

University of Tartu speaking from 13:00 pm. to 15:00,

# Effective Teaching & Learning: Dramatic New Insights from Neuroscience

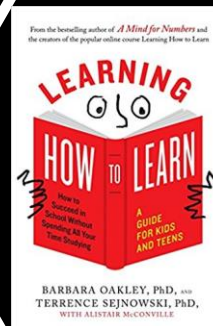
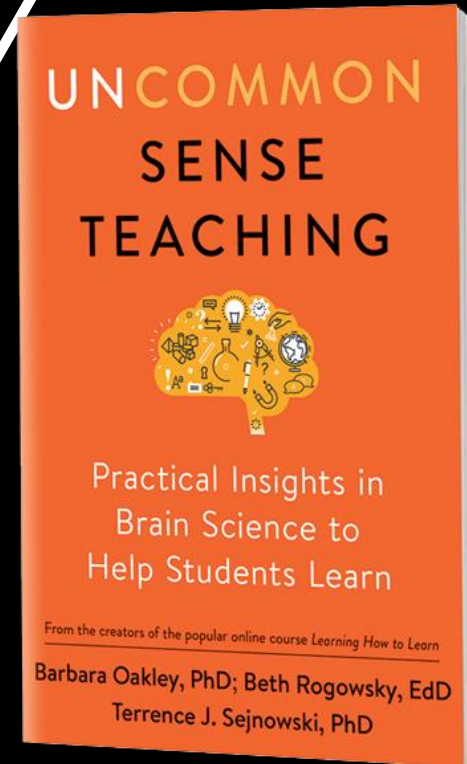
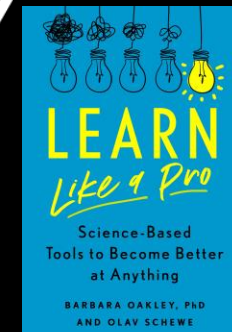
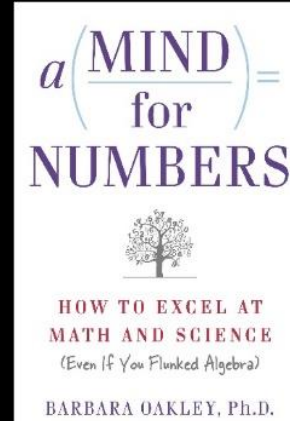
A growing body of research insight from neuroscience has revealed many surprises when it comes to teaching. For example, some forms of seemingly “rote” learning can engage students’ sophisticated pattern recognition systems, which can be invaluable in making math or language easier to learn, particularly at more advanced levels. And there are further surprises—for example, just because students know how to solve a problem in math or have learned a skill in sports does *not* necessarily mean that they can—or *should*—be able to explain it. In fact, forcing some neurally diverse students to explain their reasoning when they can already demonstrate their understanding can actually kill their motivation for deeper learning.

In this talk, we will explore these and other counterintuitive insights from research that can allow you to make intelligent use of students’ differing underlying approaches to learning. We will also explore the intimate connection between retrieval practice in math and the metaphors used in art, music, and poetry.



# Effective Teaching & Learning: Dramatic New Insights from Neuroscience

Barbara Oakley, PhD, PE  
Distinguished Professor of  
Engineering  
Oakland University  
Rochester, Michigan







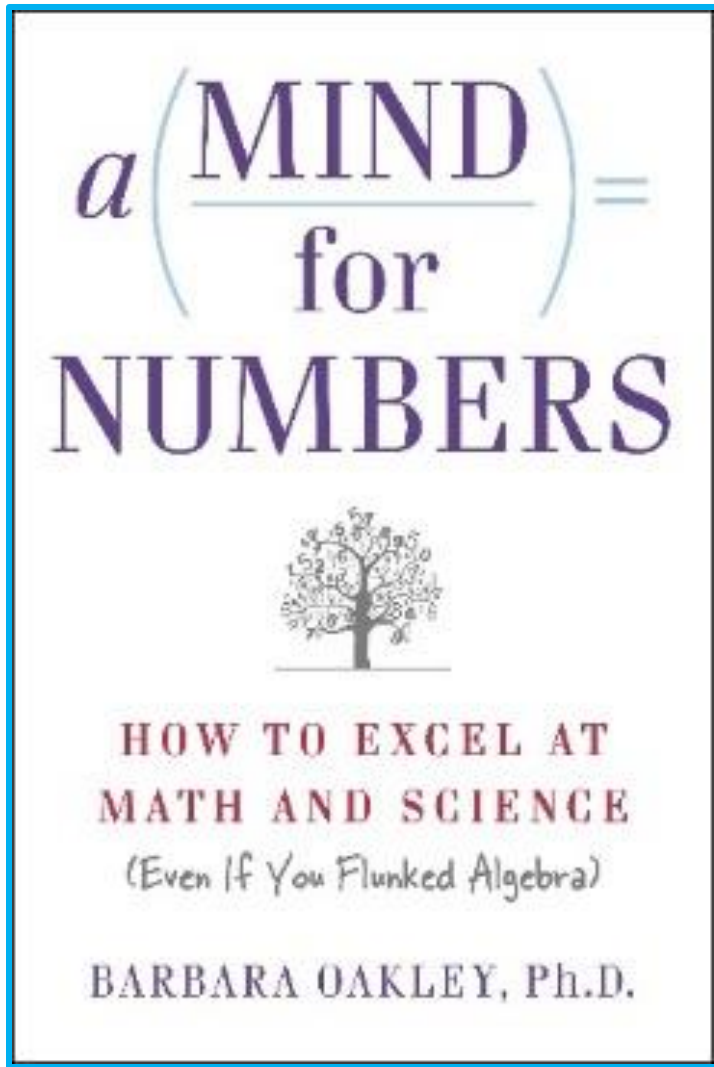
**Philip Oakley**

Supplemental schooling our two daughters in math from ages 3 to 15.

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# Learning How to Learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough subjects

★★★★★ **4.8** 83,416 ratings | 👍 98%

 Barbara Oakley [+1 more instructor](#) **TOP INSTRUCTOR**

[Go To Course](#) Already enrolled

3,337,993 already enrolled 🔖 Save

7

**The New York Times**

**OPINION**

# **Make Your Daughter Practice Math. She'll Thank You Later.**

The way we teach math in America hurts all students, but it may be hurting girls the most.

Aug. 7, 2018



50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC  
REVOLUTIONS

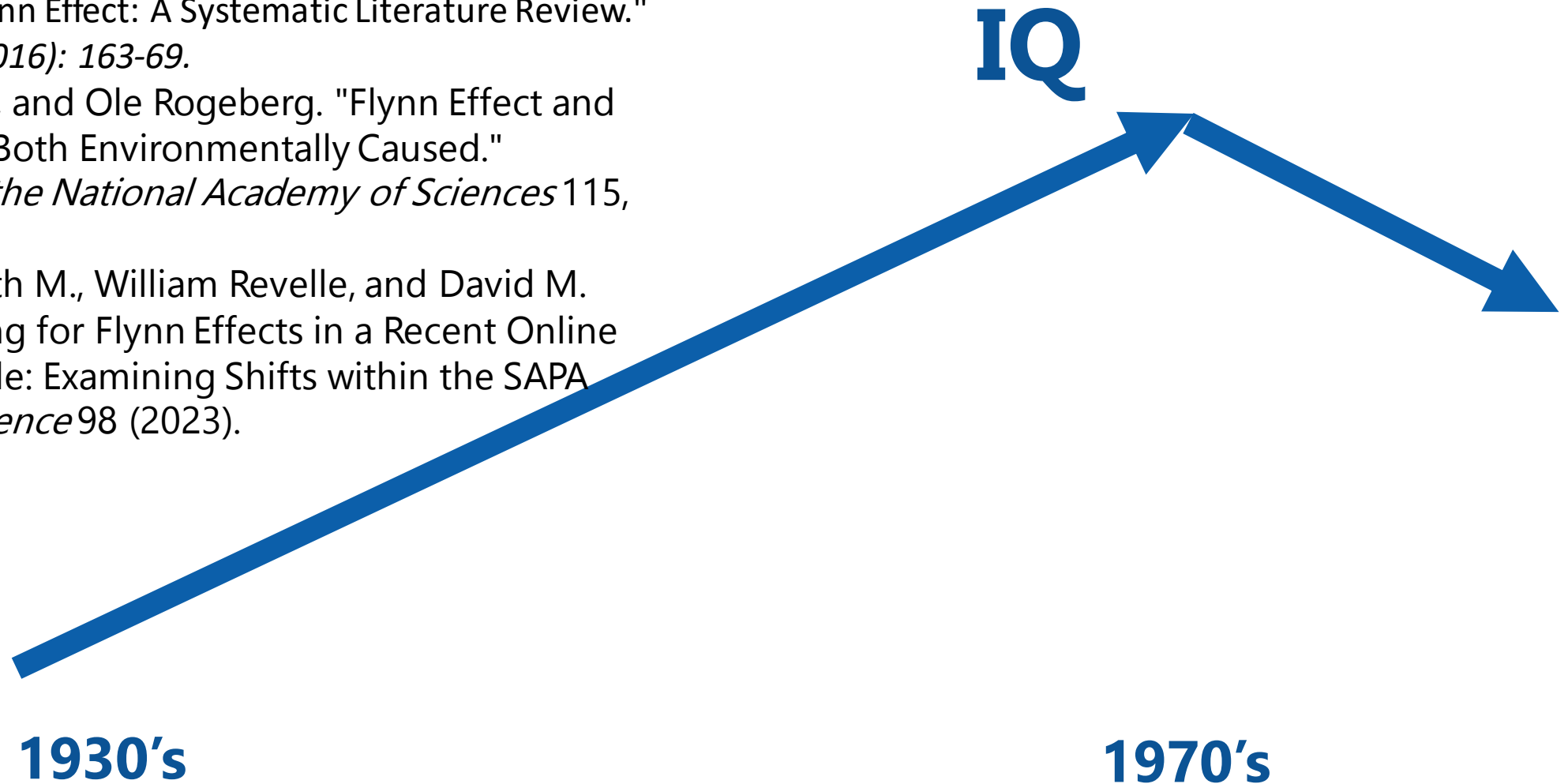
THOMAS S. KUHN

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY BY IAN HACKING

# The Flynn Effect

Flynn, James R. "The Mean IQ of Americans: Massive Gains 1932 to 1978." *Psychological Bulletin* 95, no. 1 (1984): 29.

- Dutton, Edward, Dimitri van der Linden, and Richard Lynn. "The Negative Flynn Effect: A Systematic Literature Review." *Intelligence* 59 (2016): 163-69.
- Bratsberg, Bernt, and Ole Rogeberg. "Flynn Effect and Its Reversal Are Both Environmentally Caused." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115, no. 26 (2018):
- Dworak, Elizabeth M., William Revelle, and David M. Condon. "Looking for Flynn Effects in a Recent Online U.S. Adult Sample: Examining Shifts within the SAPA Project." *Intelligence* 98 (2023).



# Sold a Story

**How Teaching Kids to Read Went So Wrong**



# Different types of knowledge

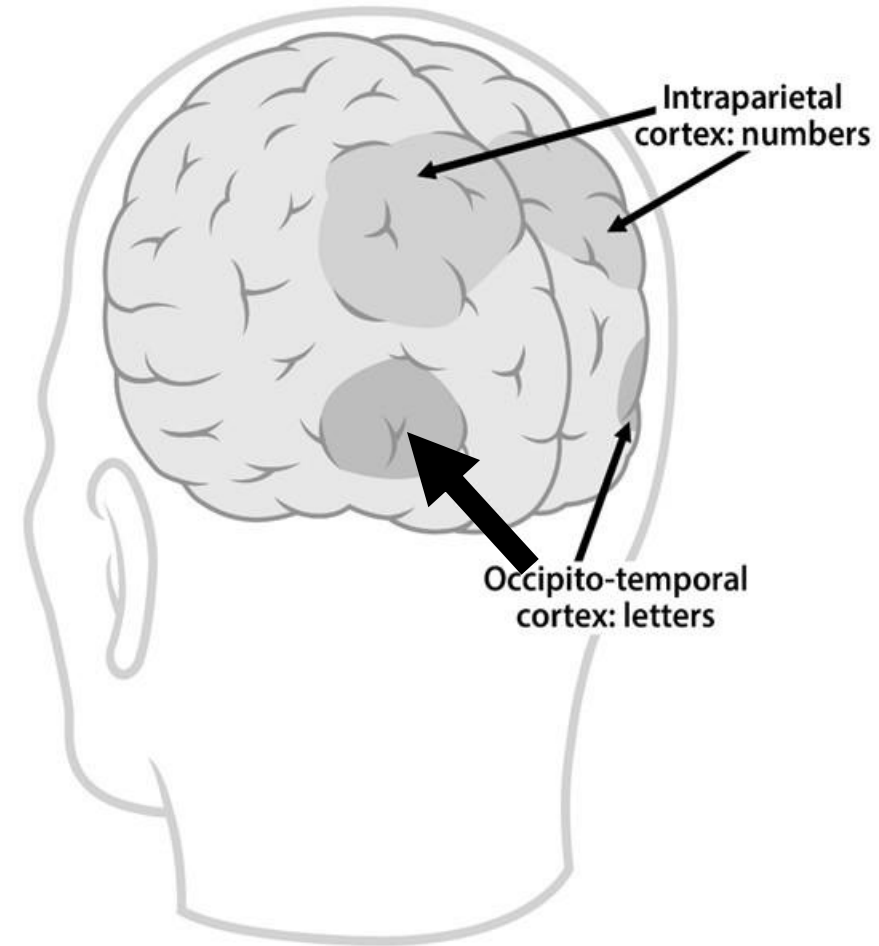


## Easy stuff (Biologically primary knowledge)

- Recognize faces
- Listen to and speak a first language
- Acquired easily without explicit instruction

## Hard stuff (Biologically secondary knowledge)

- Reading and writing
- Mathematics
- Not evolved to acquire—  
need to repurpose other neural circuits



**Memorization**

```
graph LR; A[Memorization] <--> B[Understanding];
```

The diagram consists of two rectangular boxes connected by a double-headed arrow. The box on the left is yellow and contains the word 'Memorization' in bold black text. The box on the right is light gray and contains the word 'Understanding' in bold black text. A thick black double-headed arrow points from the right side of the 'Memorization' box to the left side of the 'Understanding' box, indicating a reciprocal relationship between the two concepts.

**Understanding**

**Memorization**



**Understanding**

**Lecture**

**Active Learning**



Lecture

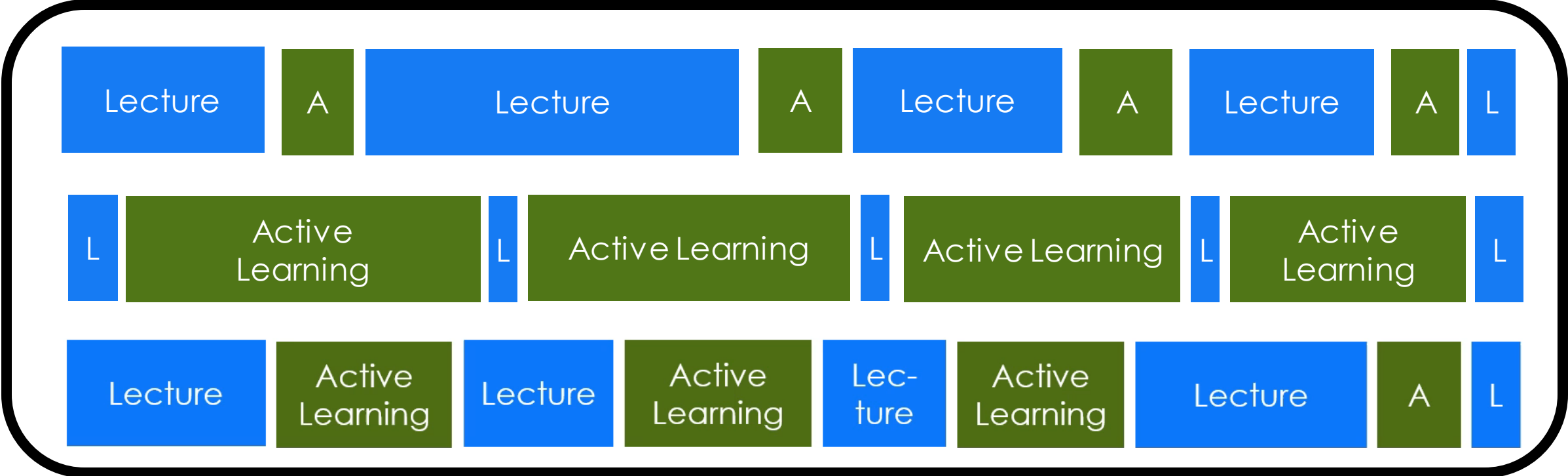


**Active Learning**



Lecture

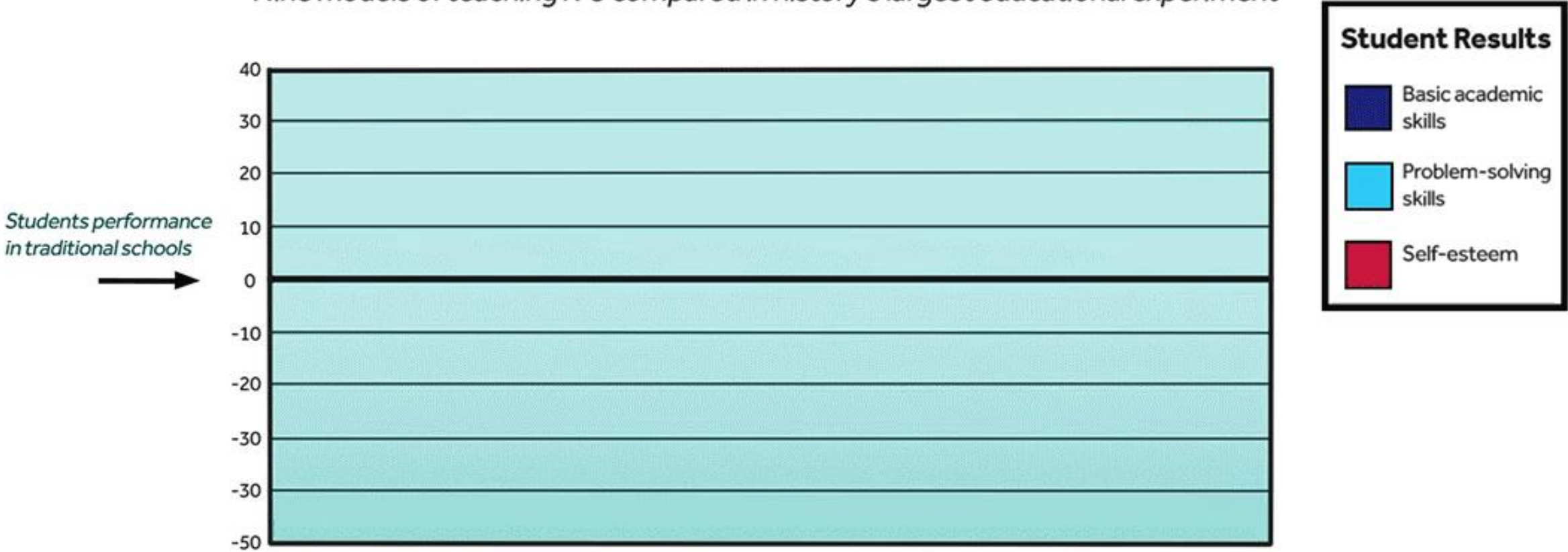
Active Learning



**Direct instruction**

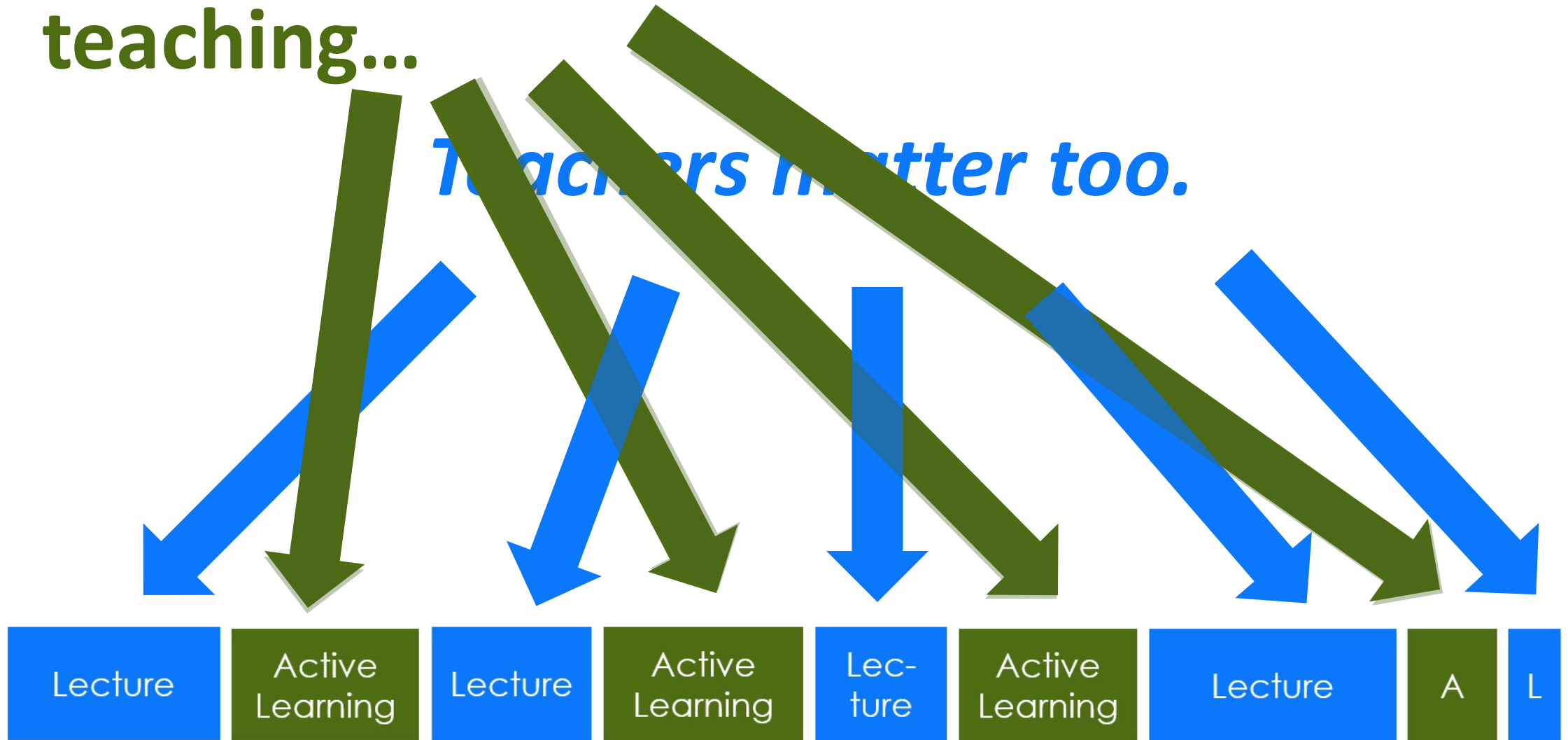
# Project Follow Through, 1967 - 1977

Nine models of teaching K-3 compared in history's largest educational experiment



# In a world of student-centered teaching...

*Teachers matter too.*



# The 10 skills you need to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

## Top 10 skills of 2025

in 2020

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity
4. People Management
5. Coordinating with Others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Judgment and Decision Making
8. Service Orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive Flexibility

-  Analytical thinking and innovation
-  Active learning and learning strategies
-  Complex problem-solving
-  Critical thinking and analysis
-  Creativity, originality and initiative
-  Leadership and social influence
-  Technology use, monitoring and control
-  Technology design and programming
-  Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
-  Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

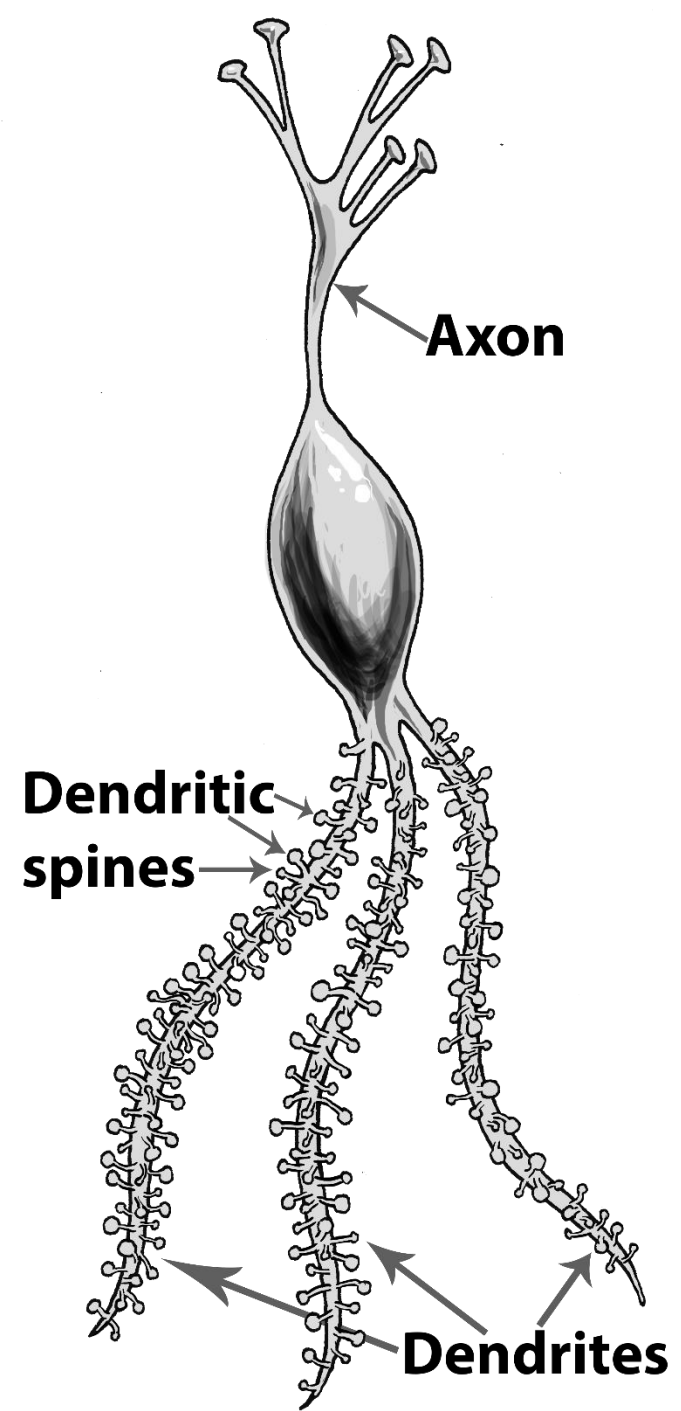
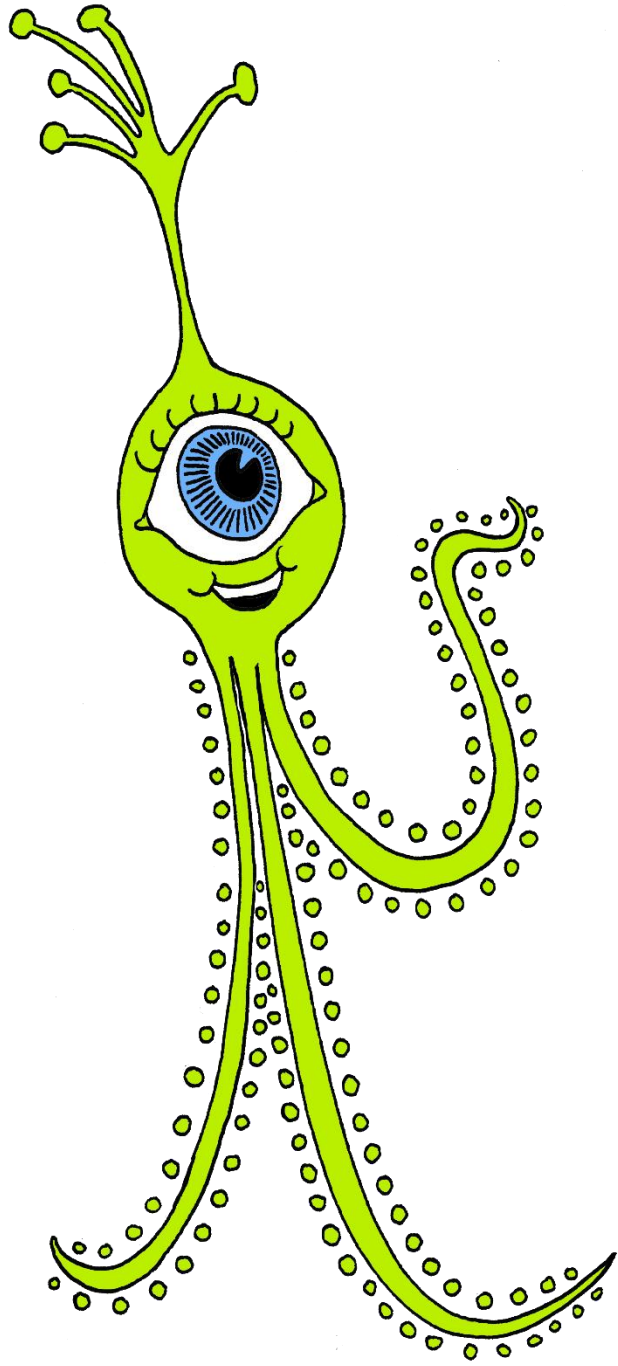
Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

