

What Is So Special About The Human Brain?

Suzana Herculano-Houzel

TED Lectures

Note-taking Activity

Directions: First listen to the lecture and take notes. Then using your notes, you will answer the following questions.

1. What was the false assumption about brains that scientists had ten years ago?
2. What do cows and chimps have in common?
3. What is the average size of a human brain? An elephant brain?
4. How does the speaker establish the notion that human brains are larger than they should be?
5. Gorillas are on average three times the size of humans. Are gorilla brains three times bigger than ours? How big are their brains?
6. Our brains represent 2% of our body weight. What percentage of body energy does a brain use?
7. What was generally accepted as the number of neurons believed to be in the human brain?
8. What is the actual number of neurons in the human brain?
9. How many billions of neurons are in the cerebral cortex?
10. How do the brains of primates differ from those of rodents?
11. What functions happen in the cerebral cortex?
12. Does the speaker believe humans have a special brain?
13. Why do primates not have more neurons?
14. According to the speaker, how are we able to supply the energy for our brains?