

MORE GREAT QUESTIONS IN SCIENCE

How  
**SMART**  
can we  
get?

1 x 53 **HD**



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# How SMART can we get?

1 X 53 HD

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How do you get a genius brain? Is it all in the genes? Or does it come with hard work? Is it possible that everyone's brain has untapped genius just waiting for the right circumstances to be unleashed?

### ***Einstein's Brain***

What made Einstein, well, Einstein? With access to rare medical slides and photographs of the great scientist's brain, researchers seek out the biological roots of genius in Einstein's brain. What does Einstein's brain have in common with those of young math whizzes today? Can we discover whether peculiarities in Einstein's brain are gifts of nature or fruits of nurture?

### ***Memory and Intelligence***

What makes a brain smarter? *NOVA scienceNOW* competes against the nation's top memory athletes and discovers their secrets. And with the help of neuroscientists, *NOVA scienceNOW* explores how the wiring of our brains plays key roles in both memory and problem solving. With the latest imaging techniques, scientists peer inside a human mind and witness the firing of brain cells, as they begin to map the complex neural networks that are the key to intelligence.

### ***Mystery of the Savant Brain***

In the far off year 5527, what day of the week will May 1st fall on? Can't say? Try asking George Widener, and he'll immediately inform you that it's a Sunday. (And he's right.) George is a calendar-calculating savant, possessing this amazing gift since childhood. Other savants seem to acquire extraordinary gifts all of a sudden, following a brain injury. What's going on? *NOVA scienceNOW* meets with savants and the scientists studying them in an effort to unlock one of the biggest mysteries in neuroscience.

### ***Profile: Sian Beilock***

Even the smartest brains sometimes fail to perform well, especially when they are under pressure. Whether sitting down for the SAT, or trying to make a crucial putt on the golf green, almost everyone has choked when stress is high. Sian Beilock, cognitive psychologist and (choke-prone) competitive athlete, is discovering what happens in the brain when you choke—and how you can overcome fear and maximize your brain's performance.

120720

# NOVA

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