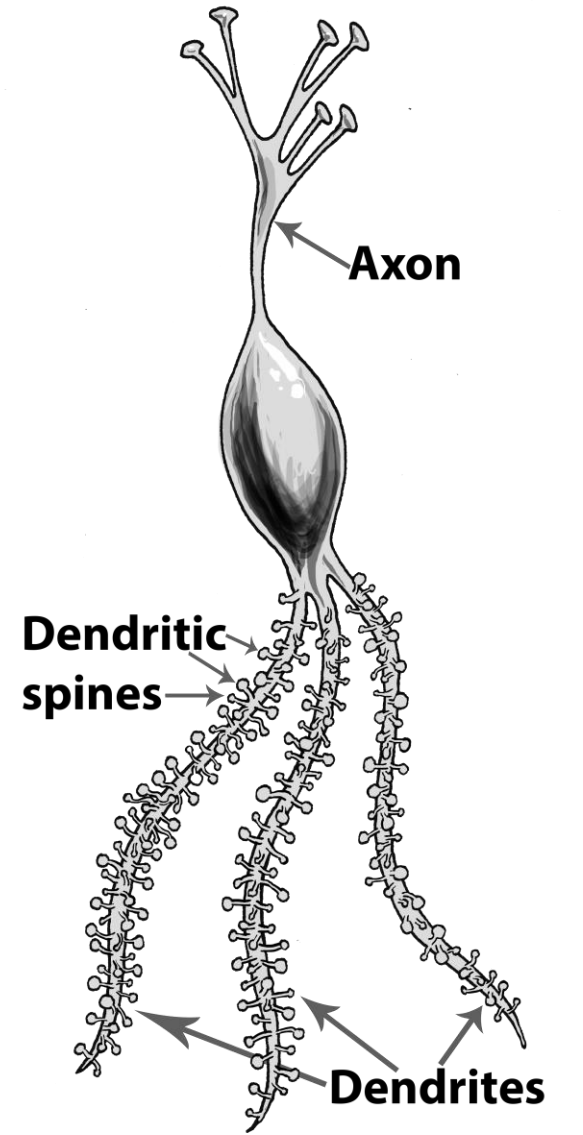
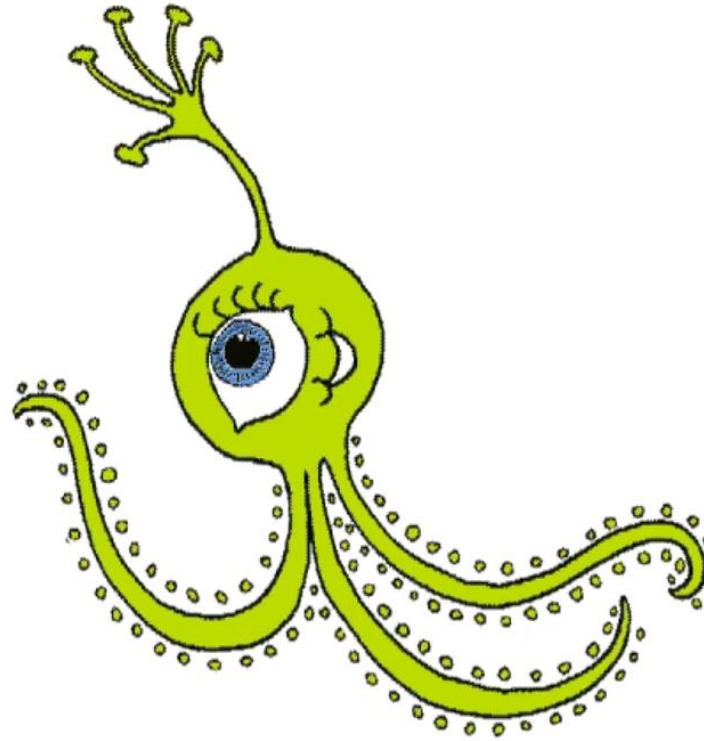
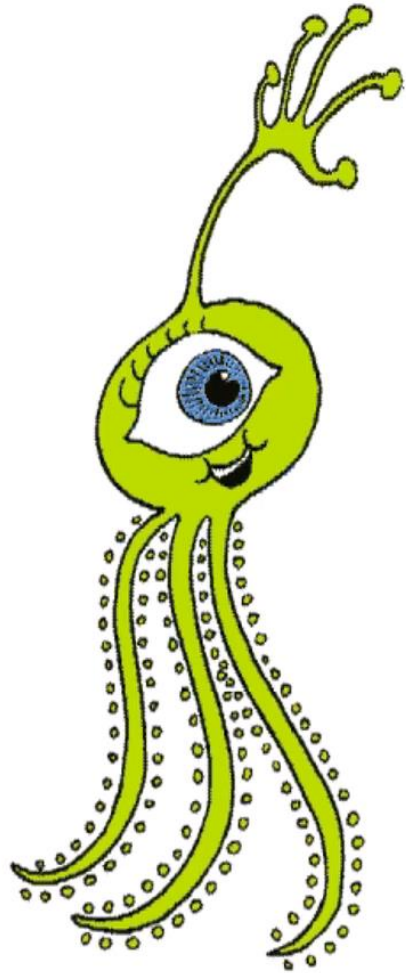


Axon

Dendritic  
spines

Dendrite



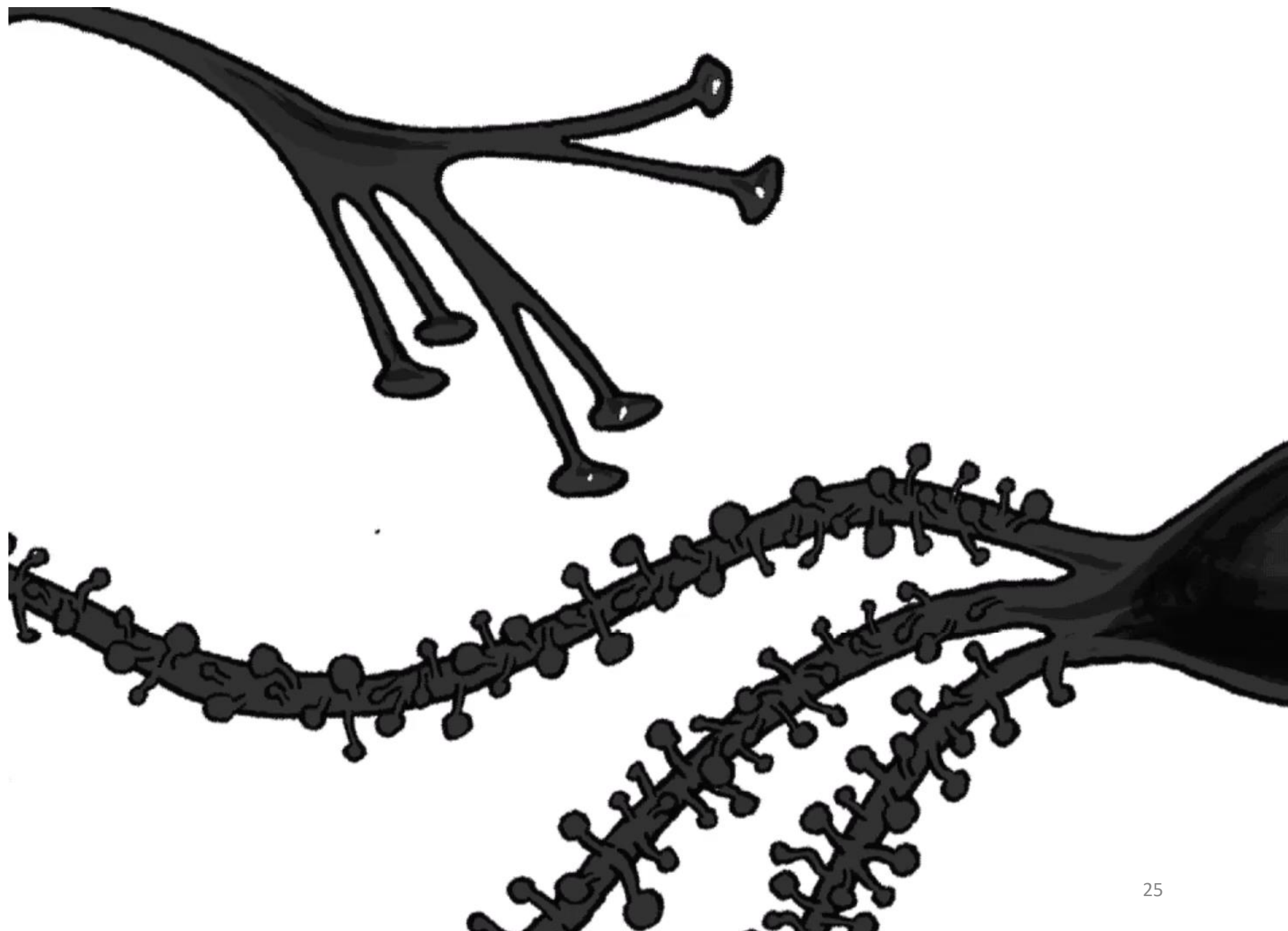




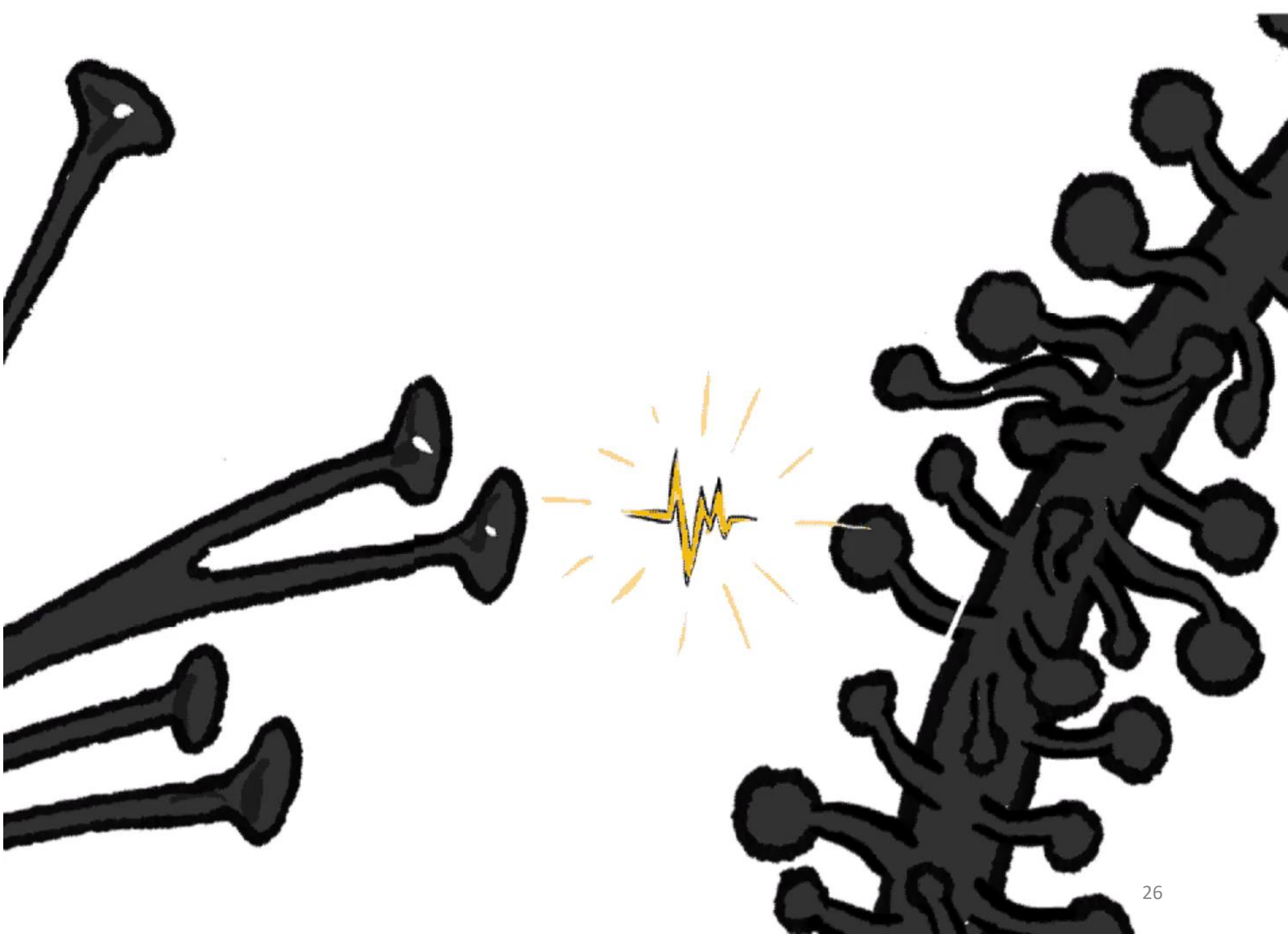
Neurons  
send  
signals

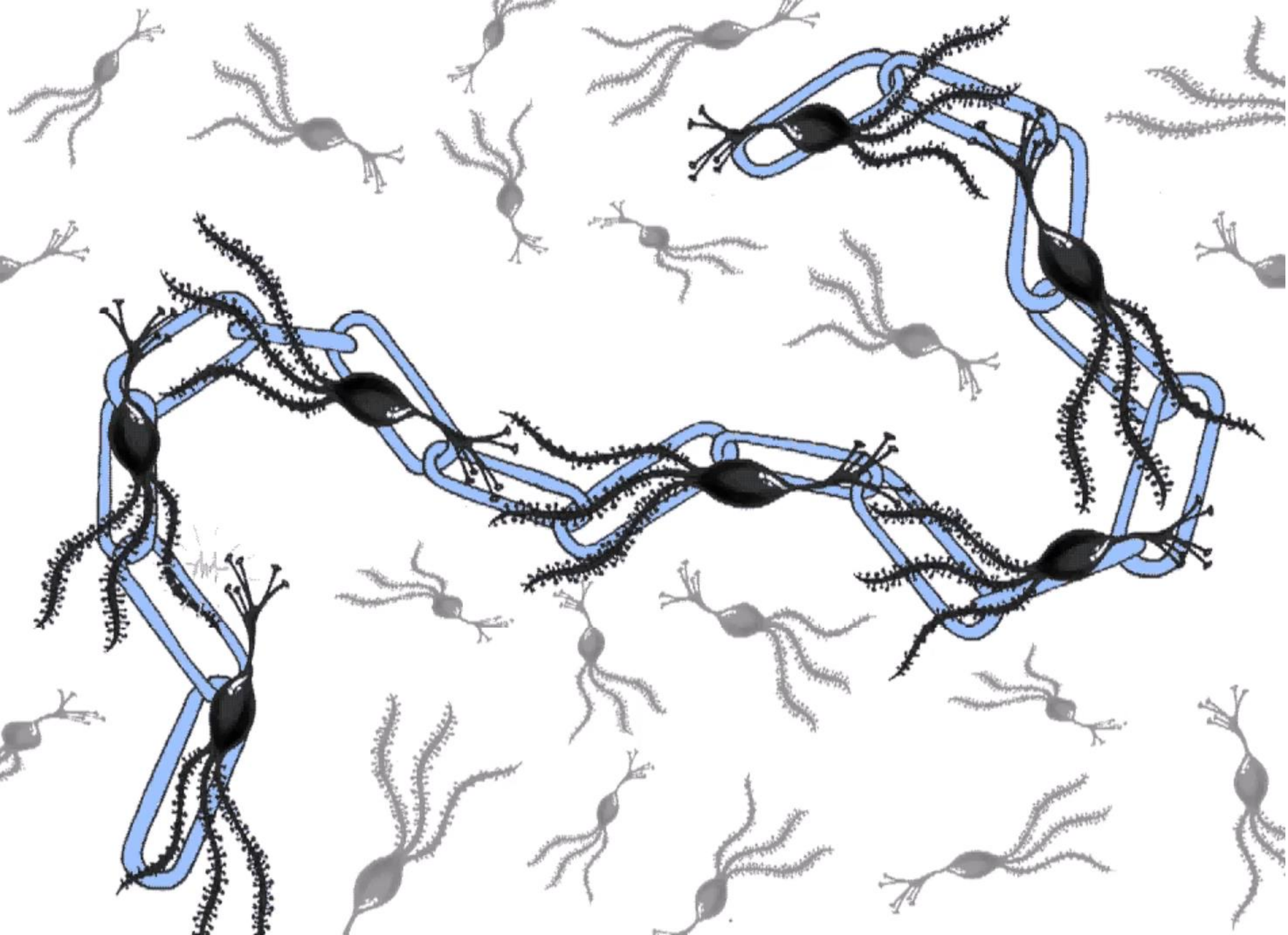


Neurons create sets of links when you learn something.



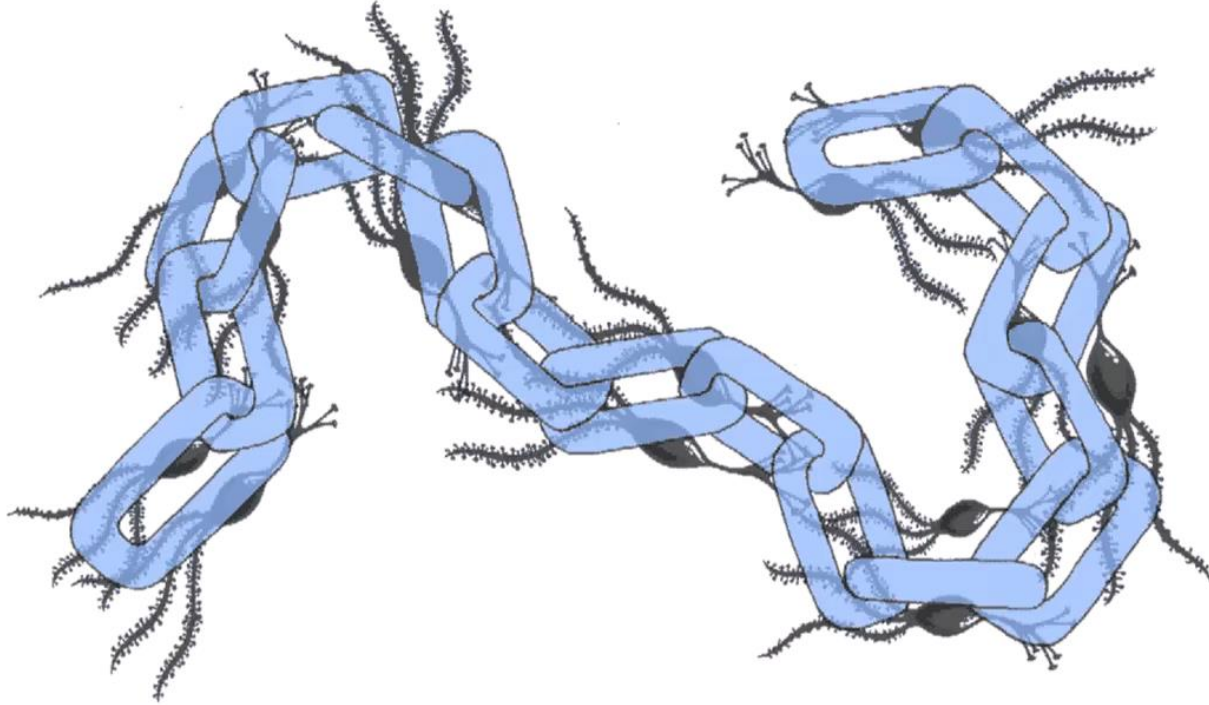
Connections  
strengthen  
with practice





These are like sets of links in a chain.

# The value of metaphor

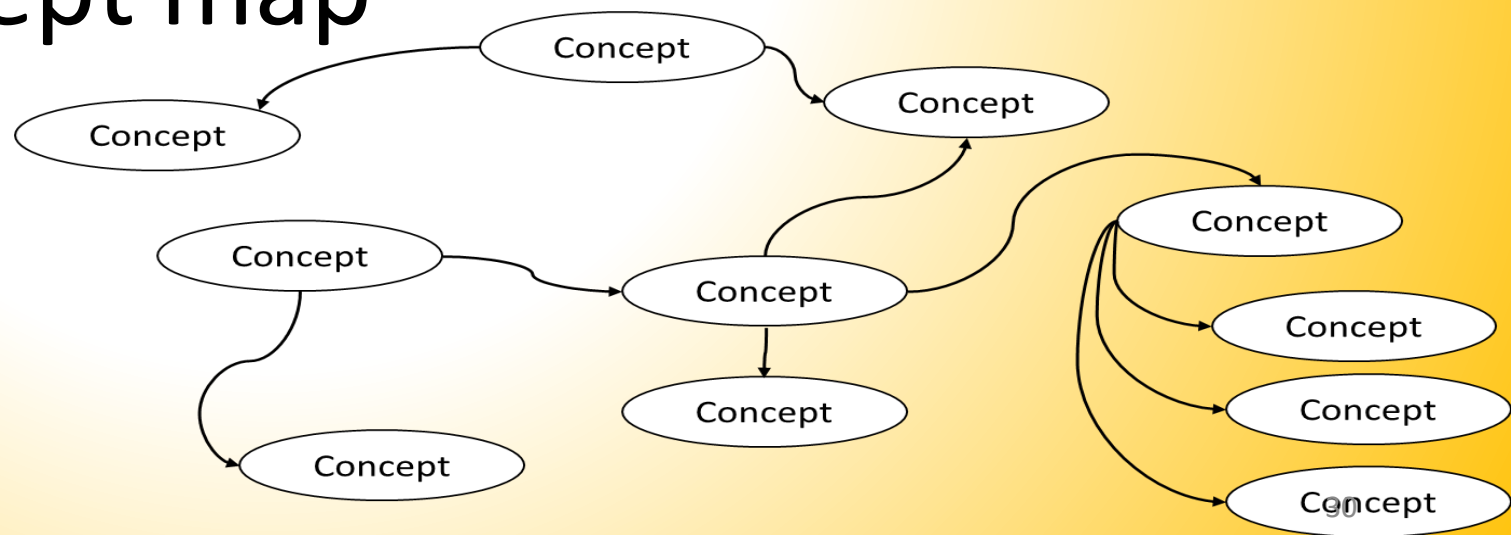


# How to come up with metaphors

- Steal them
- Ask yourself what a concept is like (the wackier, the better)
- Look online
- Ask your students to develop metaphors

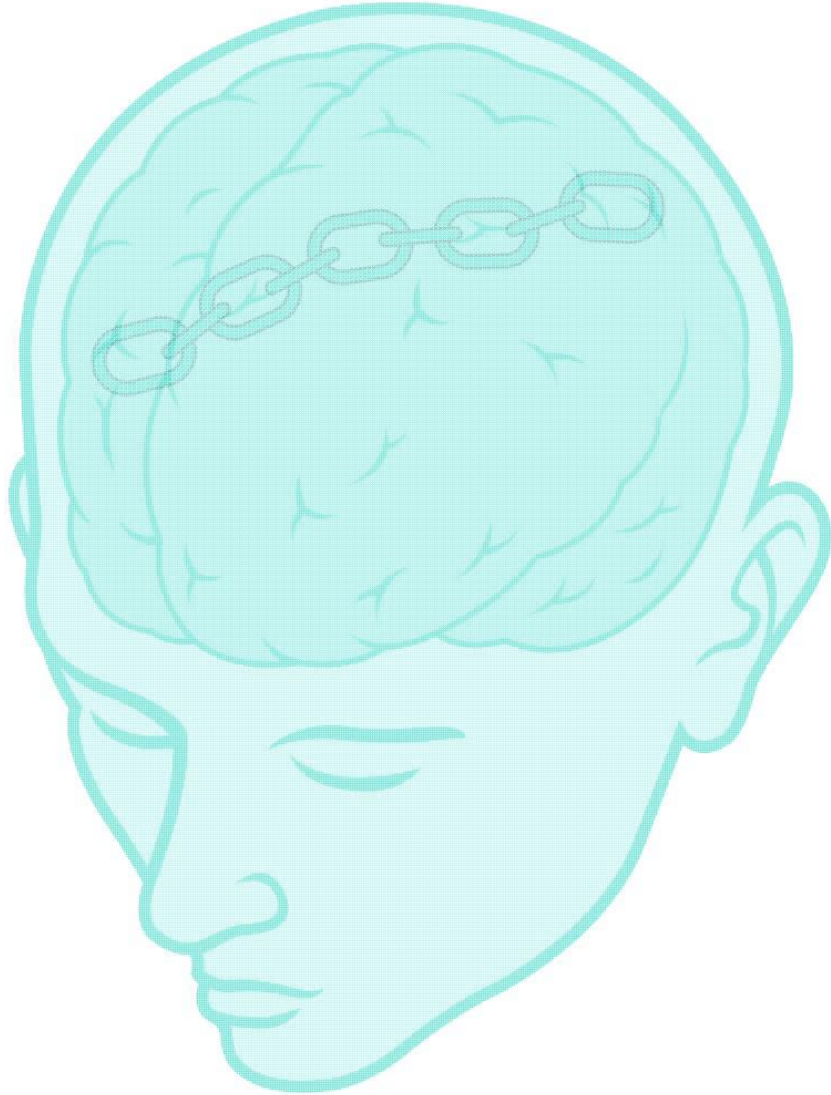
# What is the most powerful technique to help people learn most efficiently?

- Reread
- Highlight or underline
- Retrieval practice (“recall”)
- Create a concept map



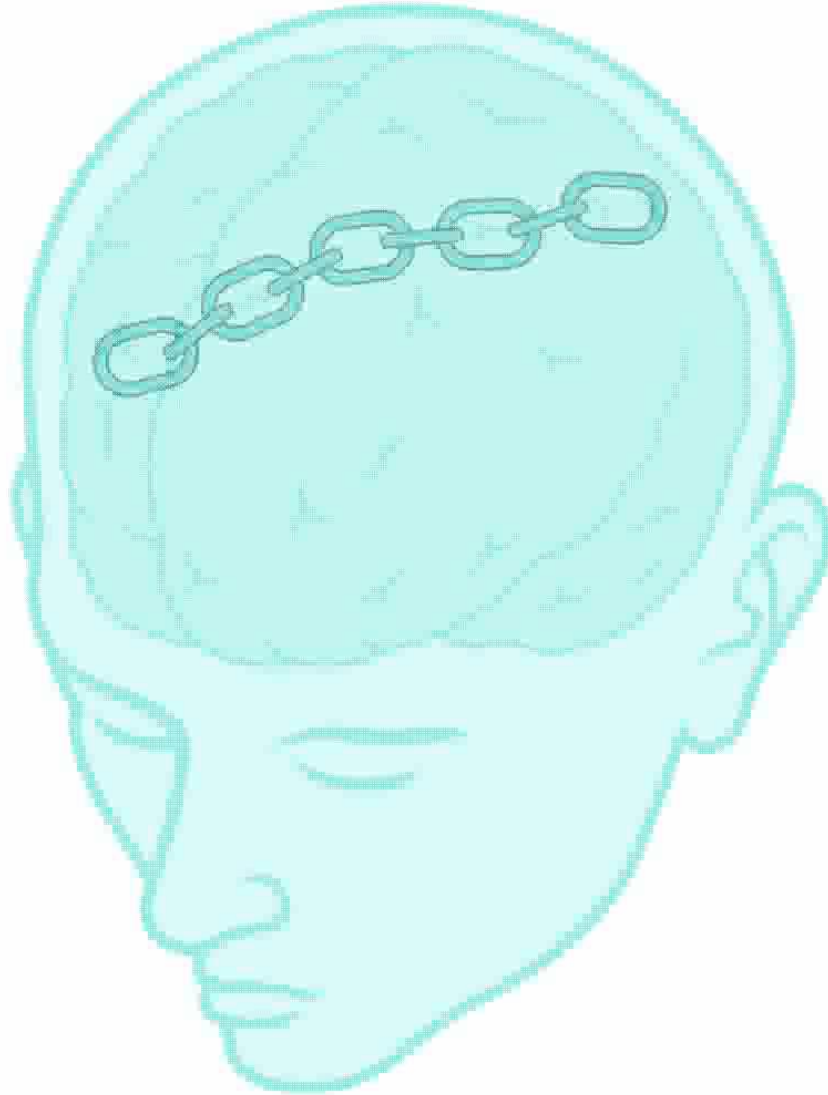


# Retrieval Practice





# Retrieval Practice



← **Initial learning**



# Mapping

. Blunt

activities that encourage elaborative studying  
practice retrieving and reconstructing knowledge  
practicing retrieval produces greater gains in  
concept mapping. The advantage of retrieval pra

## Week 3, Lesson 1: Retrieval Practice, Events, and Schemas



Mental models



Complex normal  
matrix

**Retrieval Practice Helps  
Solidify Both Simple and  
Complex Events in Schemas**

**Go**



Krebs cycle



Retrieval  
practice

## Week 4 - Lesson 1: Attention, Partnership and Teleprompters



Humor



Comedian

A stylized search window with a grey title bar containing three window control icons (minimize, maximize, close). The main content area is white and contains the text 'Humor Does NOT Mean Being a Comedian' in a large, bold, black font. At the bottom center of the window is a grey button with the word 'Go' in white text.

