

Human-Induced Symbolic Behaviour in Animals

Apes and Language

Different Experiments

- Bringing apes into human families
 - Not anatomically built to speak
- American Sign Language



Nim Chimpsky
1970s

Named to refute Noam Chomsky's specieist position



Washoe
1960s-70s

Strong claims that Washoe the ape could speak American Sign Language



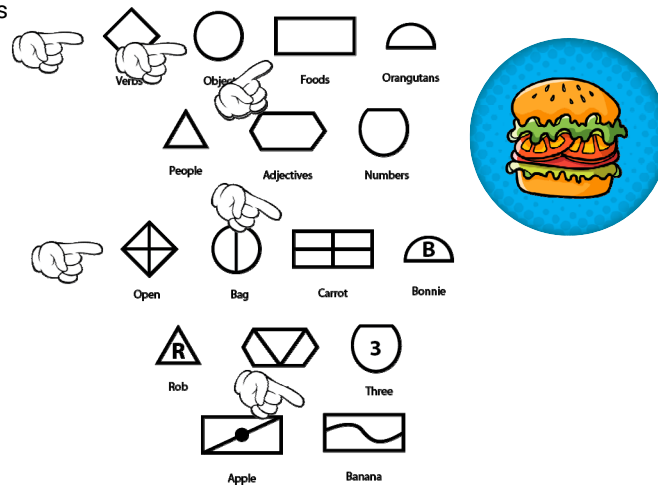
Koko
1970 - Present

www.koko.org

Nim: Icon Film/Telegraph; Washoe: Central Washington University/NY Times; Koko: Ron Cohn/Koko

Apes and Language

Plastic tokens



Plastic tokens: University of Waterloo, Burger: wenchiauwang/iStock/Thinkstock

Apes and Language



Animals communicate regularly through telepathy.

"It is the most basic form of communication, an ability we are all born with. As humans, we learn to rely on verbal communication and our telepathic skills are pushed aside and become rusty. Like a muscle, unless used regularly, these skills become weak and inefficient. Humans, given the proper mindset and training, have the ability to communicate telepathically with all species."

Quote from <http://www.animaltelepathy.com/about.html>

Cat: wenchiauwang/iStock/Thinkstock; Signal waves: University of Waterloo; Dog: cole matt/iStock/Thinkstock

Apes and Language



Kanzi

1980s - present

Linguistic genius –
over 200 symbols

A *lexigram* is any symbol standing for an entire word

Critical Period Hypothesis

Experiments concentrated on adults instead of children

Quantitative

This is what most ape language researchers say

Qualitative

This is what most linguists say

Kanzi: Laurentiu Garofeanu/Barcroft USA