

Episode 1: James V. McConnell 5 Minute History Lesson

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DO/APPLY a SKILL Consider McConnell's memory transfer research with planaria. Why do you think this research gained him notoriety?

FEEL/UNDERSTAND The results of McConnell's memory transfer research could not be fully replicated by other scientists. Use this opportunity to discuss replication in psychological research.

1: Describe the research James V. McConnell conducted that gained him notoriety.

Answer: McConnell conditioned flatworms to respond to stimuli. He then ground up those flatworms and fed them to other flatworms that had not been conditioned. His findings showed the cannibal flatworms responded more quickly to the stimuli than the non-cannibal flatworms. He believed that the memories of the original flatworms had been transferred to the worms that had eaten them and that this was evidence for a chemical basis for memory.

2: Were the results from his most well-known studies replicated by other scientists?

Answer: No. The results were never fully replicated.

3: What were the titles of the two journals McConnell established and why were they unique?

Answer: 1. Worm Runner's Digest. 2. Journal of Biological Psychology. Unique: They were printed together, and a subscriber received both journals as one.

4: What was the title of James V. McConnell's textbook?

Answer: Understanding Human Behavior

5. What happened to McConnell in November of 1985?



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