**Humor Does  
NOT Mean  
Being a Comedian**

Go



Entertain



Diffuse  
Mode

www.coursera.org/  
learn/teaching-online



**Browse** > **Social Sciences** > **Education**

This course is part of the **Uncommon Sense Teaching Specialization**

# Uncommon Sense Teaching: Teaching Online



Barbara Oakley +2 more instructors

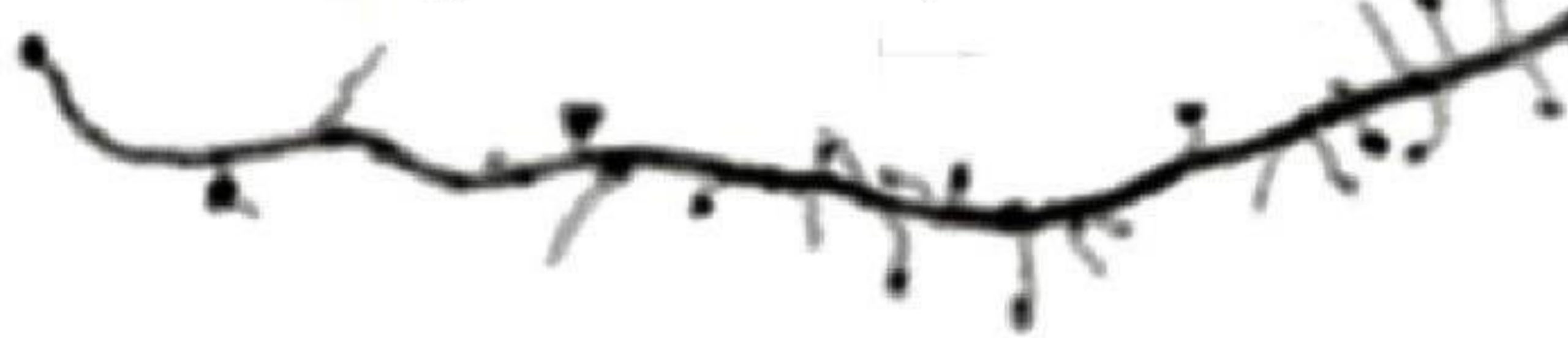
**TOP INSTRUCTORS**

**Go To Course**

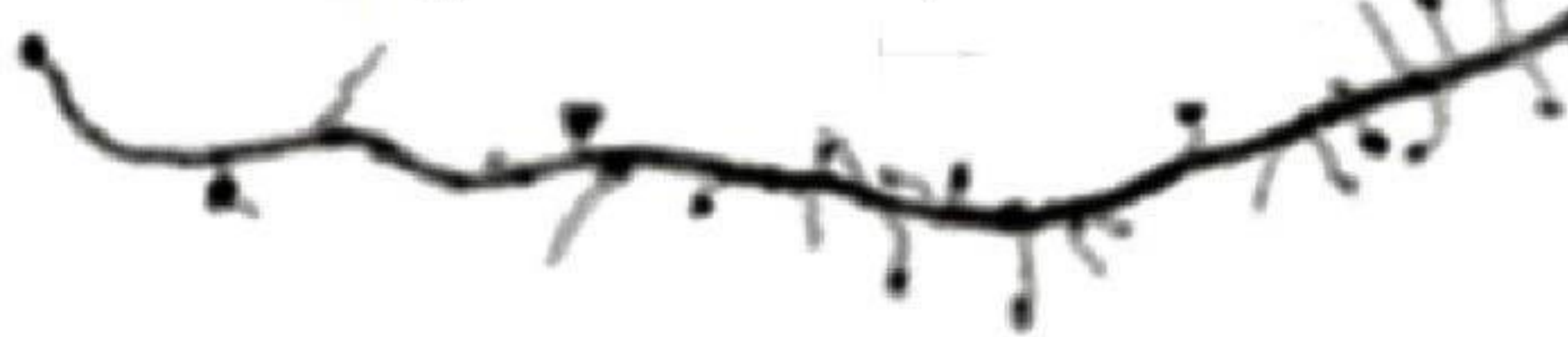
Already enrolled



Before learning and before sleep



Before learning and before sleep



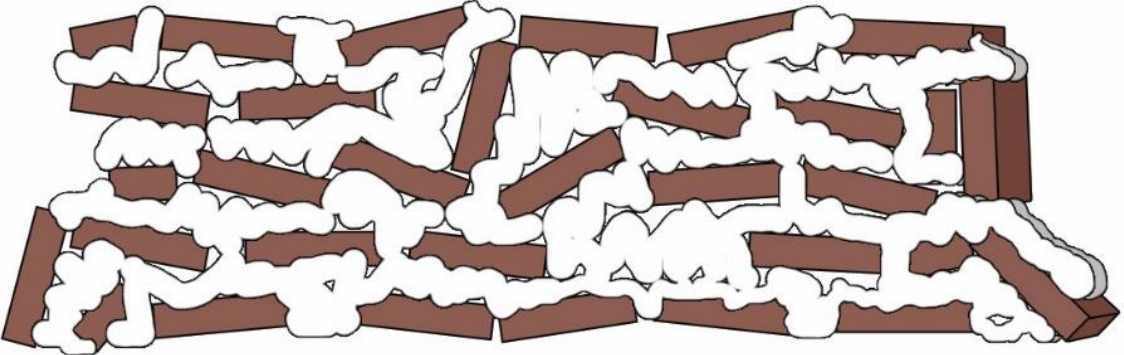
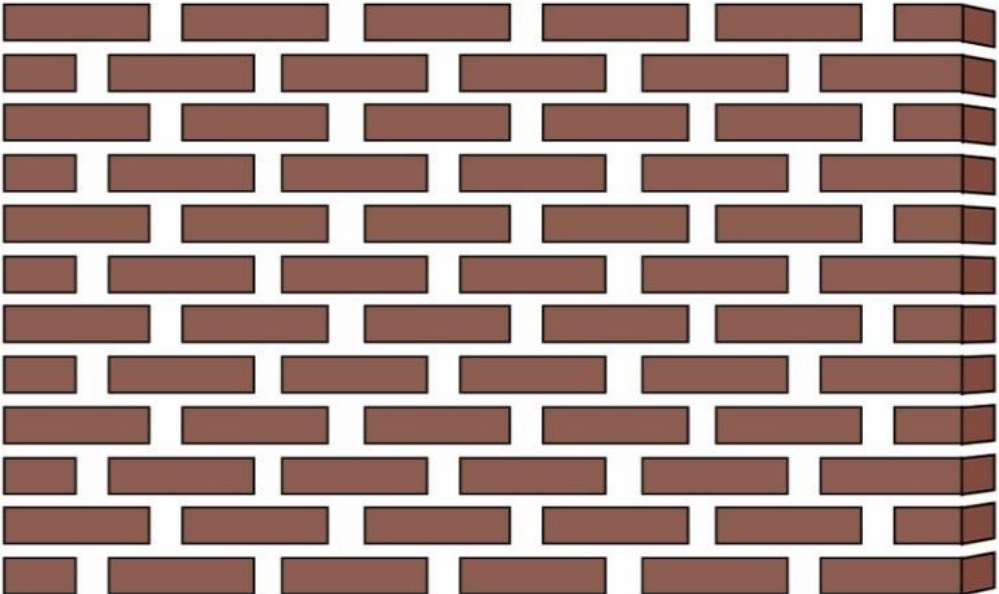
After learning and after sleep





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						



It takes time



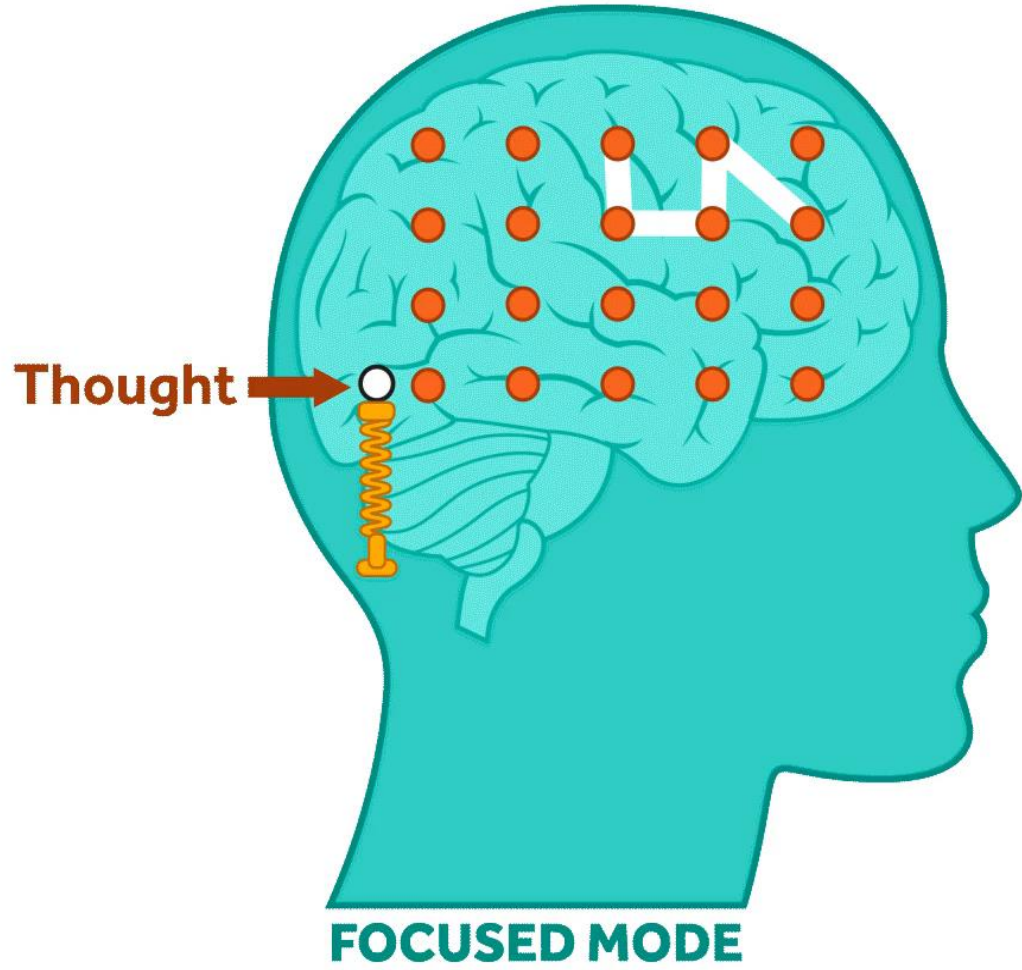
Weight lifter Sultan Rakhmanov, RIA Novosti

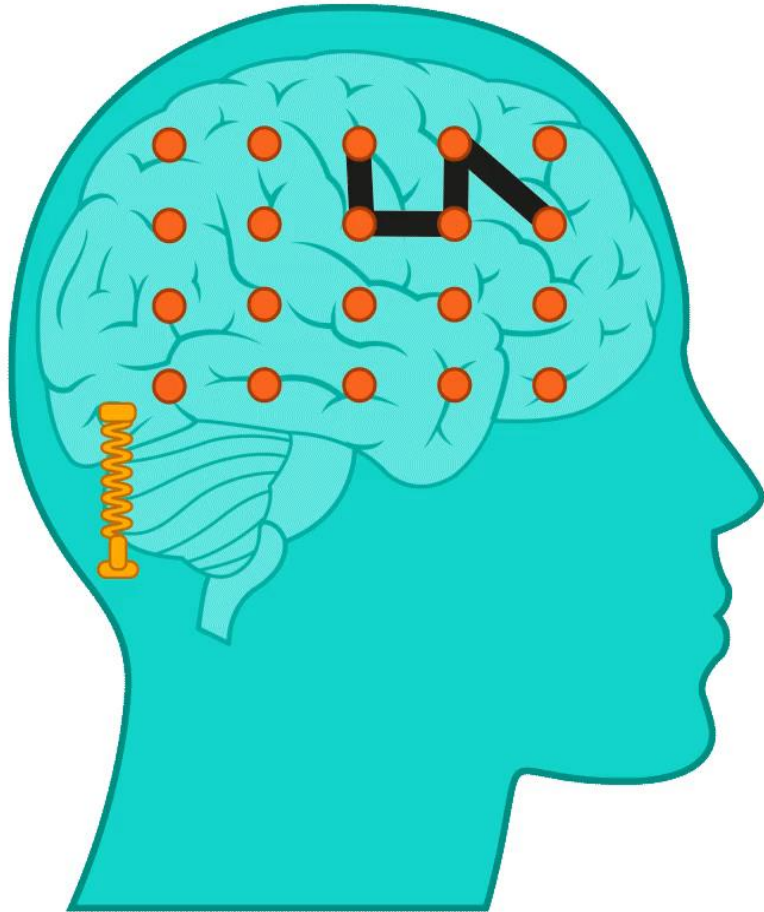
**Focused mode**

**Diffuse mode**

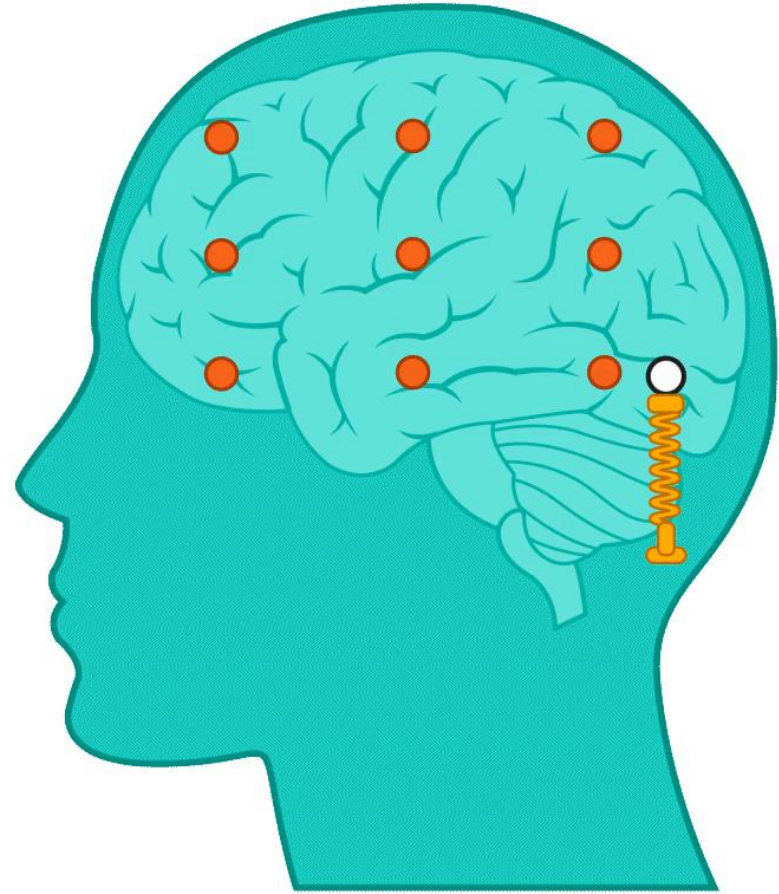






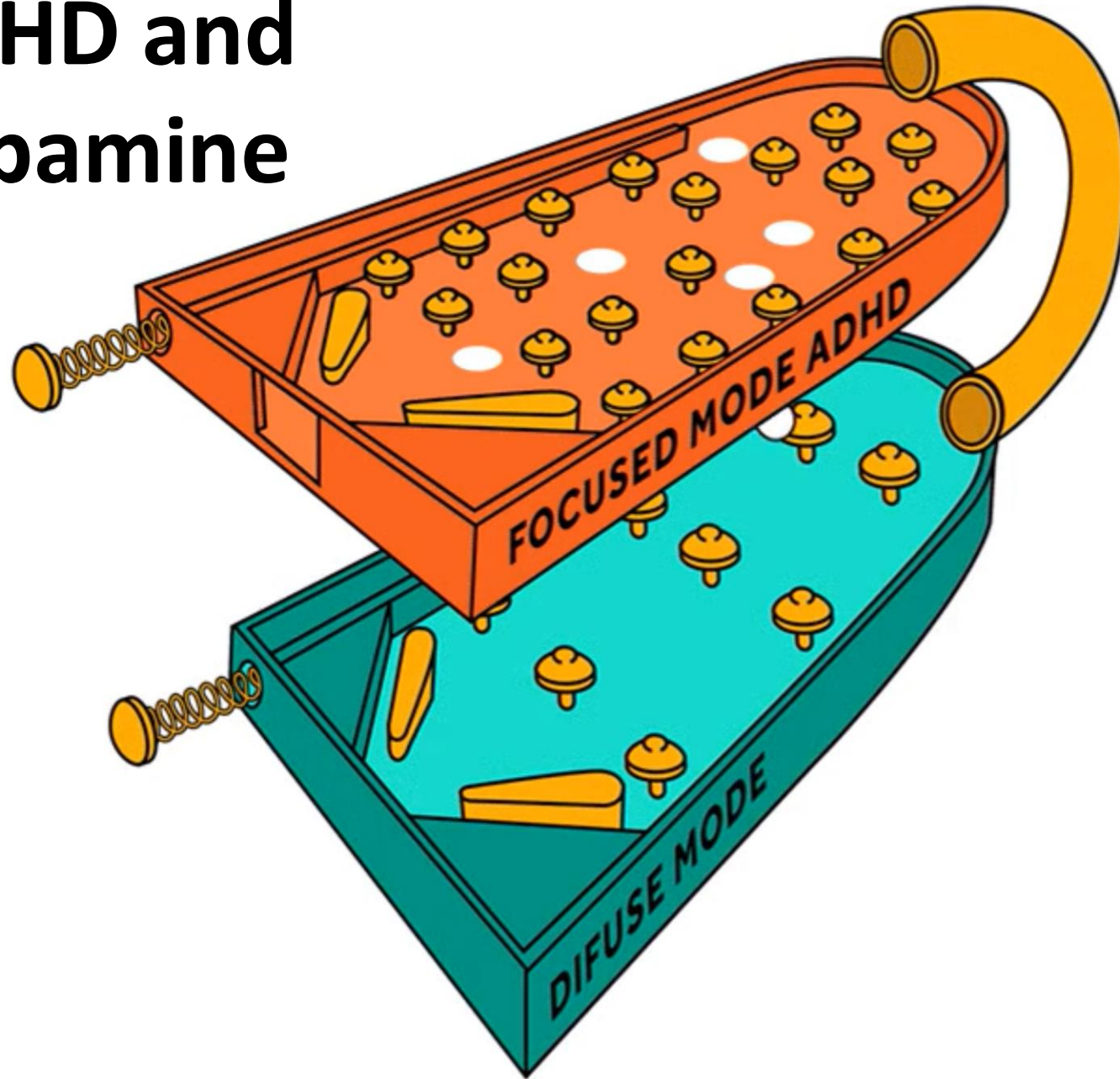


**FOCUSED MODE**



**DIFFUSE MODE**

# ADHD and dopamine



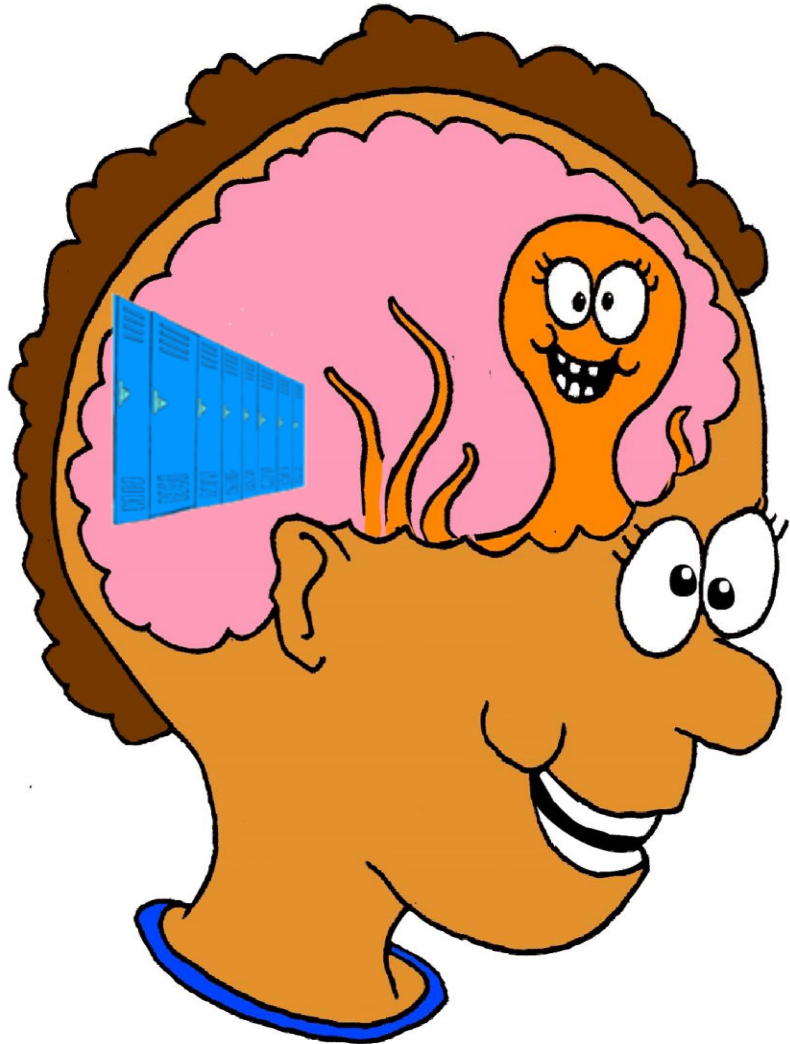


# Break Out Groups

- Introduce yourselves
- Describe the difference between focused and diffuse mode.

# Working memory

# Long-term memory

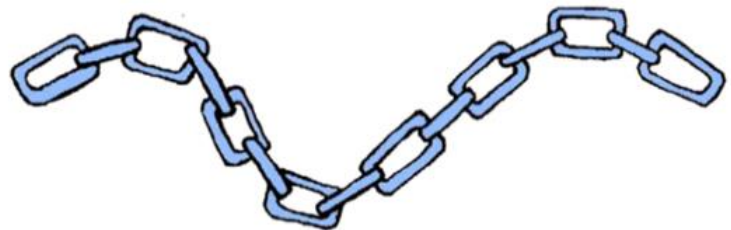
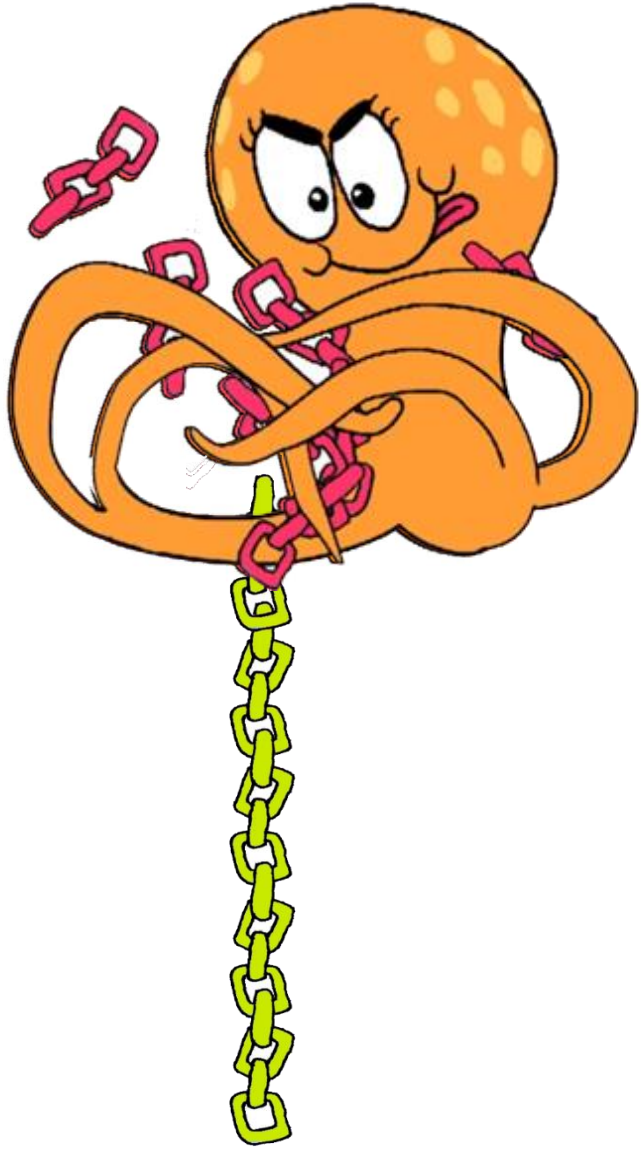


