment to study the class pet’s (or another animal’s) number sense.
- Using the experiments discussed in the book as examples, challenge students to design a new experiment to test whether an animal can understand negative numbers and the number line.
- Animals share several mathematical abilities with humans. Lead a class discussion about other ways animals are like us. Include the question “Where do you think the line is between human and animal intelligence?”
- Read the conclusion aloud as an introduction to convergent evolution. Then ask the class whether they think all the animals in the book share mathematical abilities with one another and with humans because of a common ancestor or due to convergent evolution. Why do they think that?
- Have students write about what they think would be the most fun part of being a scientist who studies how animals think.
- Challenge the students to use the numbers 1–9 to create their own sudoku puzzles.

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