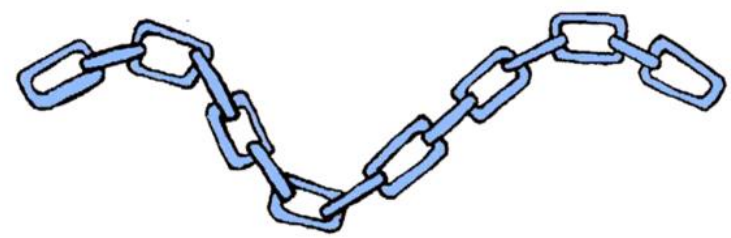
# Working memory



# Long-term memory

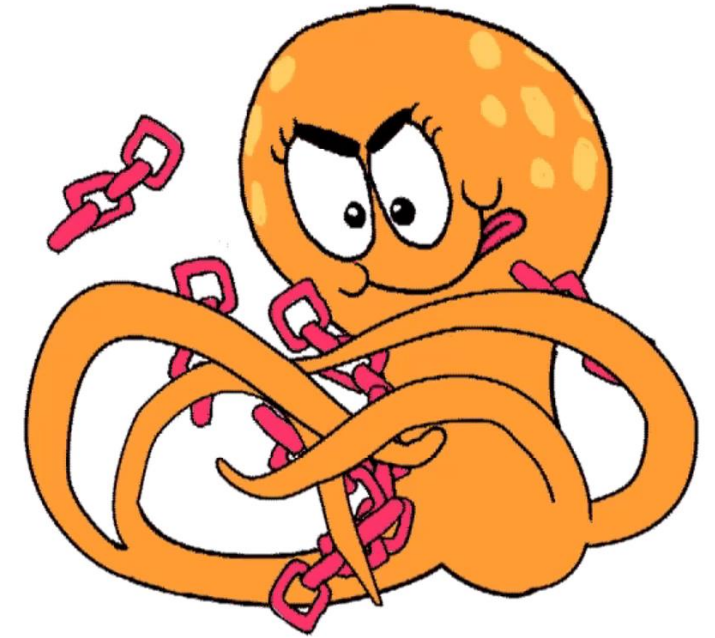






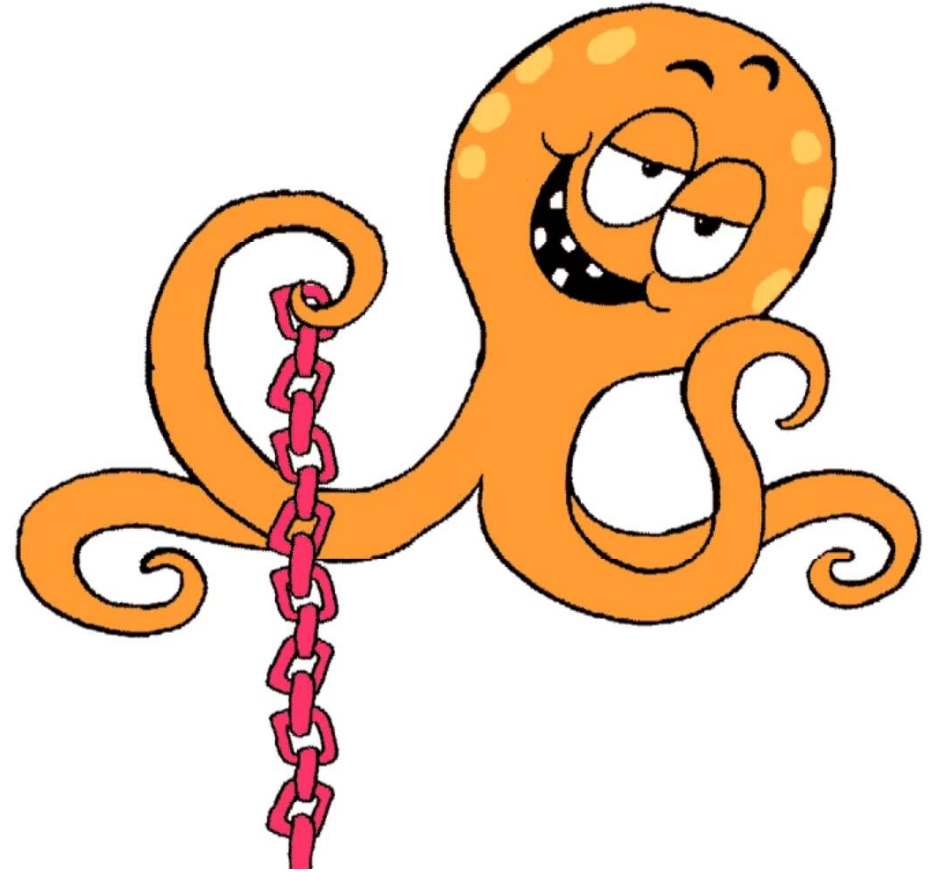




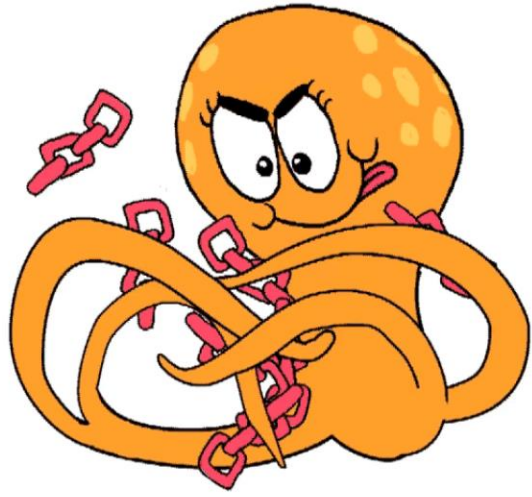


- Heavy cognitive load
- No working memory is available for anything else

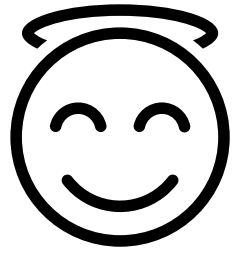




- Light cognitive load!
- Working memory is available for more complex thinking



Memory performance

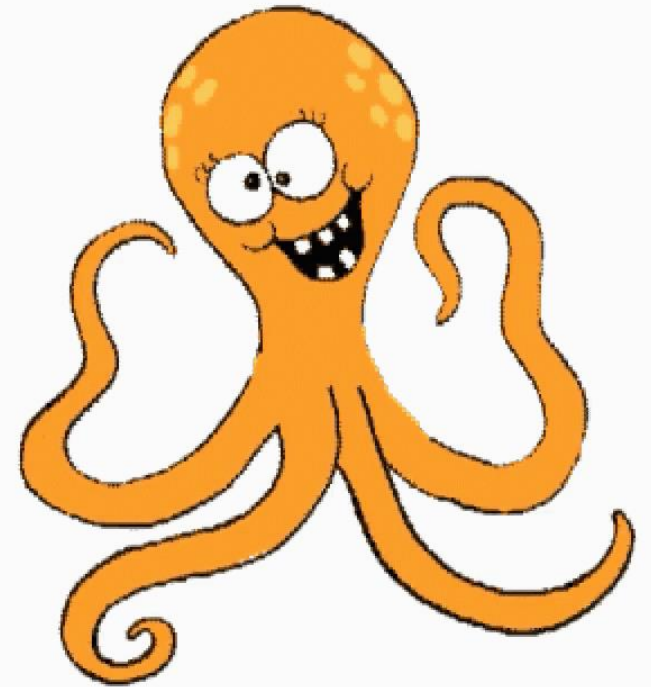


Optimum memory performance



Levels of stress-related hormones

# Working memory capacities vary



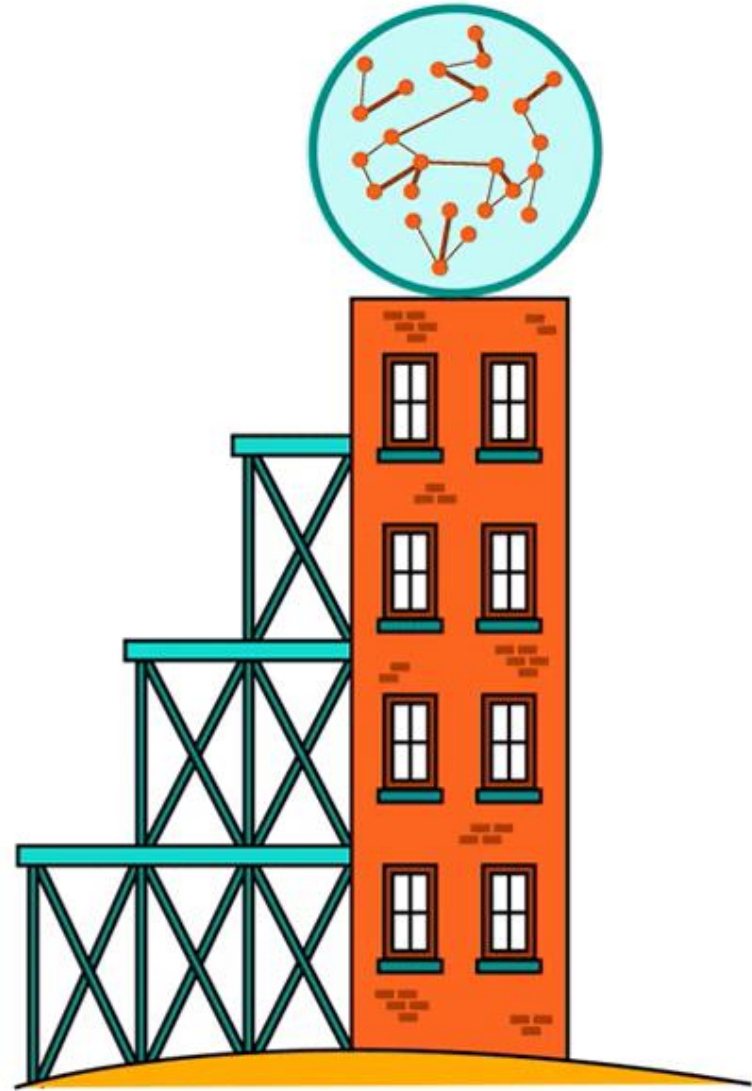
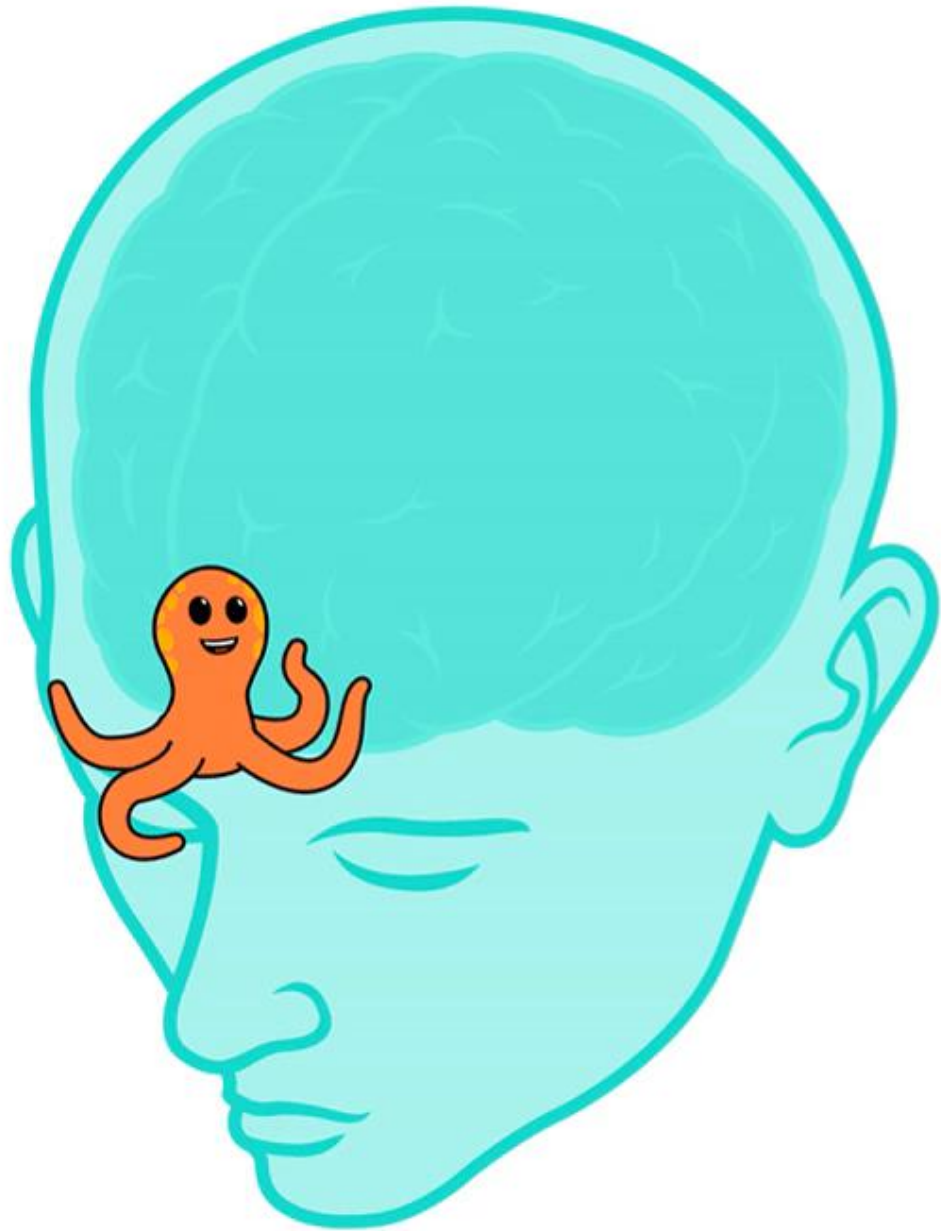


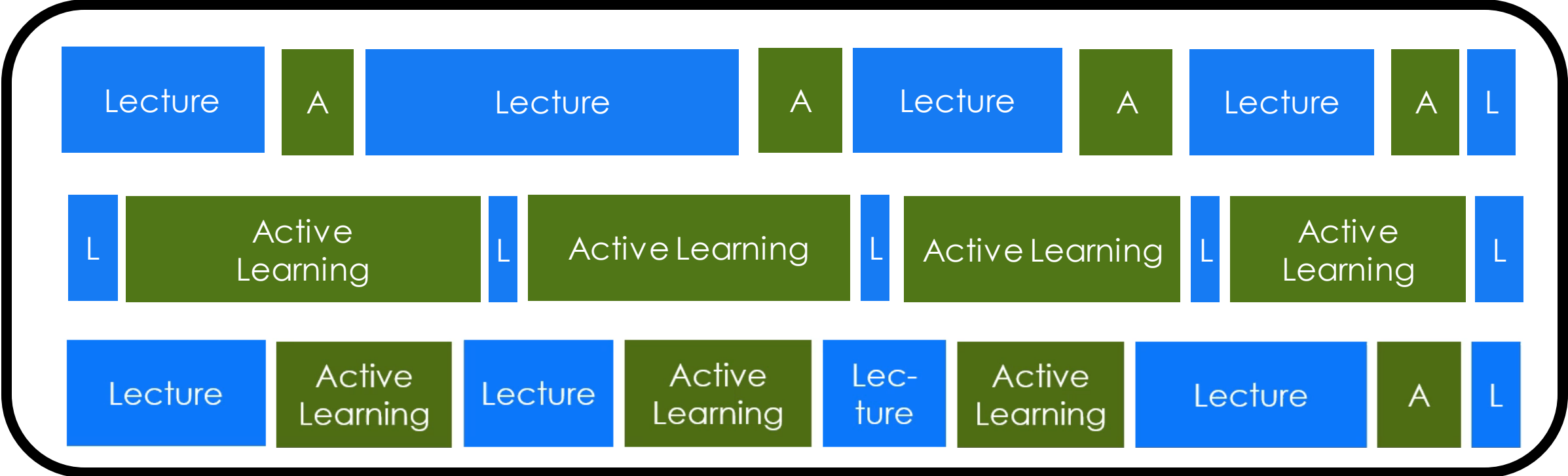


Photo by Erik van Leeuwen

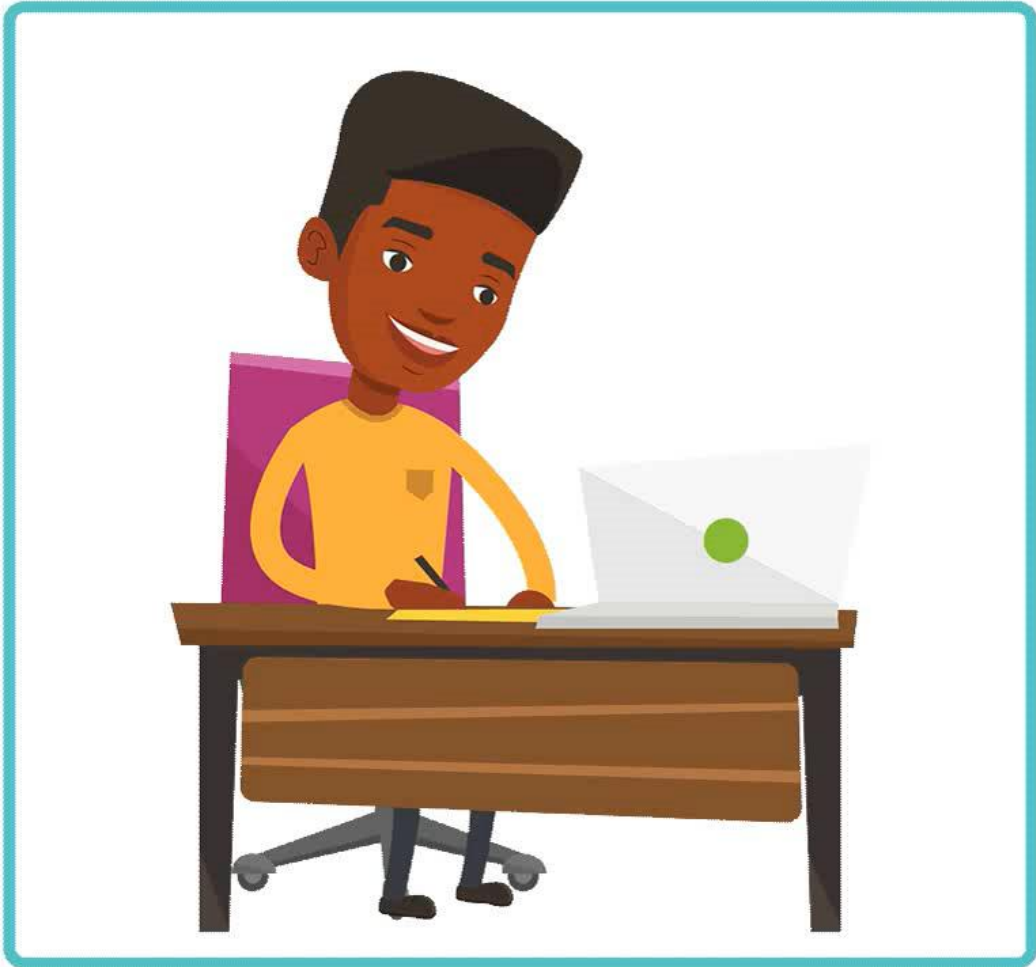
Julius Yego

Lecture

Active Learning



**Direct instruction**



Lecture

Active Learning

Lecture

Active Learning

Lecture

Active Learning

Lecture



Lecture

Active Learning

Lecture

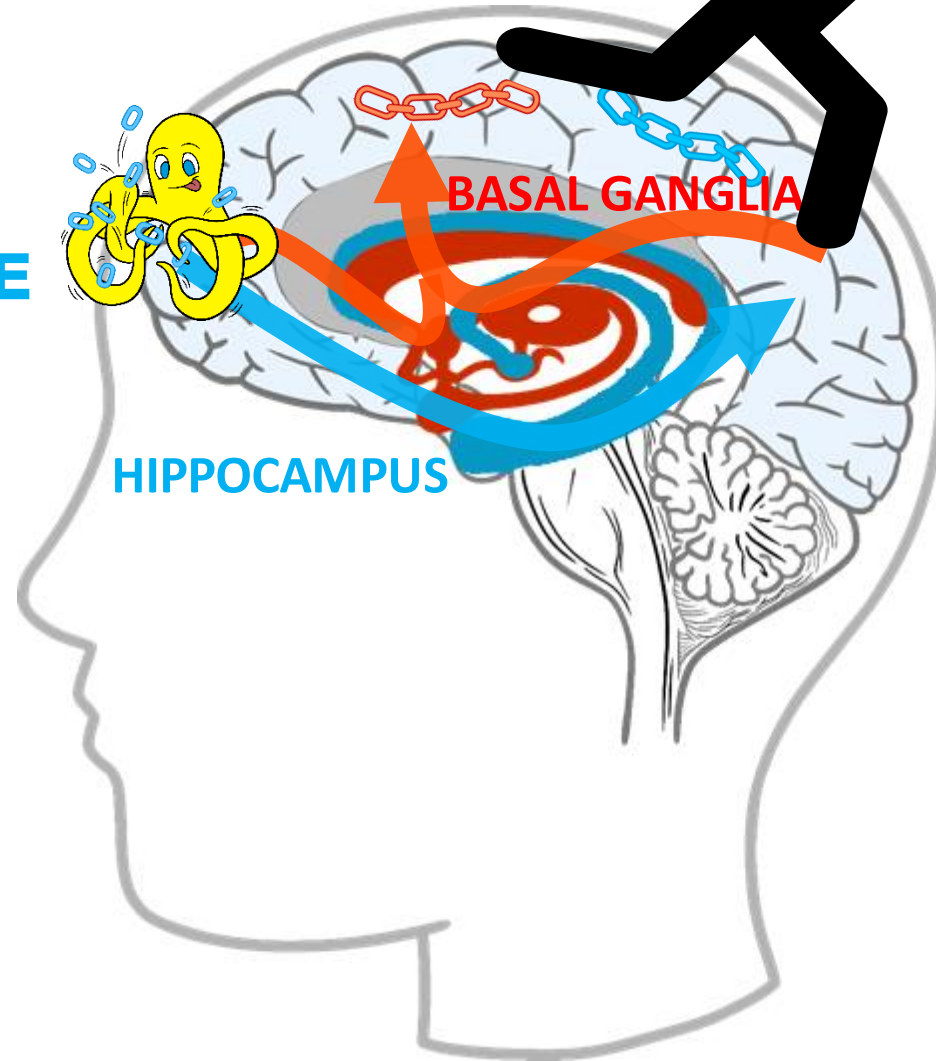
Active Learning

Lecture

Active Learning

Lecture

**DECLARATIVE**



**HIPPOCAMPUS**

**BASAL GANGLIA**

**PROCEDURAL**



# DECLARATIVE



# PROCEDURAL

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

SPACED REPETITION

EXPLANATION

INTERLEAVING

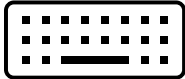


## DECLARATIVE

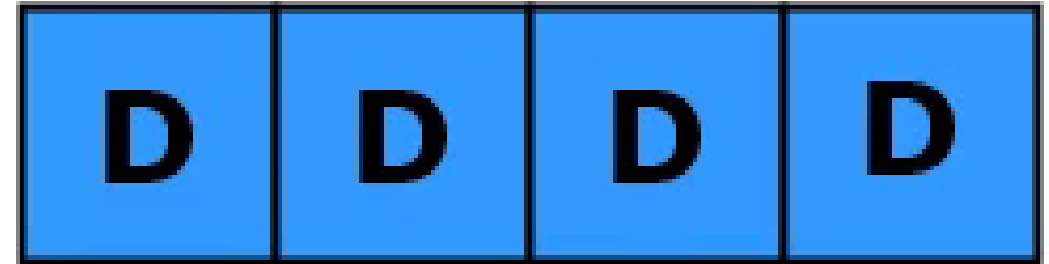
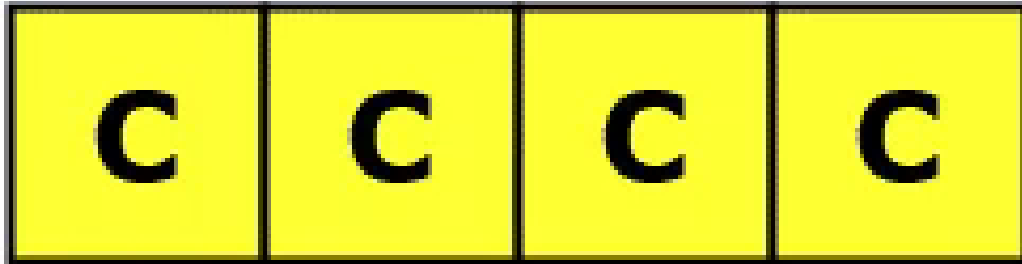
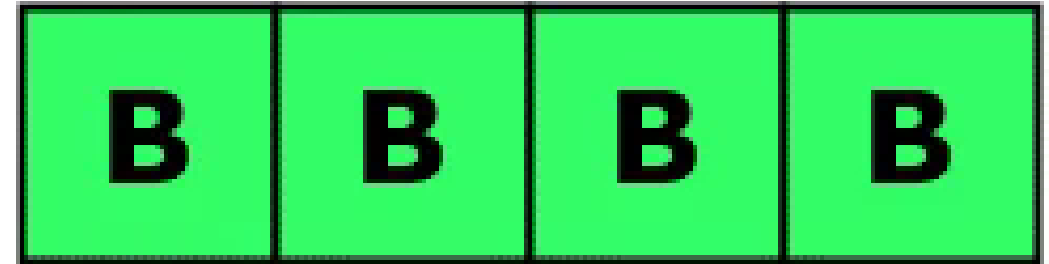
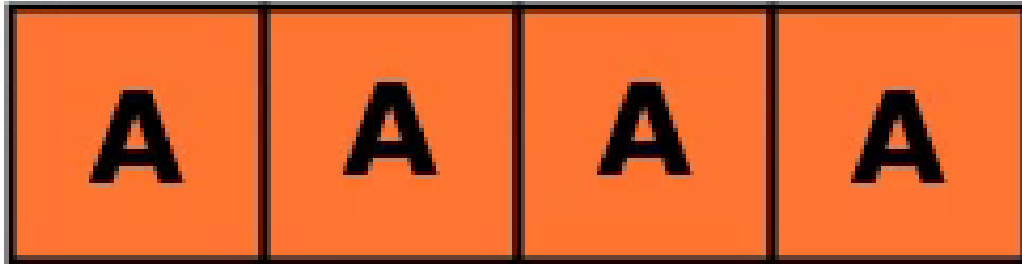
- You're mostly conscious of it
- Develops through explicit instruction
- You can explain it.
- Involves sequential tasks.
- Fast to learn, slow to use.
- Flexible



## PROCEDURAL

- You're not conscious of it
- Develops through *practice*
- You can't explain it (or not easily)
- Involves complex patterns
- Slow to learn, fast to use
- Inflexible 

# Blocking versus Interleaving



# Interleaving

## Plain Assignment

Topic 7 problem 4

Topic 7 problem 9

Topic 7 problem 15

Topic 7 problem 17

Topic 7 problem 22

## Interleaved Assignment

Topic 7 problem 4

*Topic 4 problem 8*

Topic 7 problem 9

*Topic 6 problem 26*

Topic 7 problem 15

*Topic 5 problem 18*

Topic 7 problem 17

# Interleaving in language learning

- Present
- Past
- Future

**Be careful with  
your interleaving!**



# Flash Anzan





# Shiritori

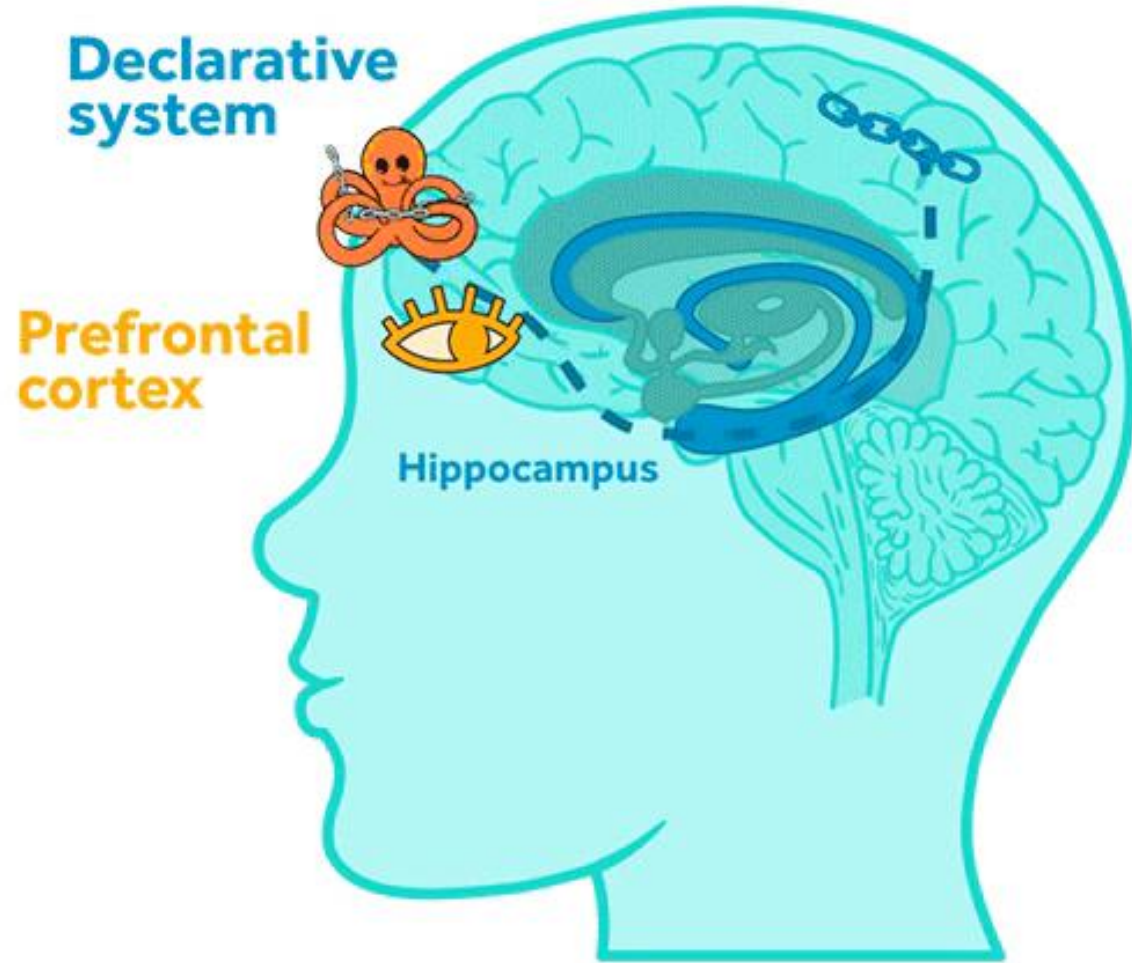
# Shiritori *with* Flash Anzan





Interleaving

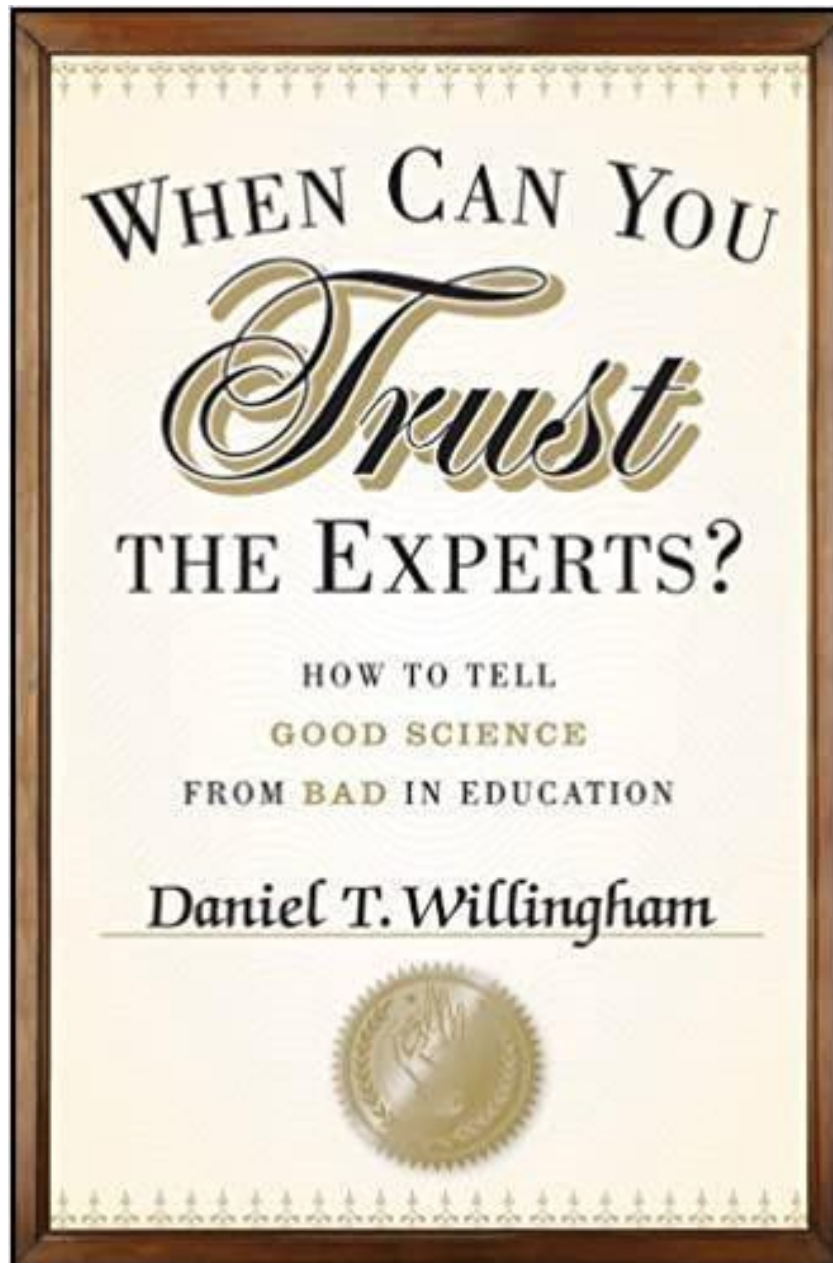
# How do links become procedural?



**When you eliminate rote learning  
(“Drill  and kill”)**

You eliminate the easiest, best way  
the brain has to handle routine  
learning tasks.

***Drill to skill!***



**Educators fall into  
two groups:**

**Understand the world through:**

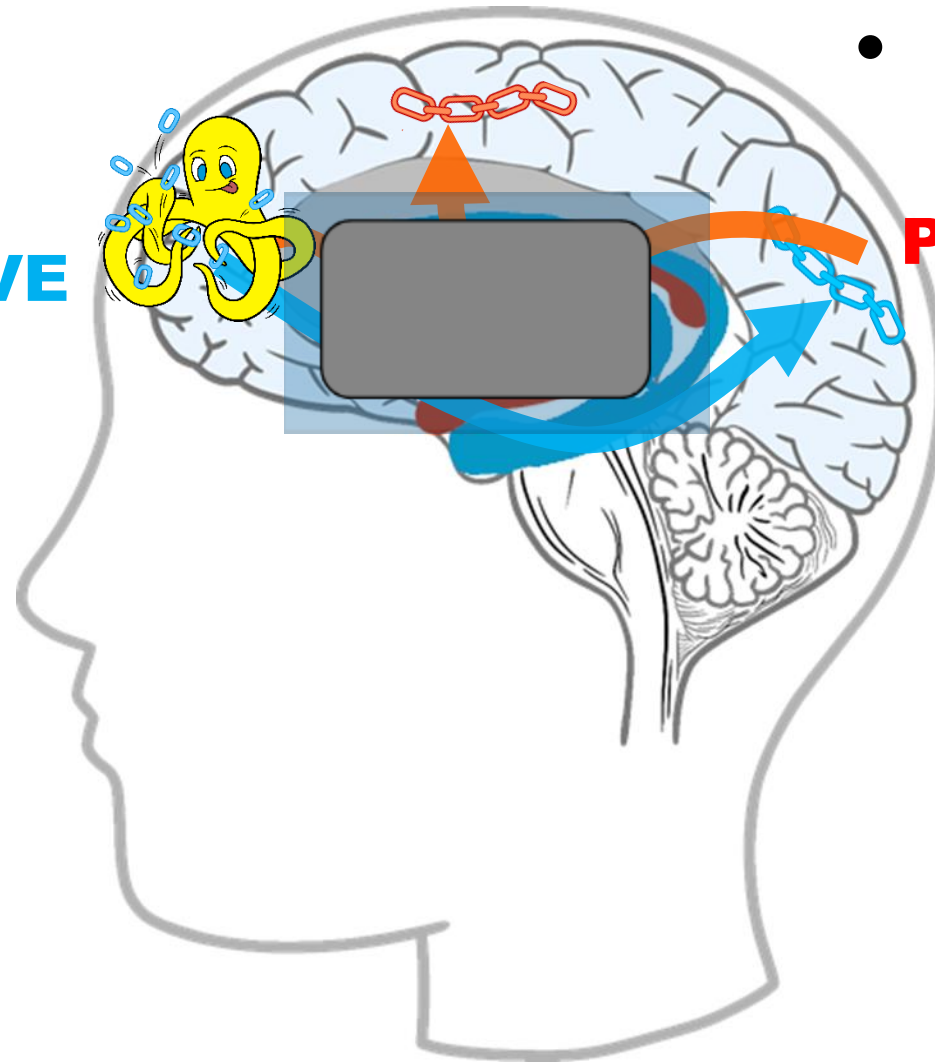
- **Reason**
- **Experience**

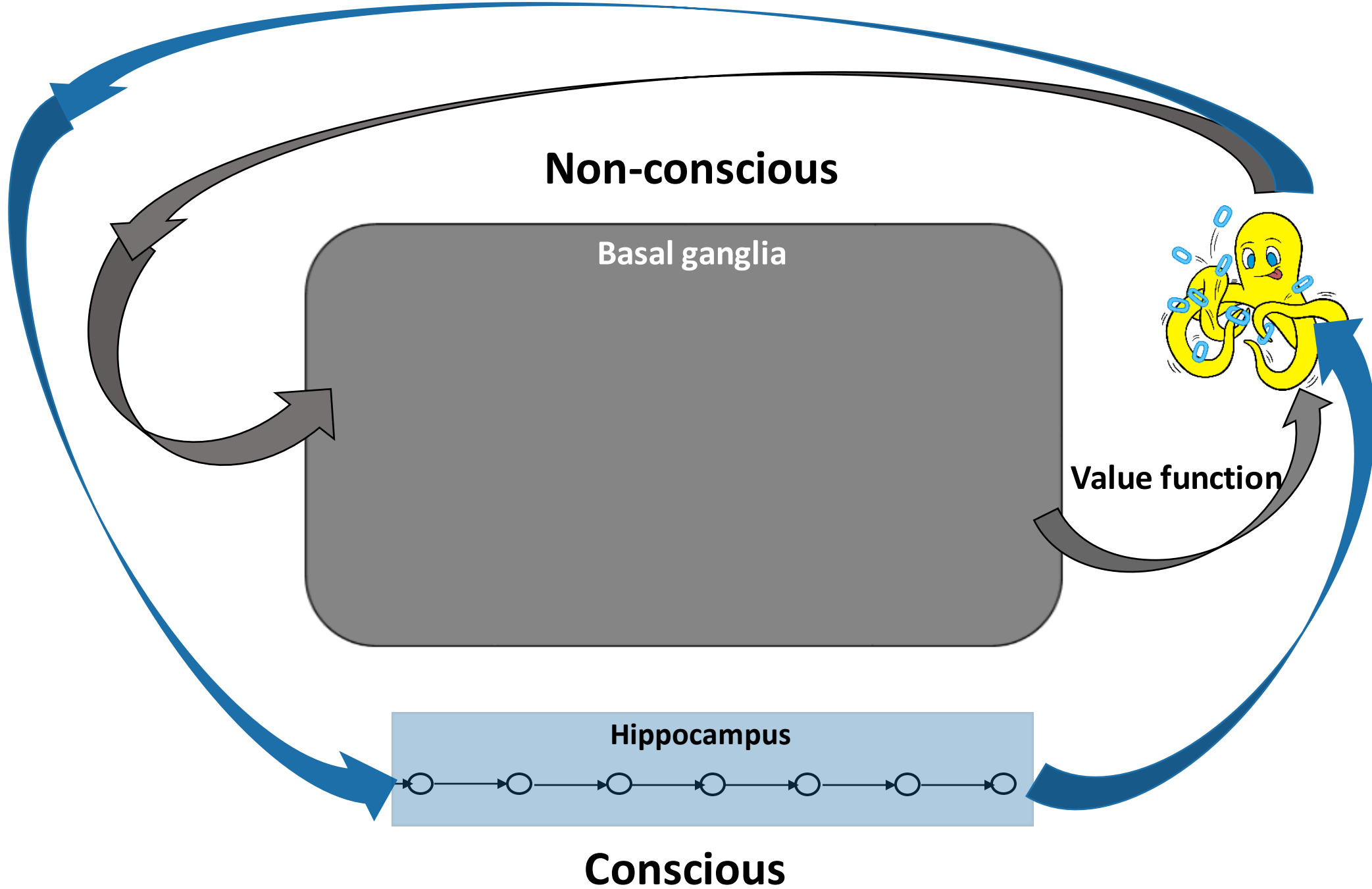
- Reason

- Experience

**DECLARATIVE**

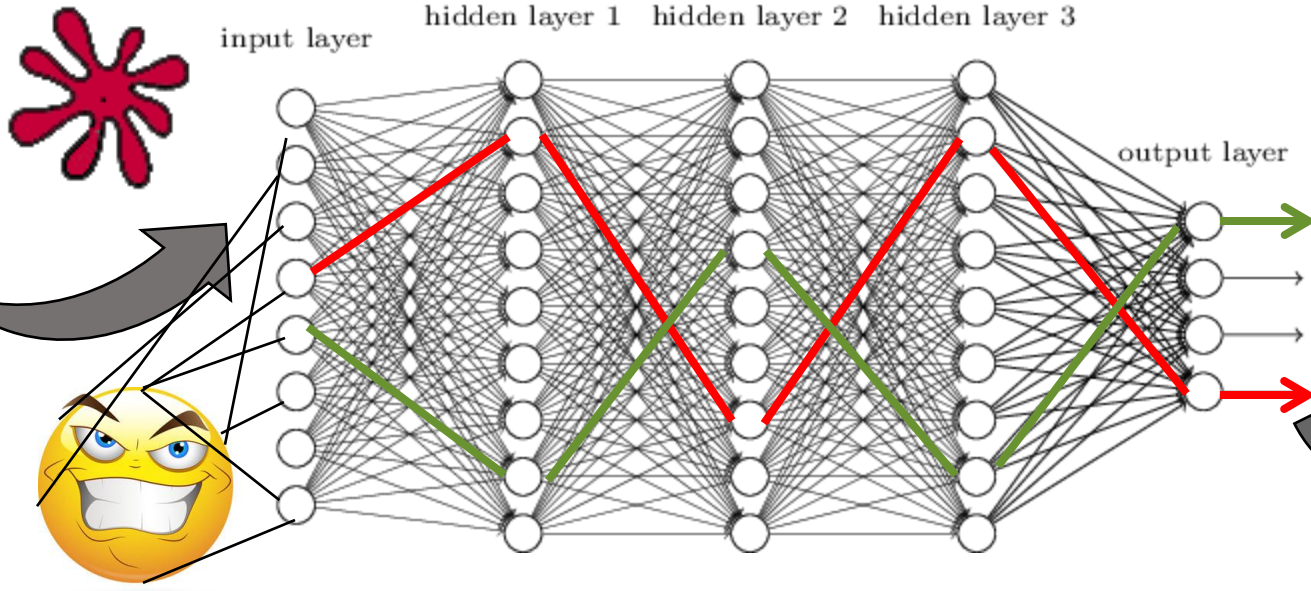
**PROCEDURAL**



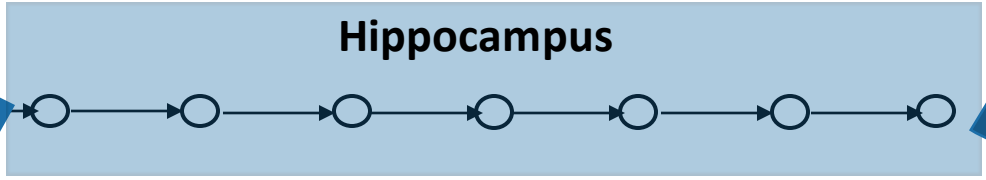




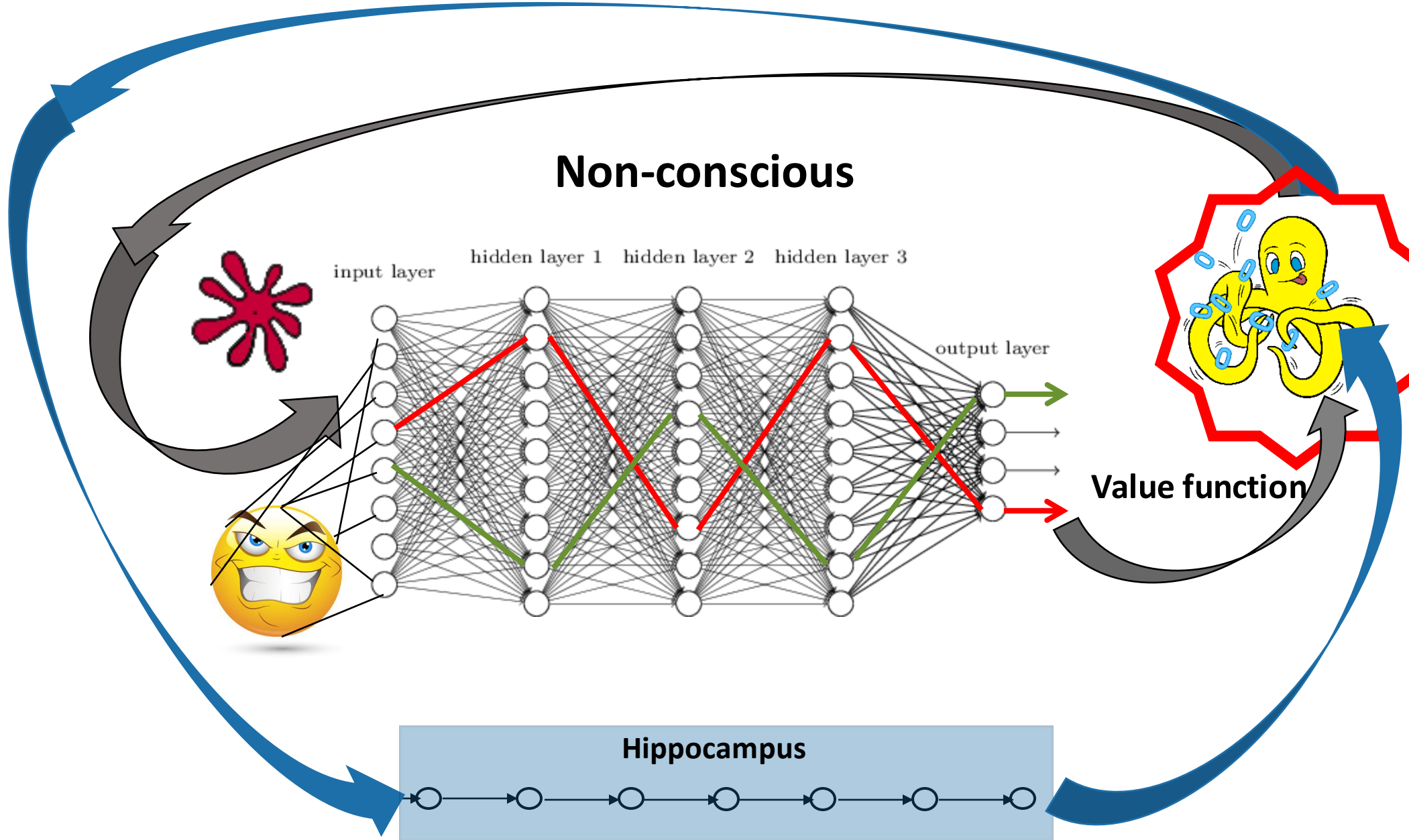
# Non-conscious



Value function

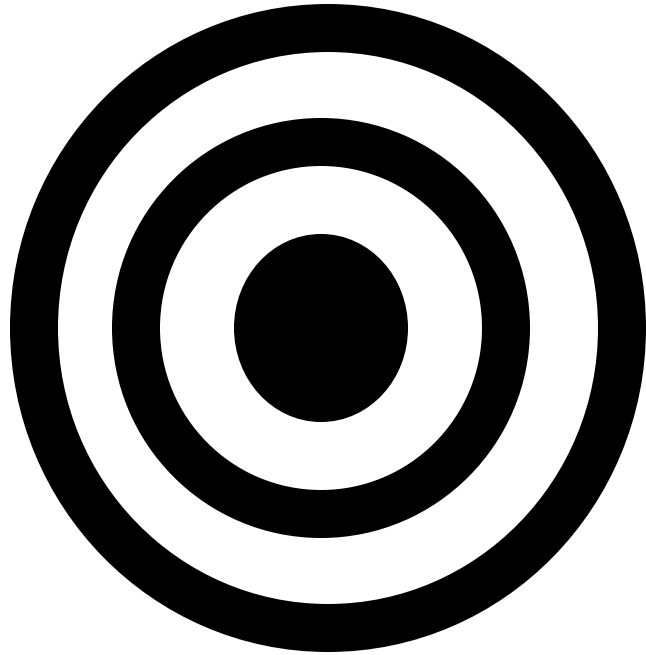


# Conscious

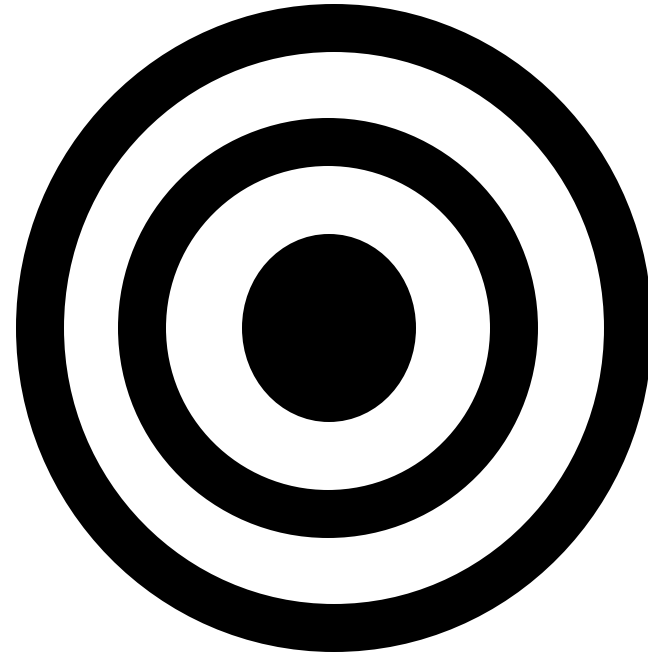


# Characteristics of fast versus slow learners

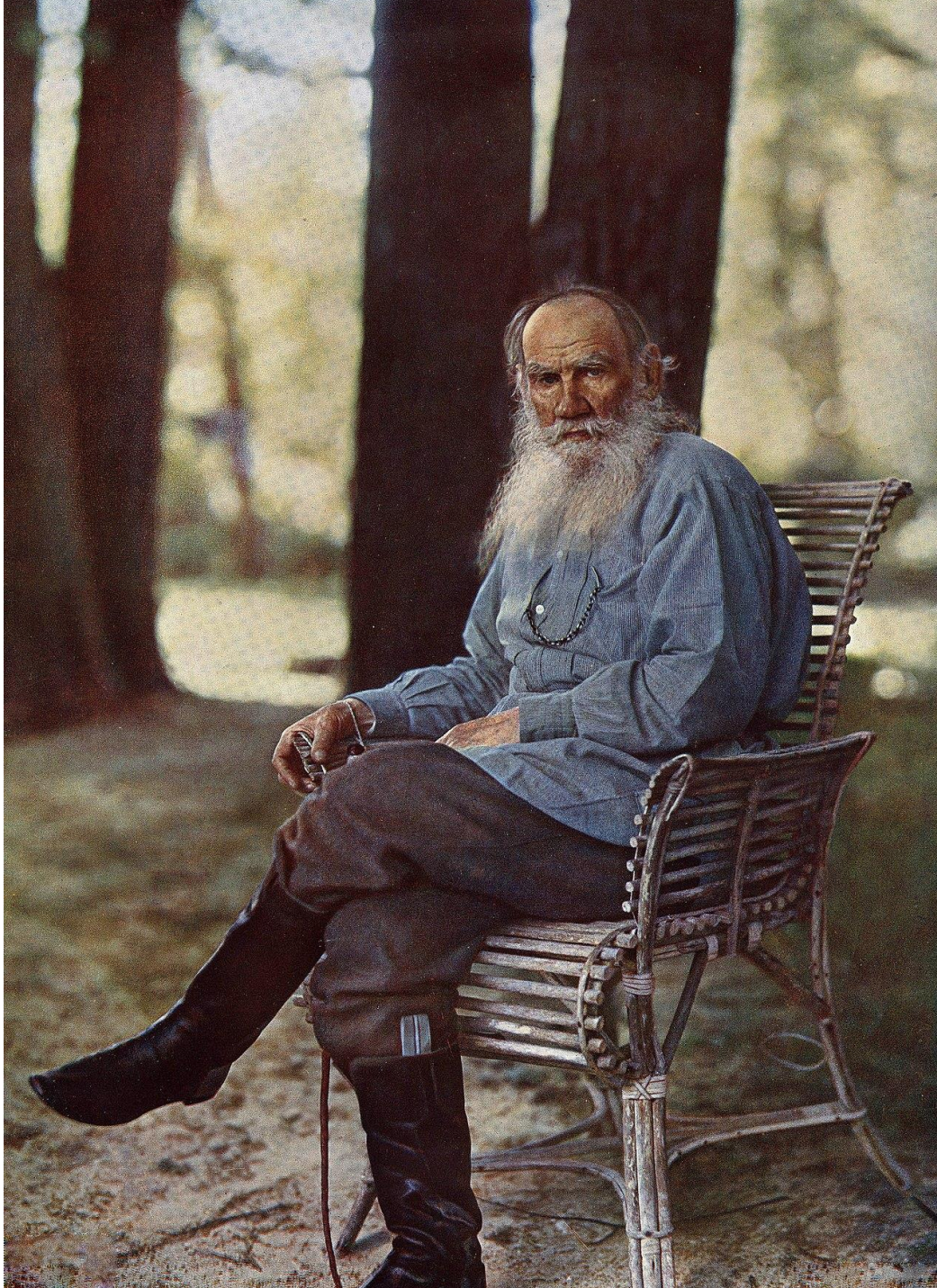
- Fast but often inaccurate
- Slow but more accurate



Inflexible



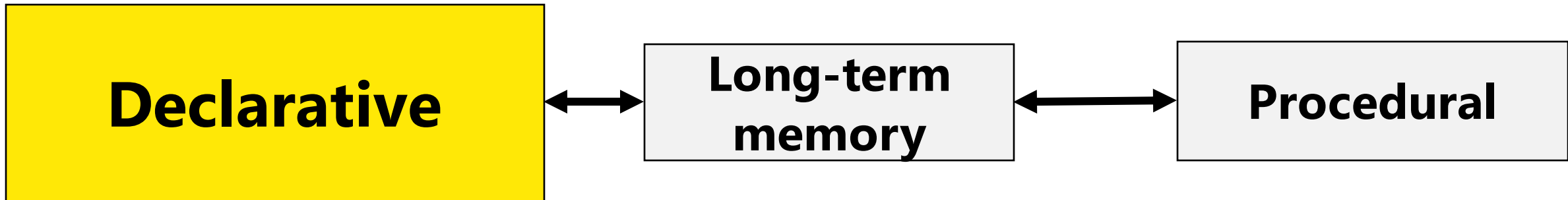
Flexible

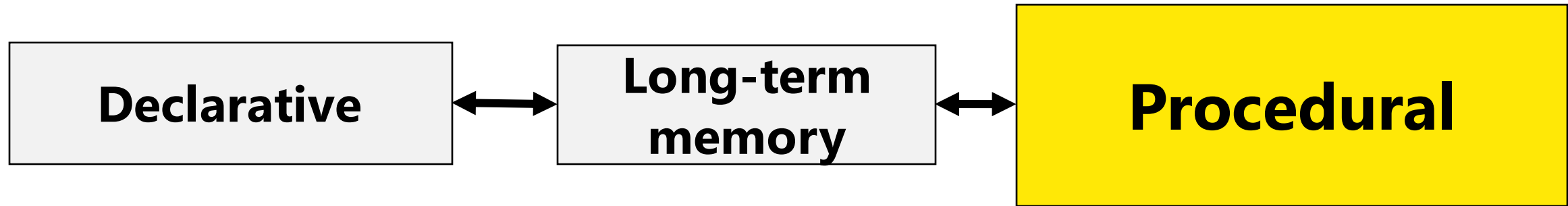


# Leo Tolstoy

“...the simplest thing cannot be made clear to the most intelligent man if he is firmly persuaded that he knows already, without a shadow of doubt, what is laid before him.”









- Learning through one system can inhibit learning through the other
- Word-laden math impedes those with dyslexia

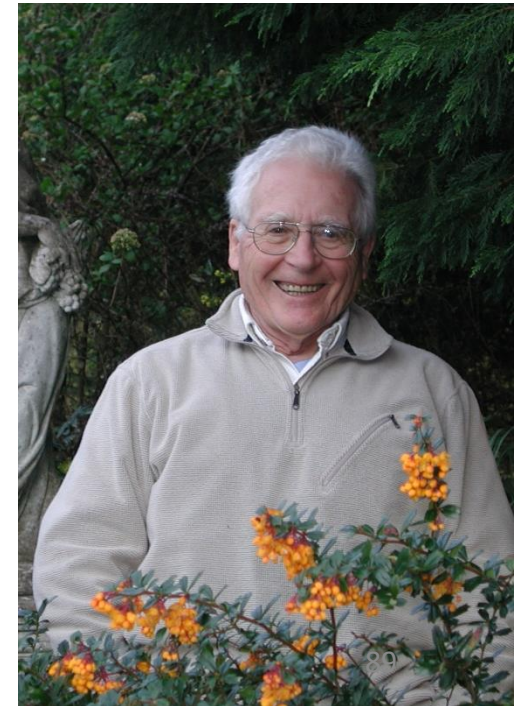
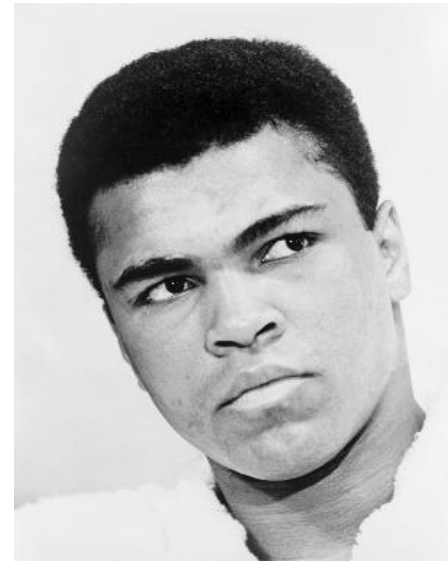
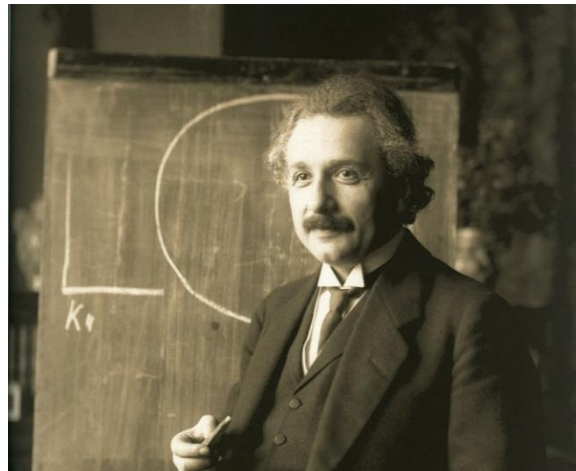
# Dyslexia

Robinson and Goway (1988, unpublished) reported significant improvement in subjects using the course in all the 90-word section, basic academic subjects, reading comprehension, reading accuracy, but not in rate of reading. Adler and Wood (1987) evaluated the results of 11th grades on 23 remedial high school students and a matched control group. Significant improvement for the experimental group was noted for time needed to locate words on a printed page, timed reading scores, length of time for sustained reading, and span of recall, as well as other perceptual tasks. Additionally, seven of the 23 experimental found employment, but none of the control group was employed by the end of the semester.

In contrast, Winters (1987) was unable to find differences in his study. Winters gave 15 elementary school children four minutes to locate and circle 68 examples of the letter "b" on these pages, each page of which contained 600 random letters in 20 lines of



# Nature loves heterogeneity —Terrence Sejnowski

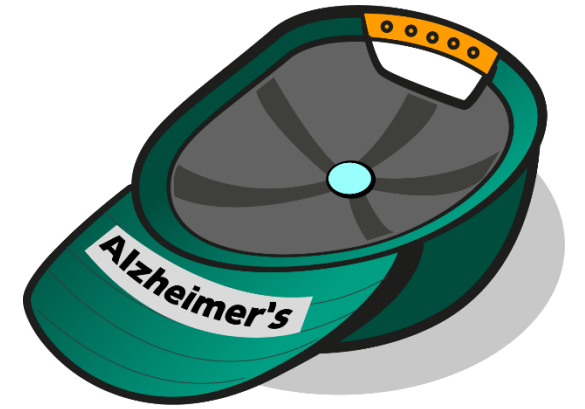




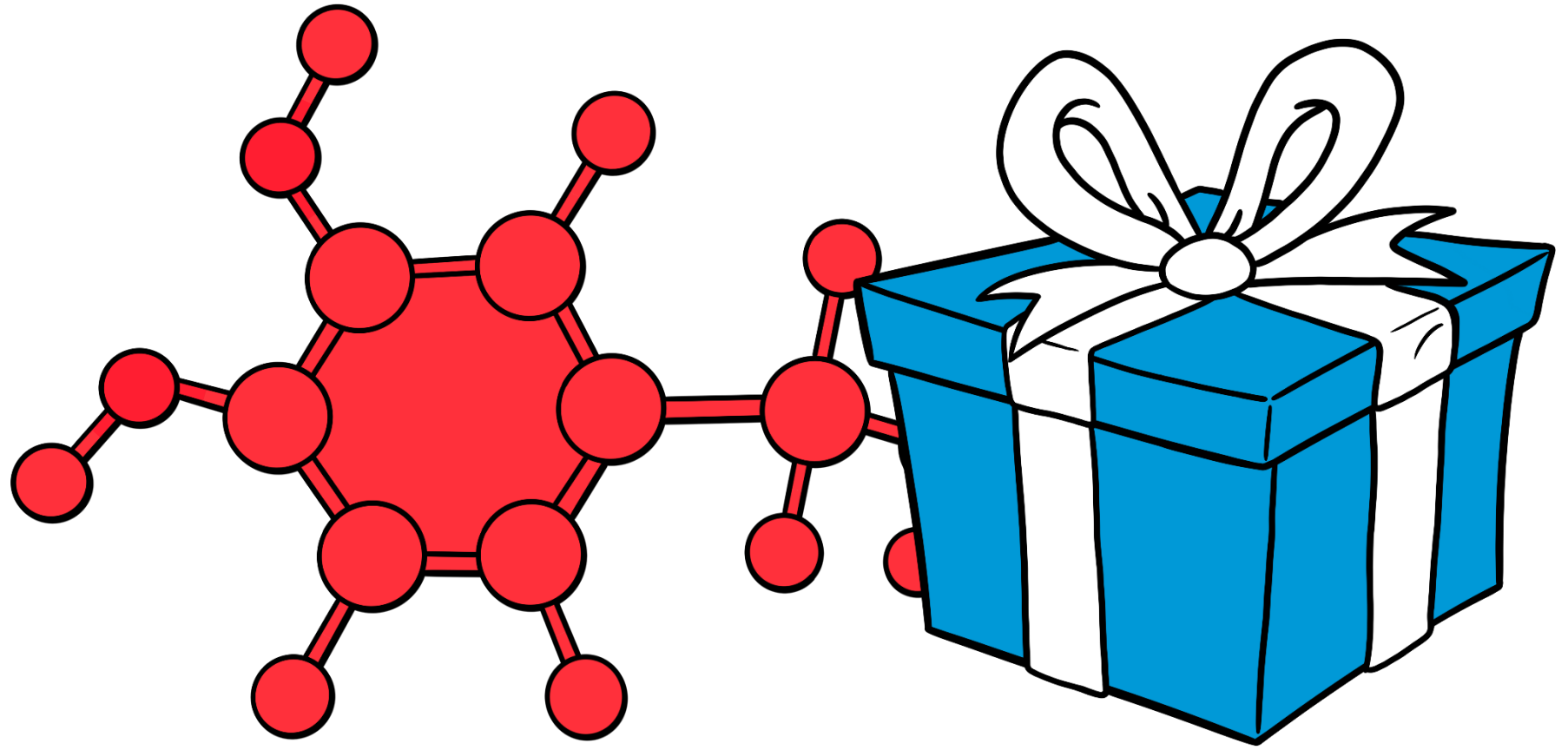




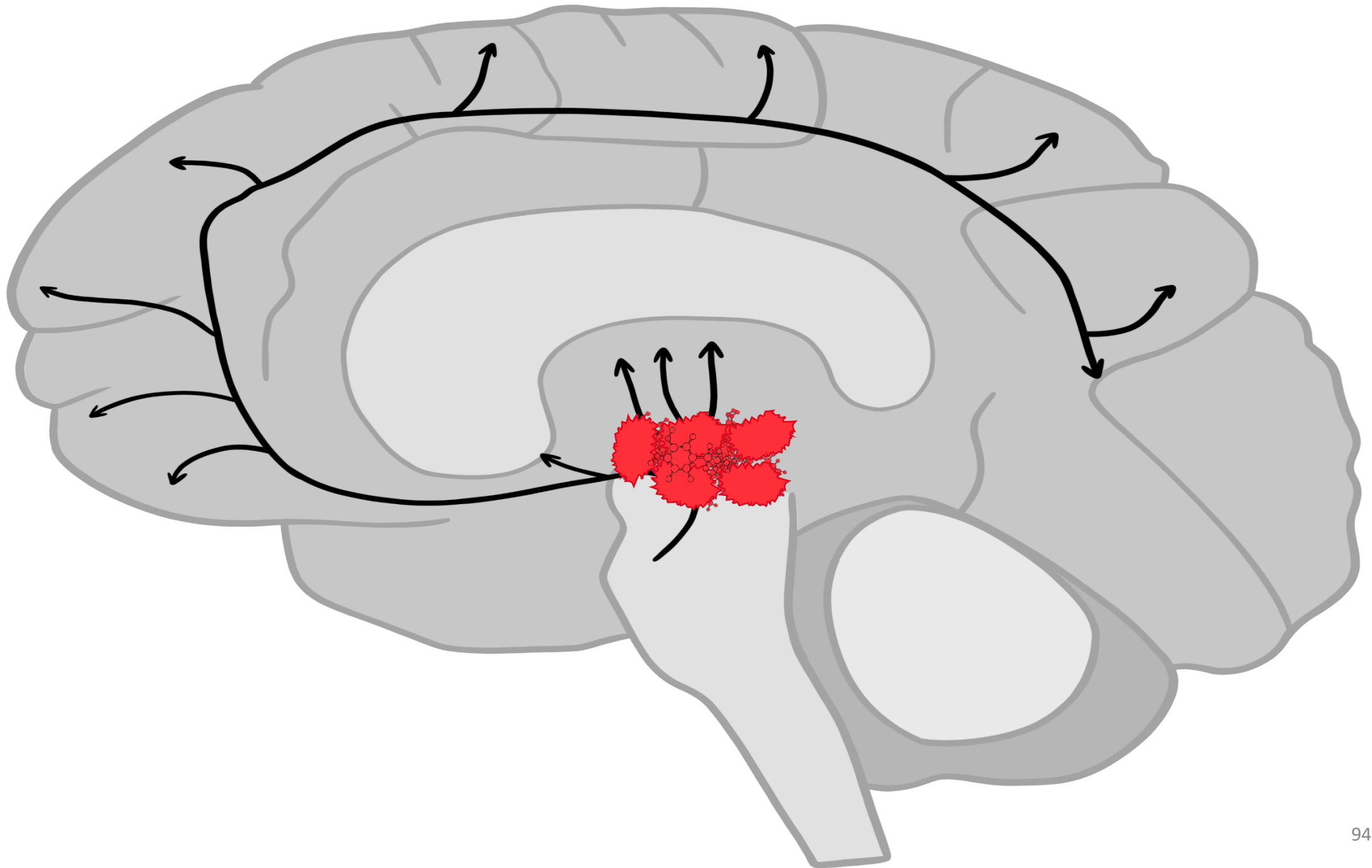
**Parkinson**

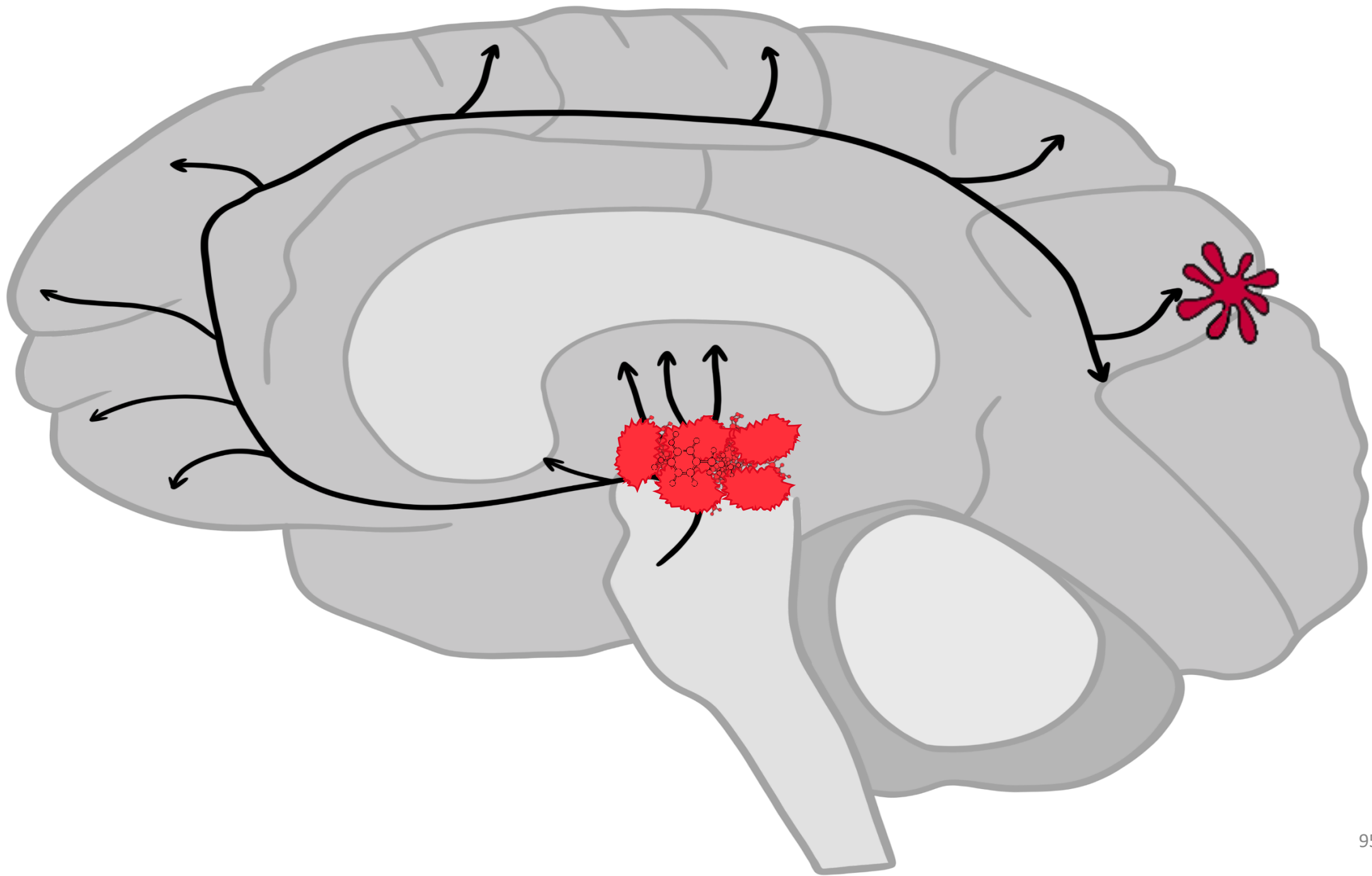


**“Map Habit”**



Dopamine—the “feel good molecule”







Mice with inactivated dopamine systems *can't learn anything new.*



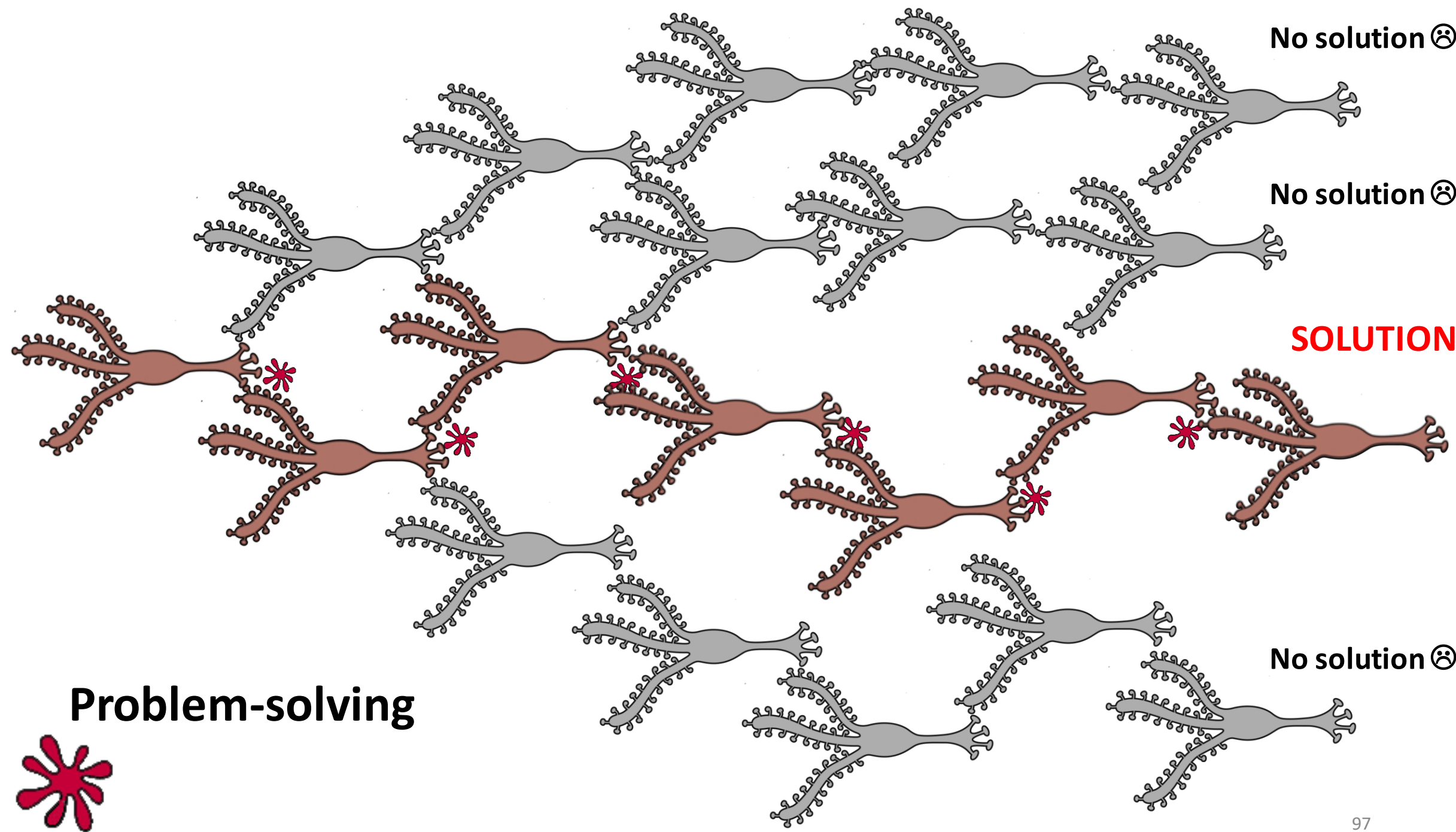
No solution ☹️

No solution ☹️

**SOLUTION!**

No solution ☹️

**Problem-solving**



Hooks & curiosity suppress  
diffuse mode and enhance  
focus

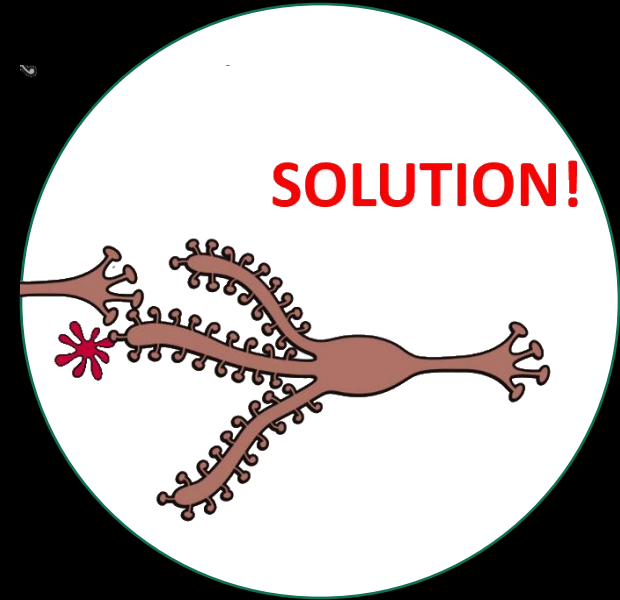
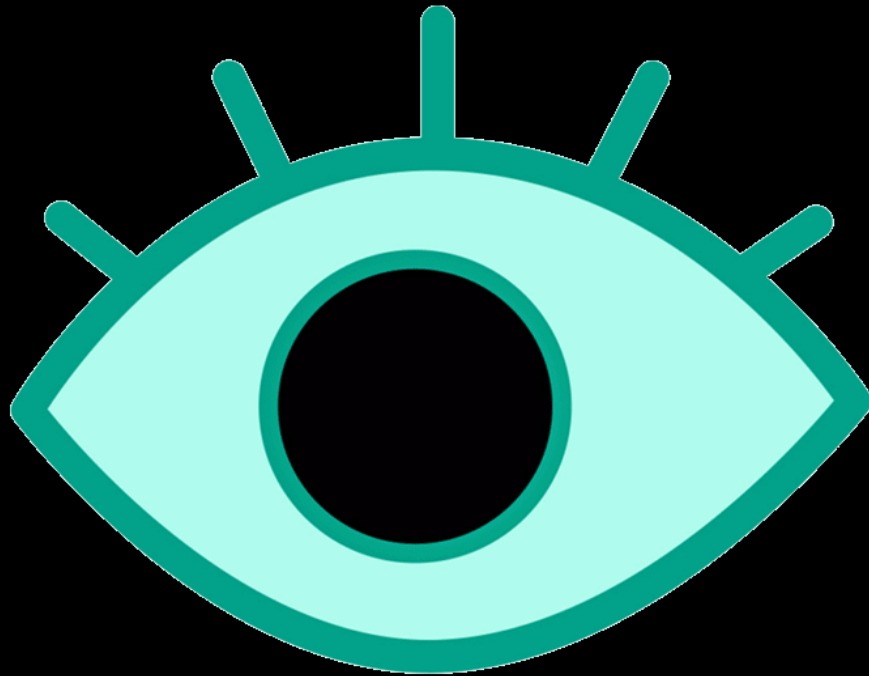




Photo by Erik van Leeuwen

Julius Yego



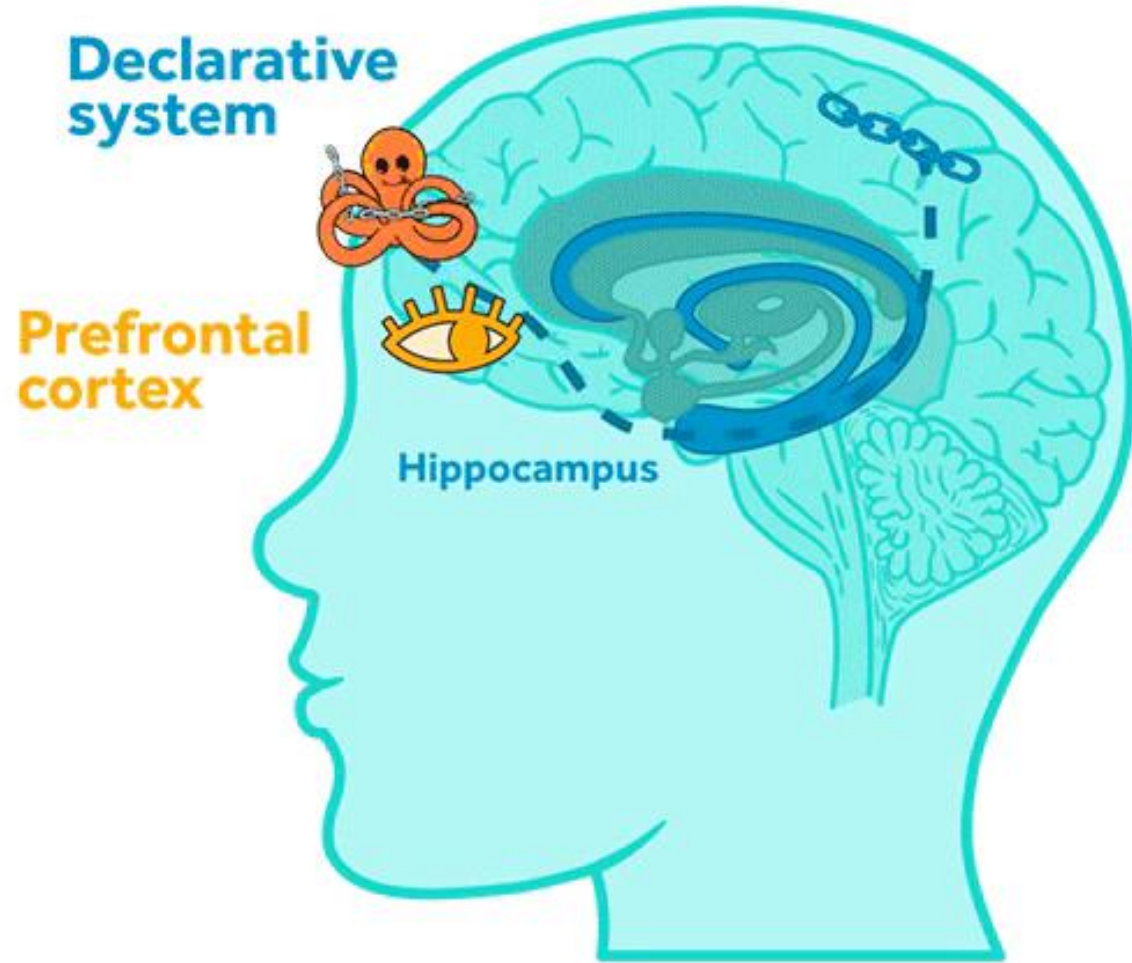
# TRADITIONAL MATH

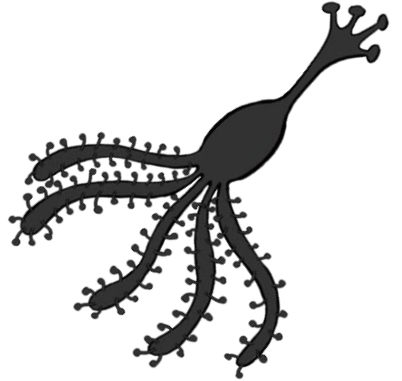
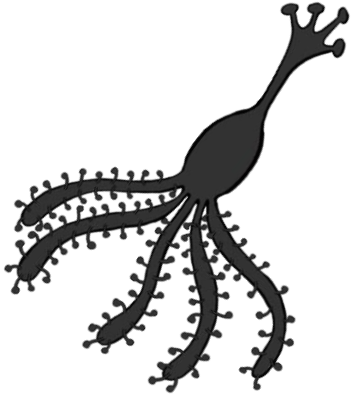
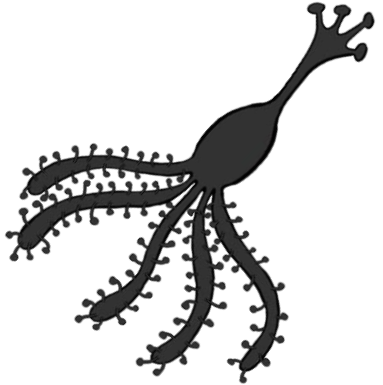
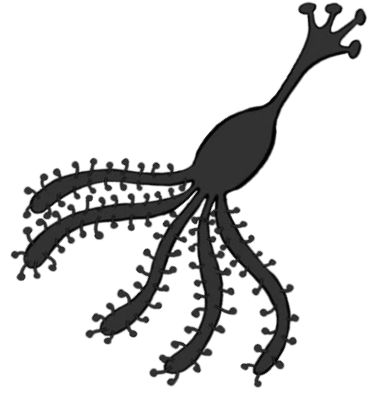
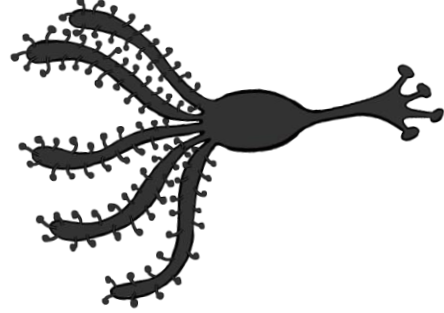
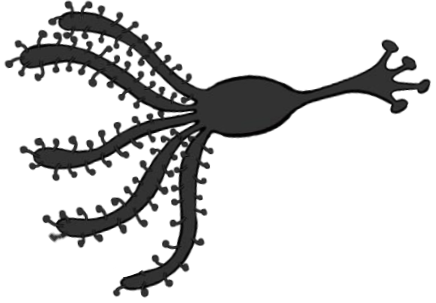
AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY THAT  
TEACHERS FEEL GUILTY USING

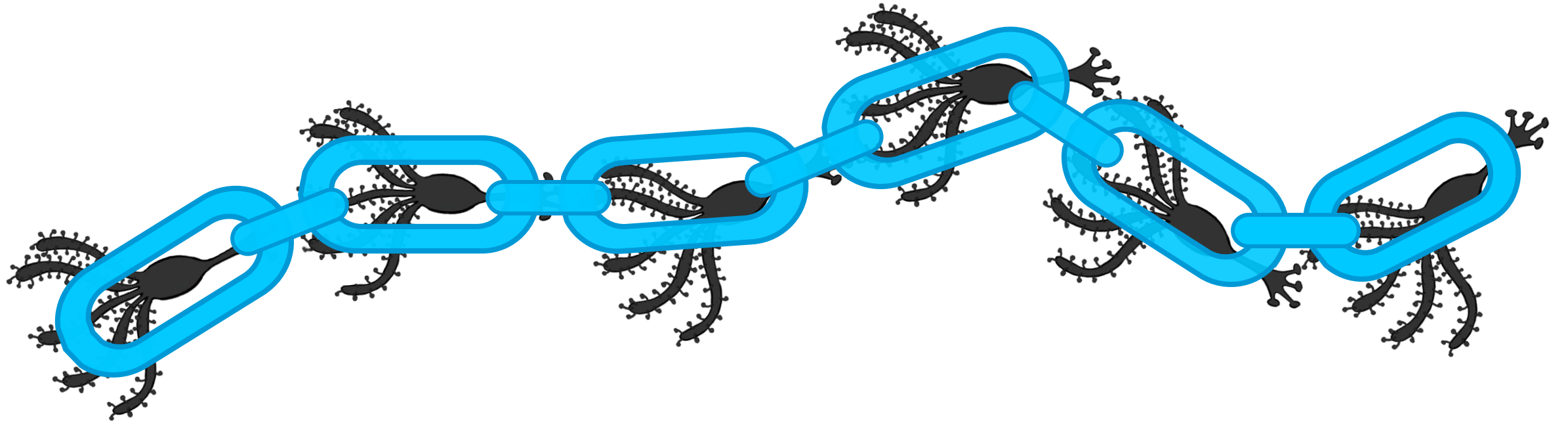


BARRY GARELICK & J. R. WILSON

# How do links become procedural?



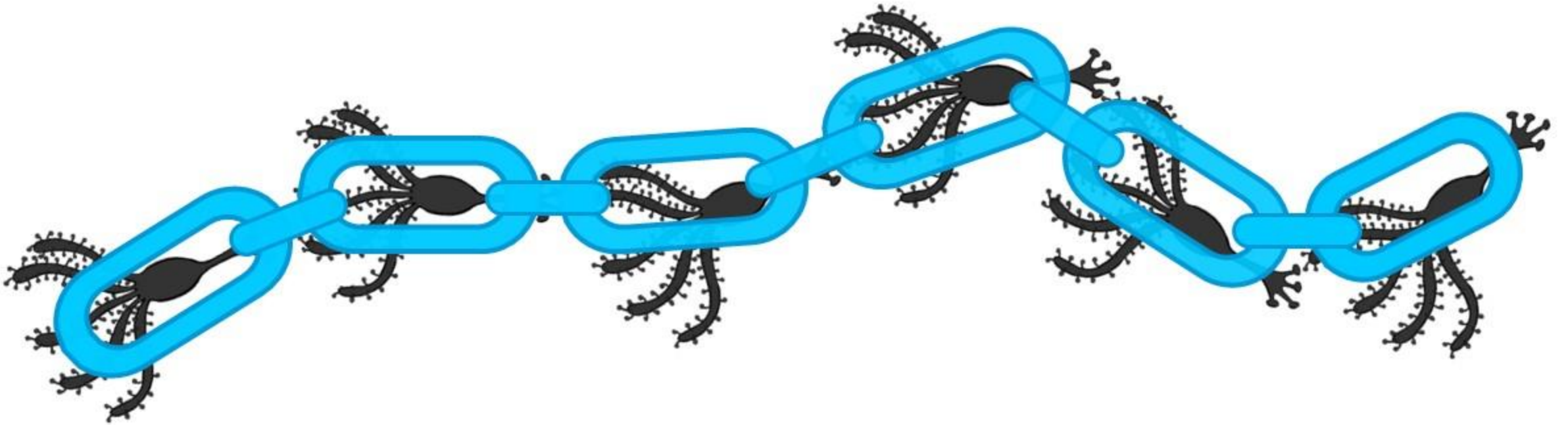






**How does the brain  
construct conceptions?**

**Through map-making!**



**How does the brain  
construct conceptions?**

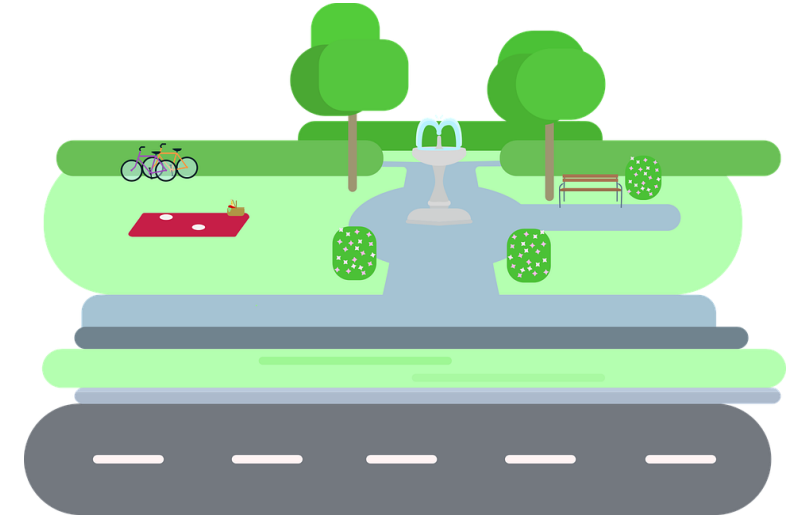
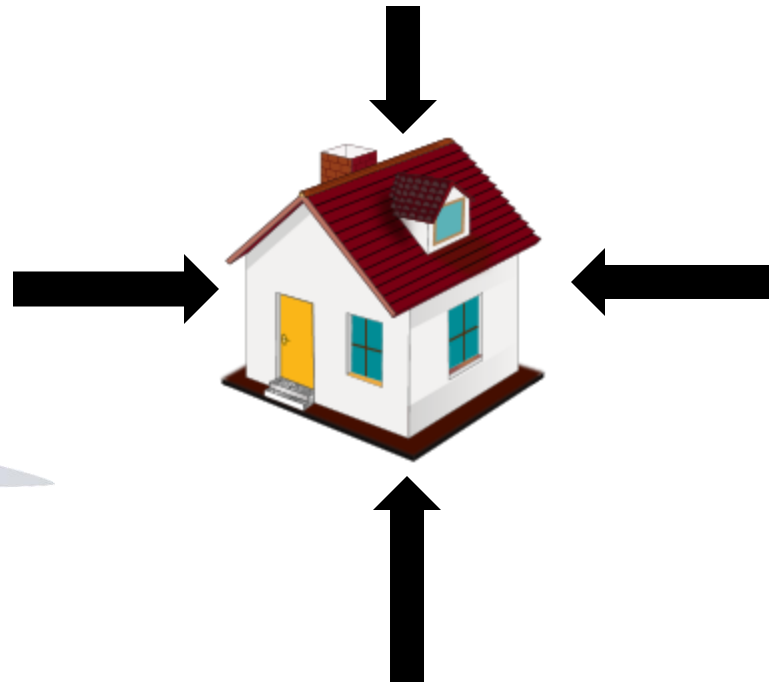
**Through map-making!**



How does the brain construct conceptions?



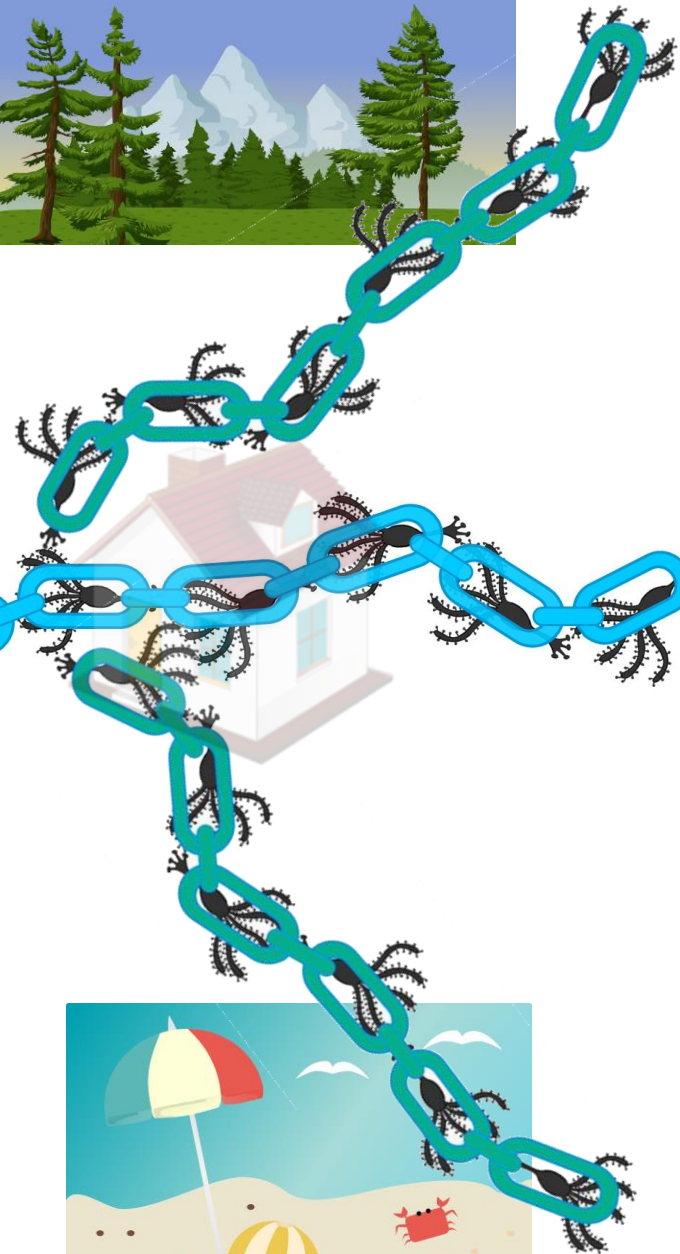
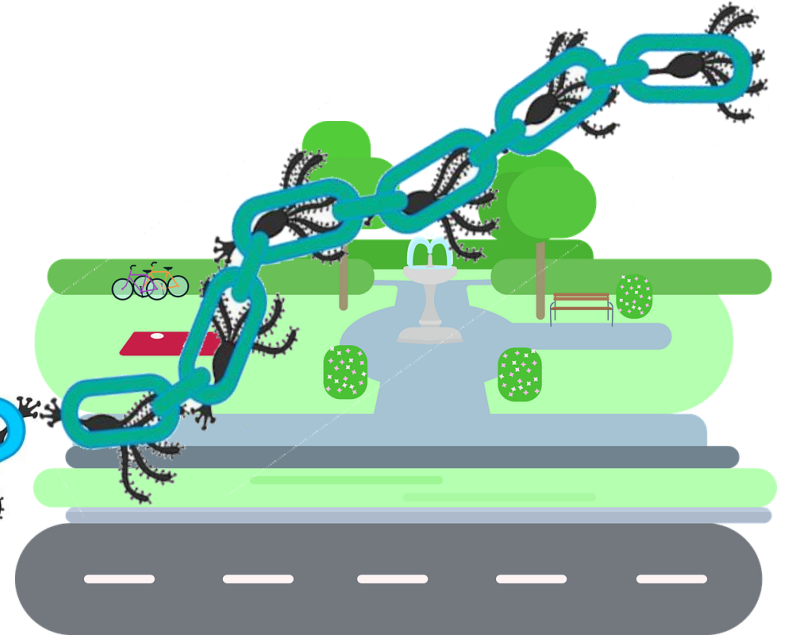
Through map-making!

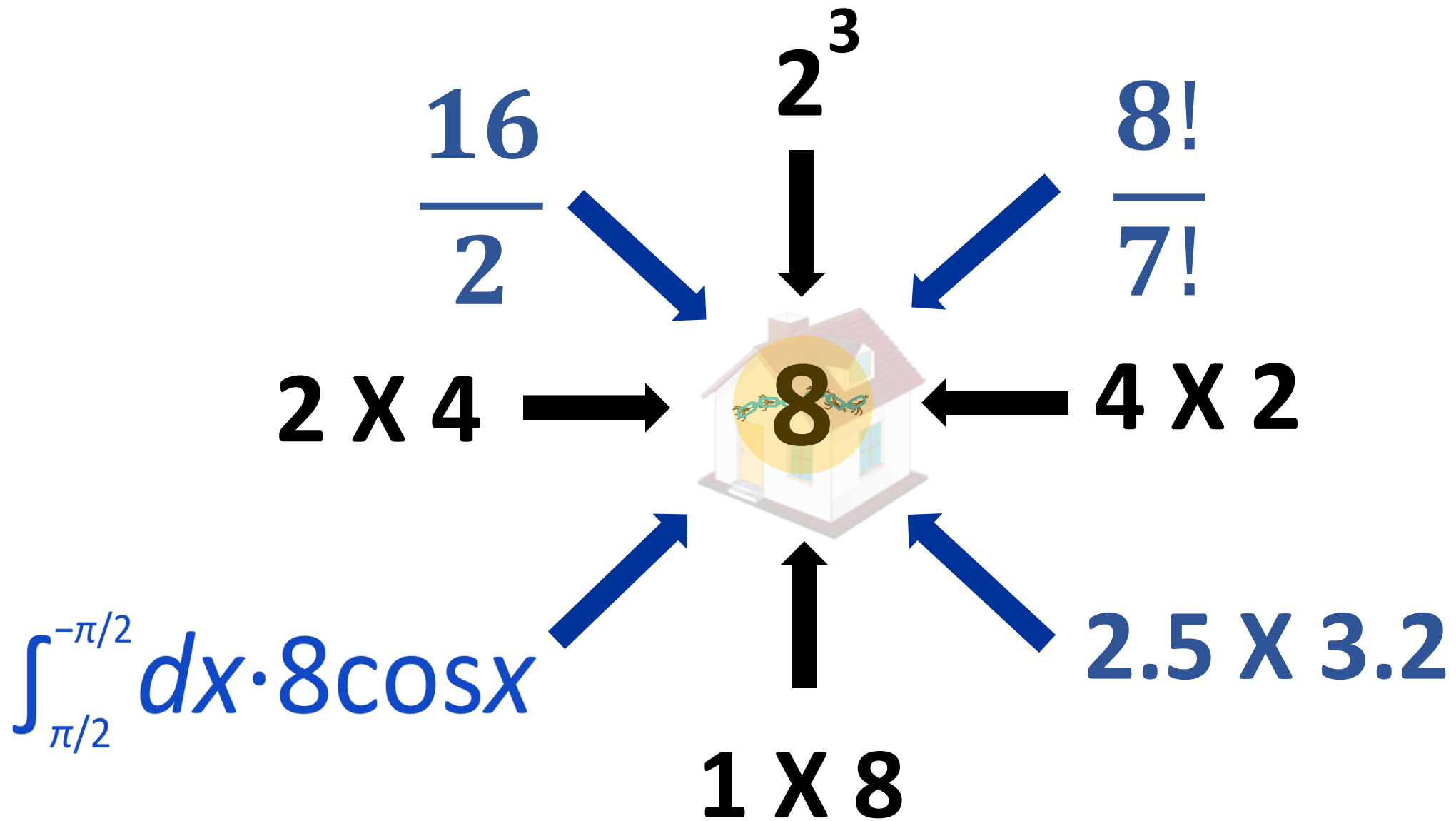


How does the brain construct conceptions?



Through map-making!



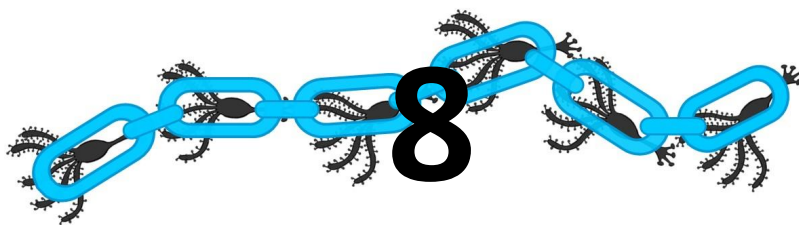


$$\frac{16}{2}$$

$$2^3$$

$$\frac{8!}{7!}$$

$$2 \times 4$$



$$4 \times 2$$

$$\int_{\pi/2}^{-\pi/2} dx \cdot 8 \cos x$$

$$1 \times 8$$

$$2.5 \times 3.2$$

$$\frac{16}{2}$$

$$2^3$$

$$\frac{8!}{7!}$$

$$2 \times 4$$

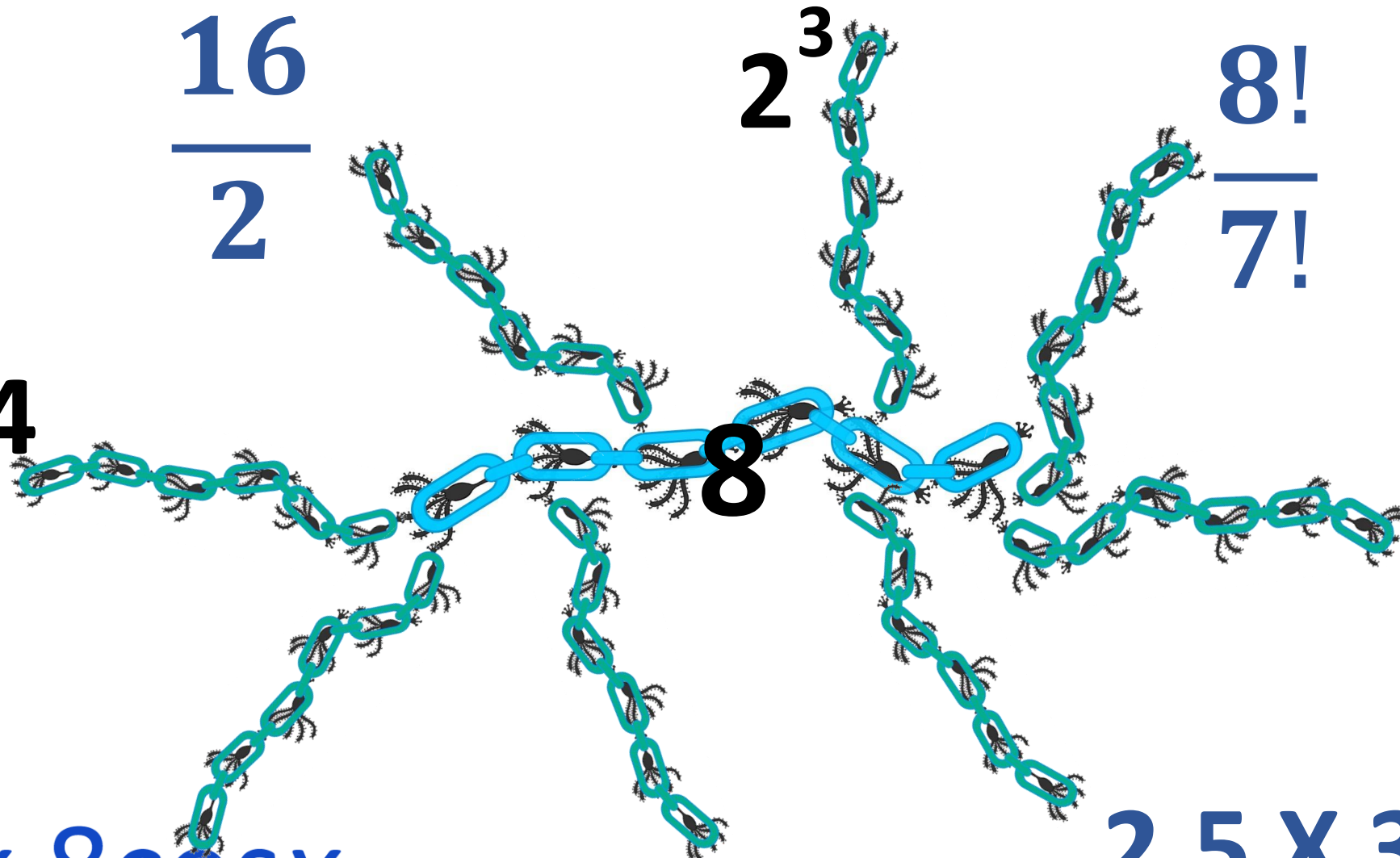
$$8$$

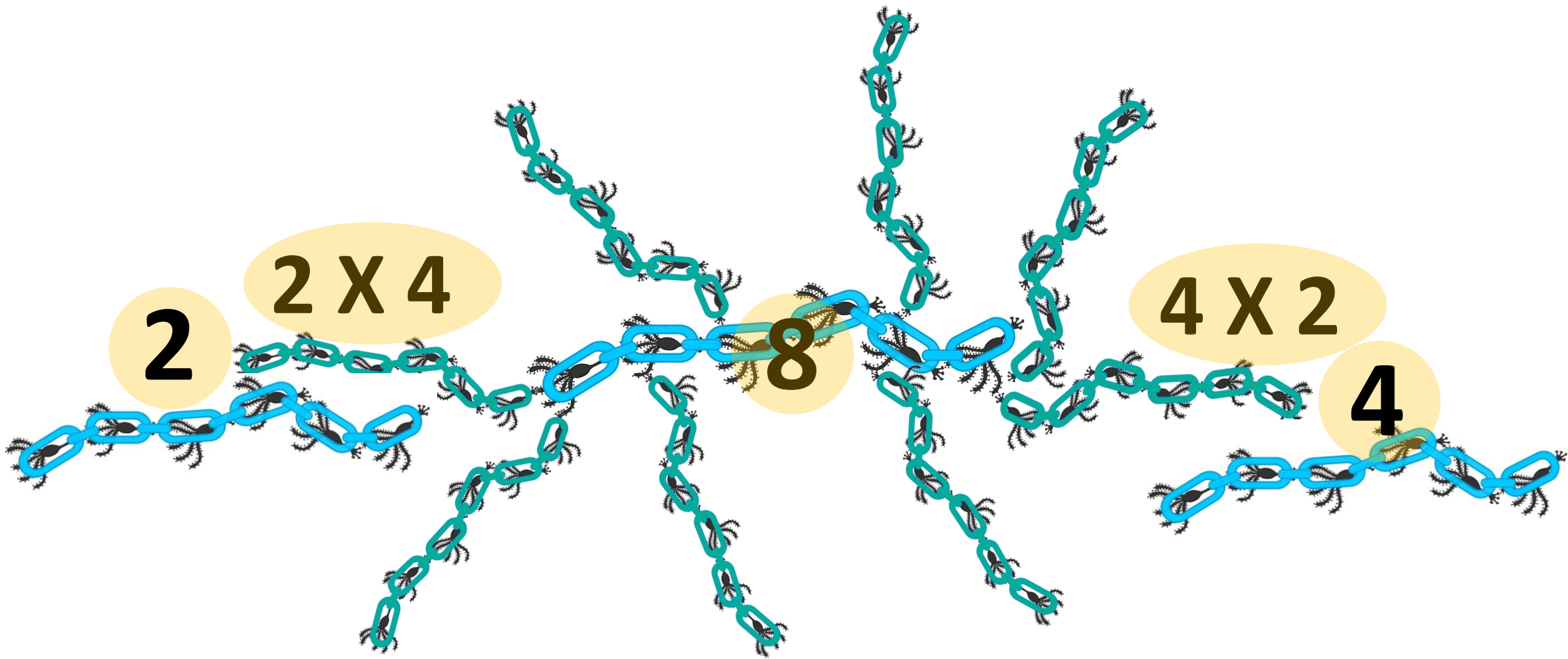
$$4 \times 2$$

$$\int_{\pi/2}^{-\pi/2} dx \cdot 8 \cos x$$

$$1 \times 8$$

$$2.5 \times 3.2$$





2

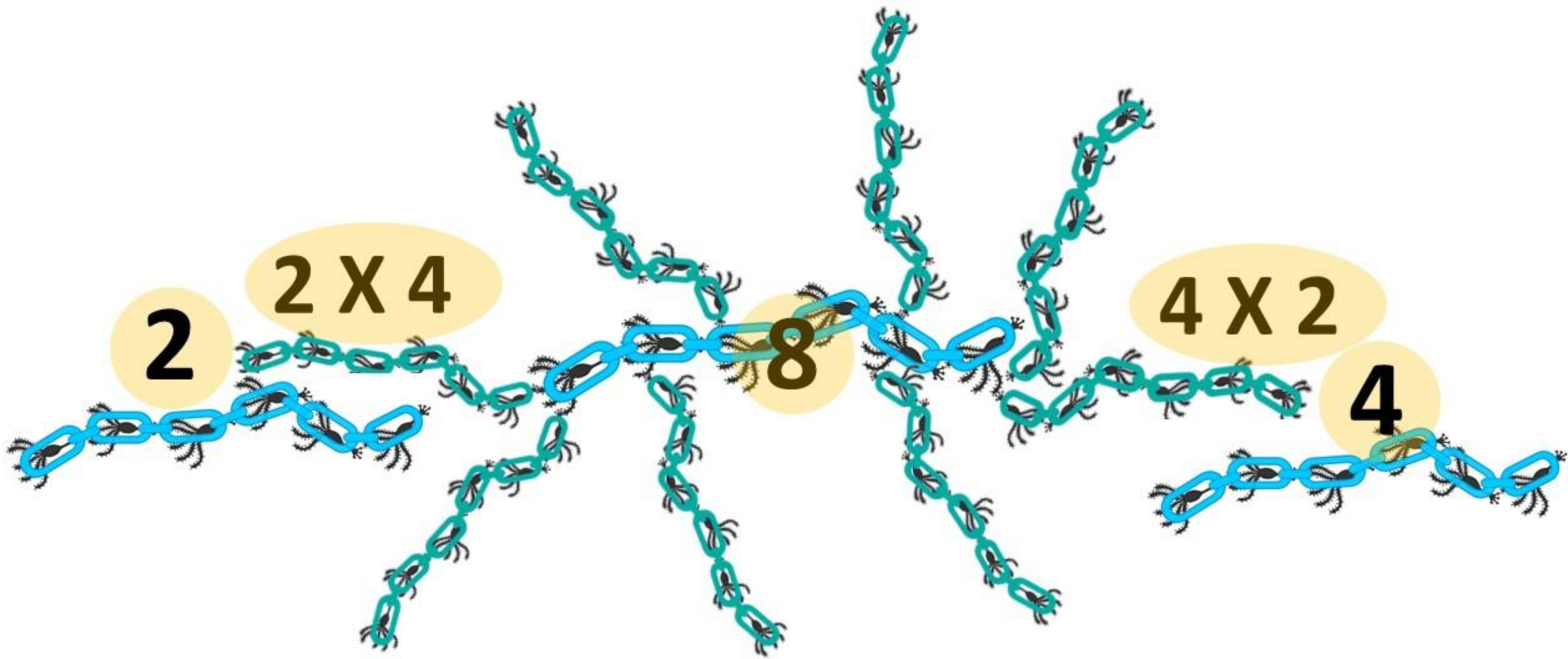
2 X 4

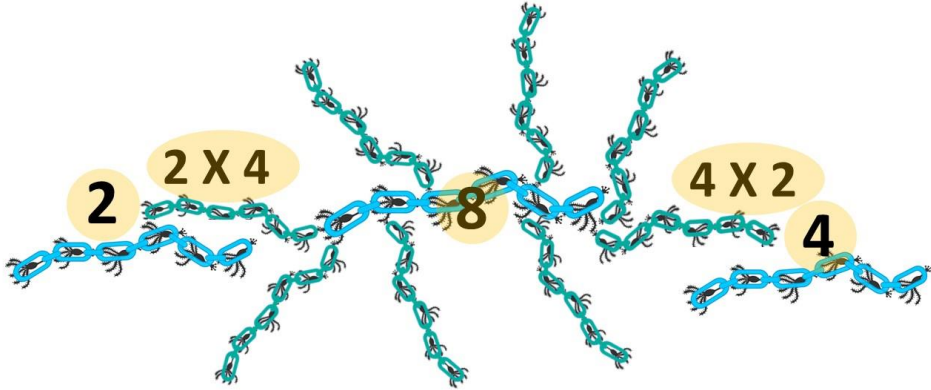
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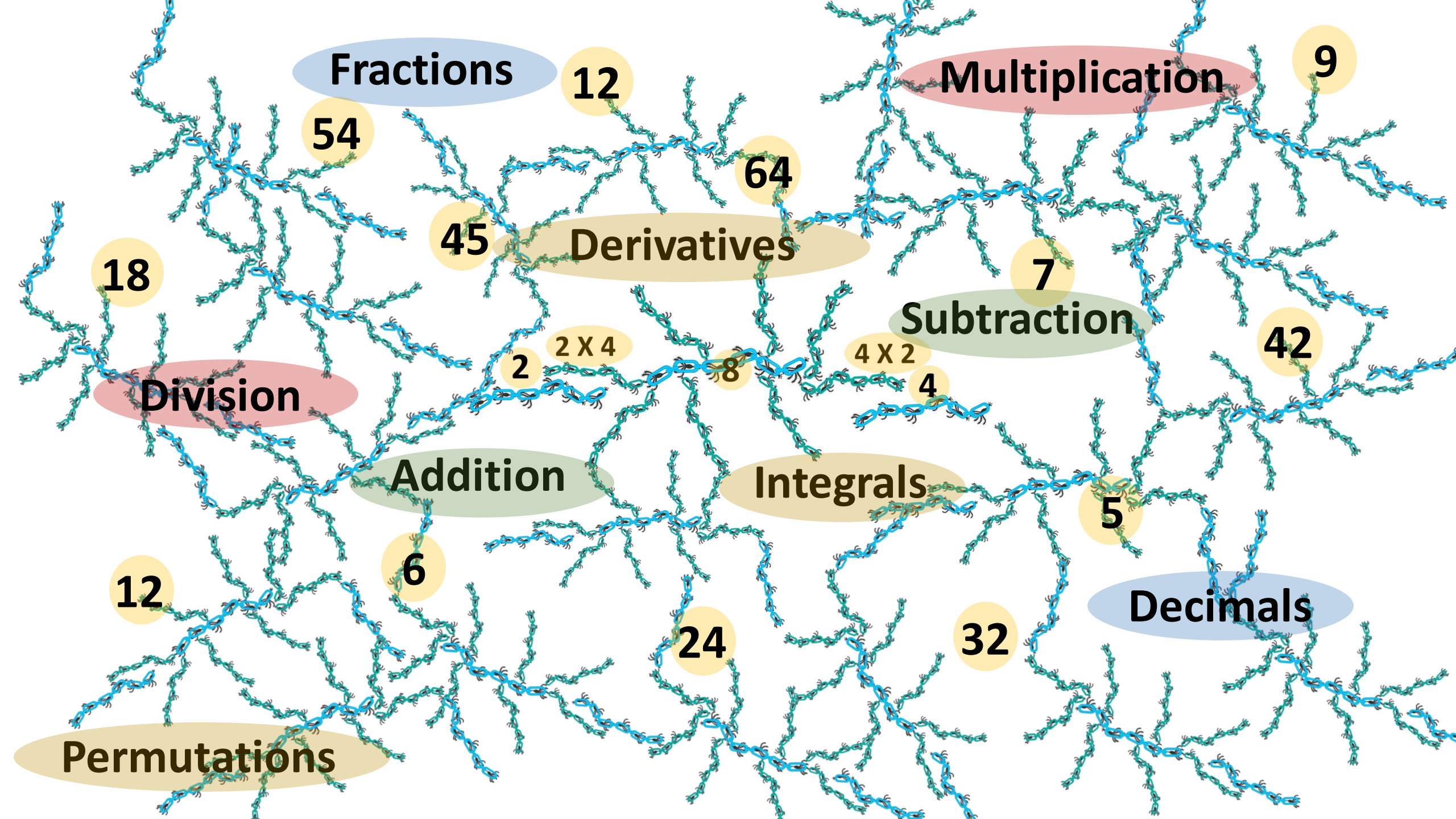
4 X 2

4









**Fractions**

**12**

**Multiplication**

**9**

**54**

**64**

**Derivatives**

**45**

**7**

**Subtraction**

**42**

**18**

**Division**

**2**

**2 X 4**

**8**

**4 X 2**

**4**

**Addition**

**Integrals**

**5**

**Decimals**

**12**

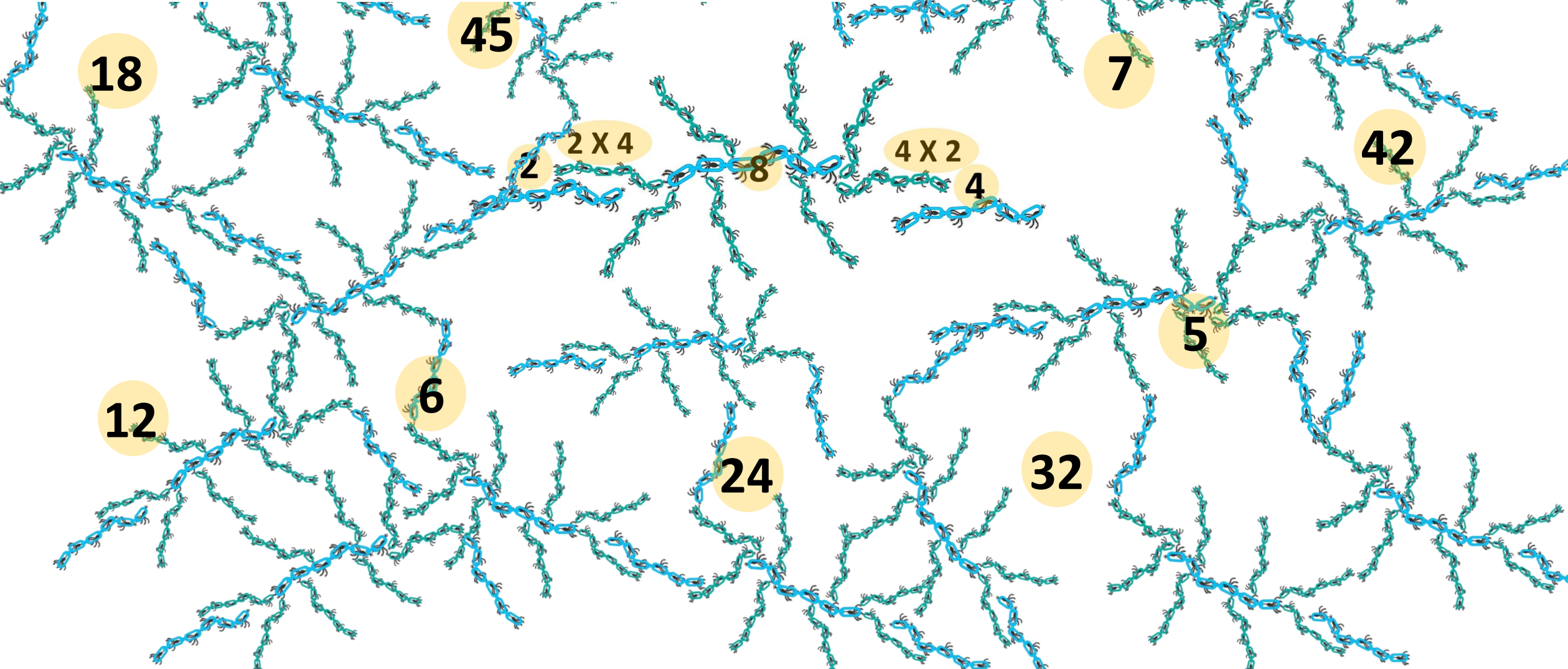
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**24**

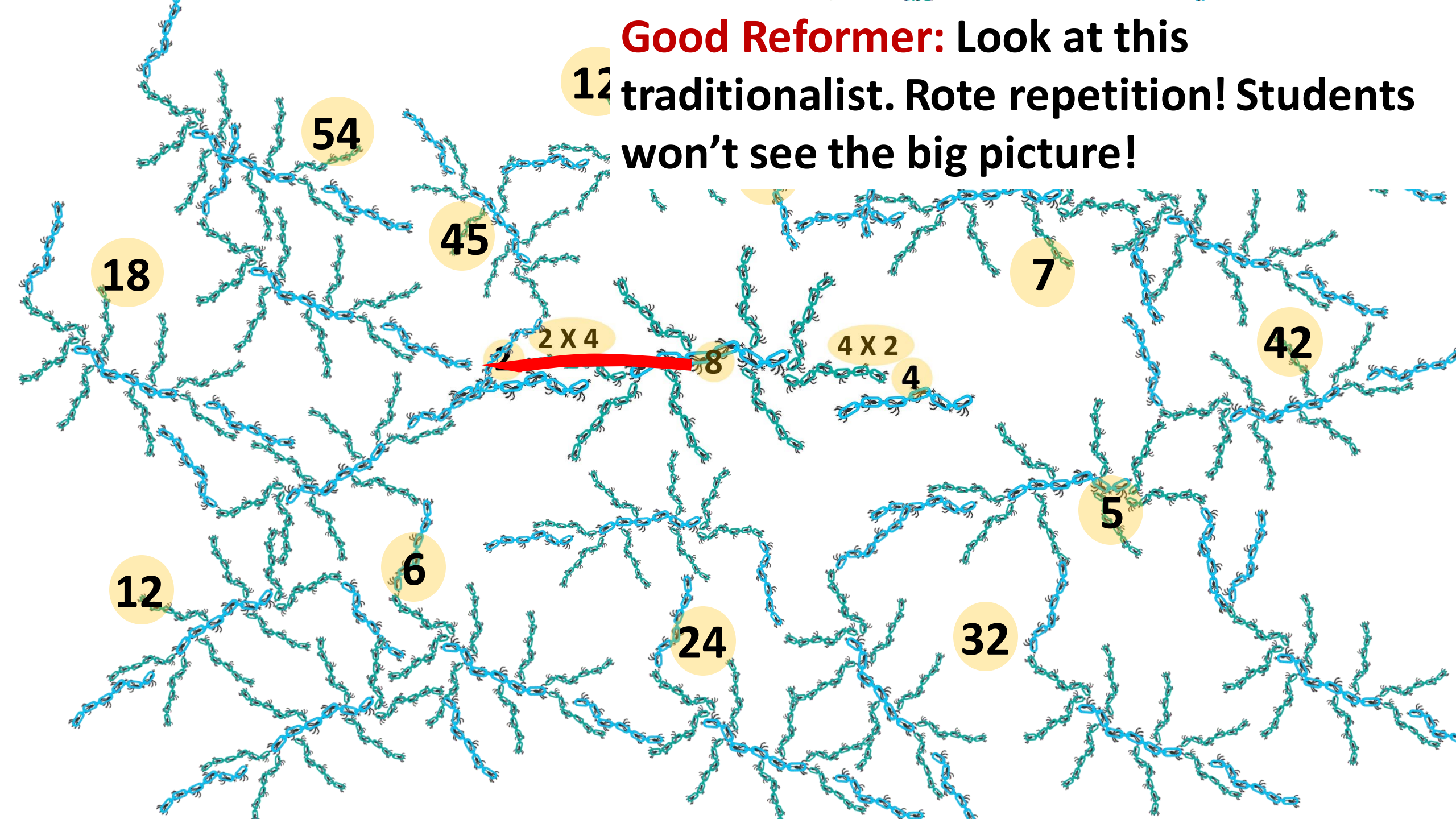
**32**

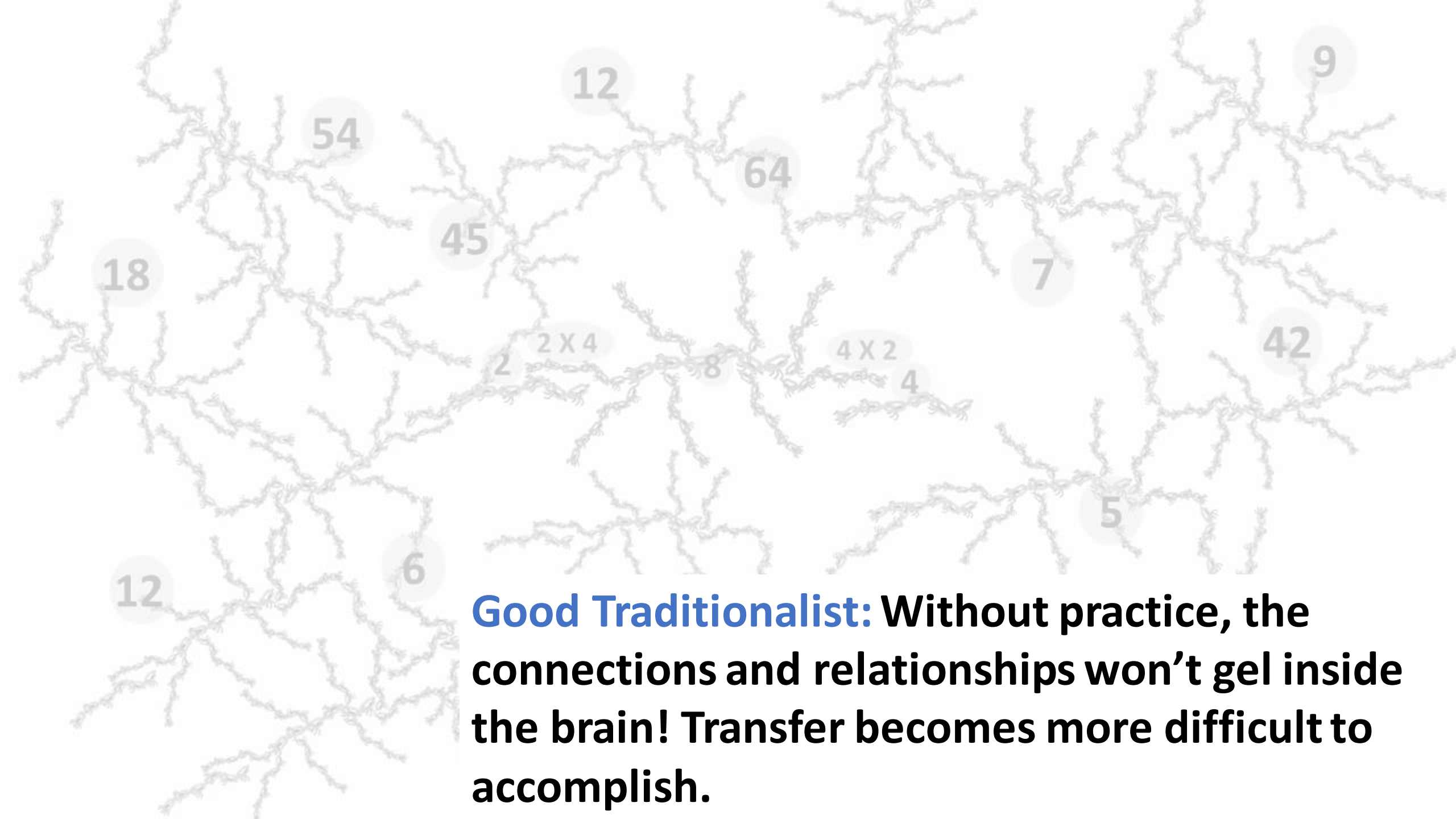
**Permutations**

**Good Reformer:** See the big picture of the connections and relationships!  
*Transfer is important!*

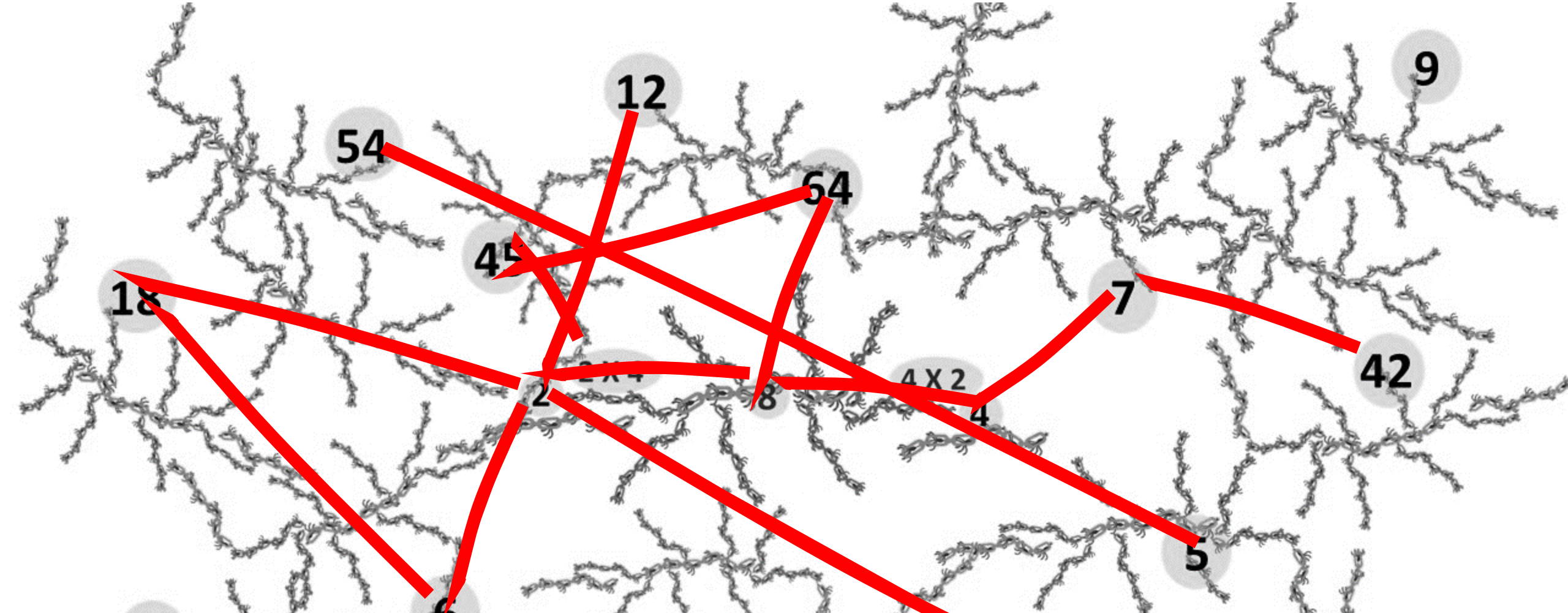


**Good Reformer:** Look at this  
12 traditionalist. Rote repetition! Students  
won't see the big picture!

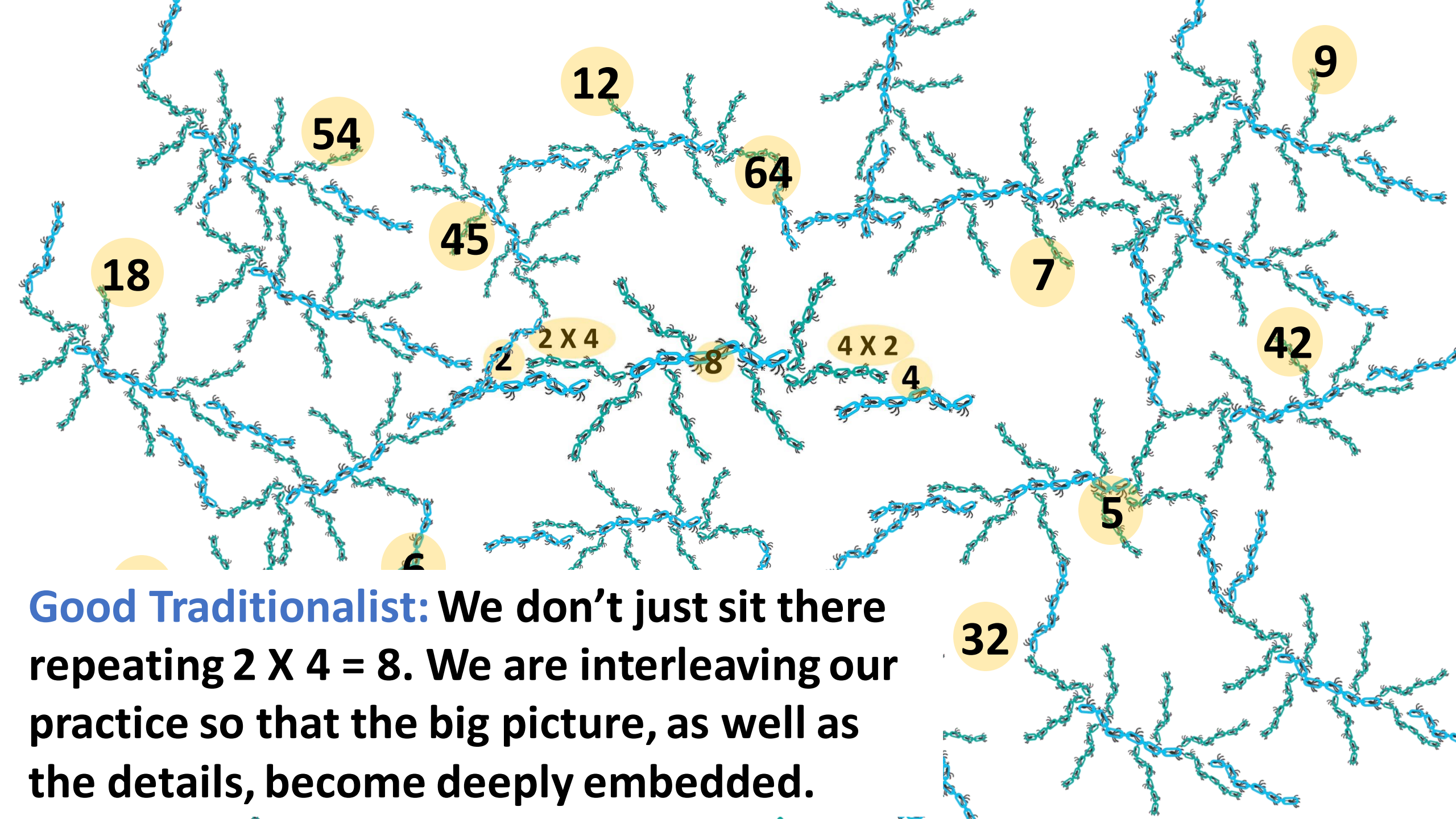




**Good Traditionalist:** Without practice, the connections and relationships won't gel inside the brain! Transfer becomes more difficult to accomplish.



**Good Traditionalist:** We don't just sit there repeating  $2 \times 4 = 8$ . We are interleaving our practice so that the big picture, as well as the details, become deeply embedded.

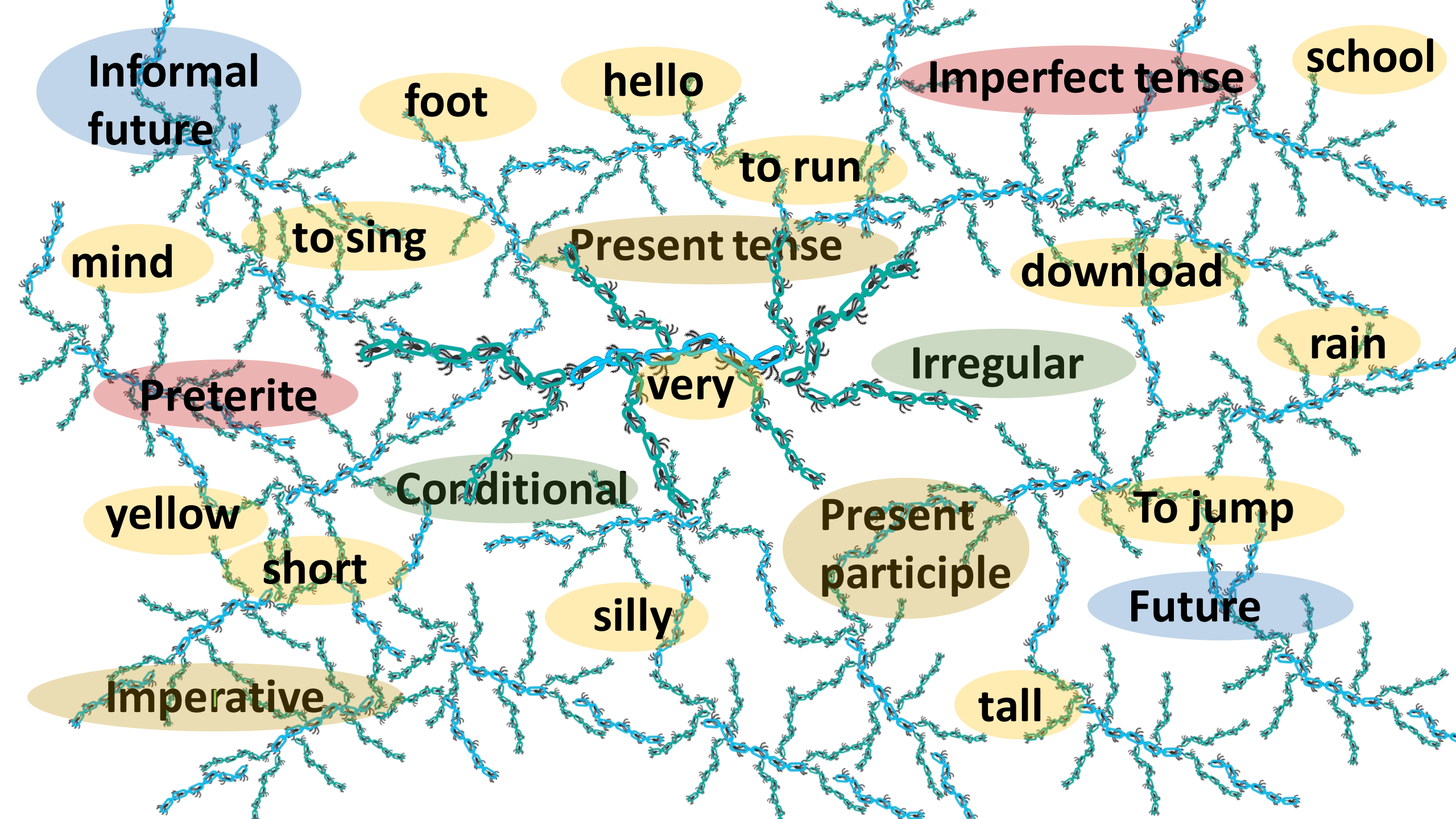


**Good Traditionalist:** We don't just sit there repeating  $2 \times 4 = 8$ . We are interleaving our practice so that the big picture, as well as the details, become deeply embedded.



Wu, Shelley Yijung, and Dan Battey. "The Cultural Production of Racial Narratives About Asian Americans in Mathematics." *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education* 52, no. 5 (01 Nov. 2021 2021): 581-614.

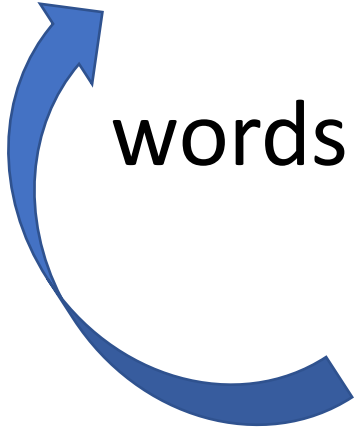
- Victor Pan put it this way: “When I was in elementary school, I was pretty bad at math. . . . But after I learned the multiplication tables, I did pretty great. All of [a] sudden, I knew what happened, and I started getting 100 on the tests.”
- “If you memorize the multiplication table, you are pretty much at the fourth- or fifth-grade level. You can almost get everything.” The students acknowledged that the memorization work positioned them to be successful in the upper elementary grades.



# It seems that order matters

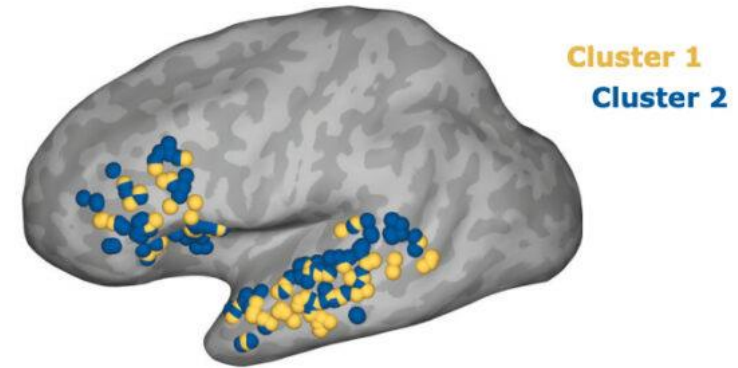
Phonics → words

words → sentences

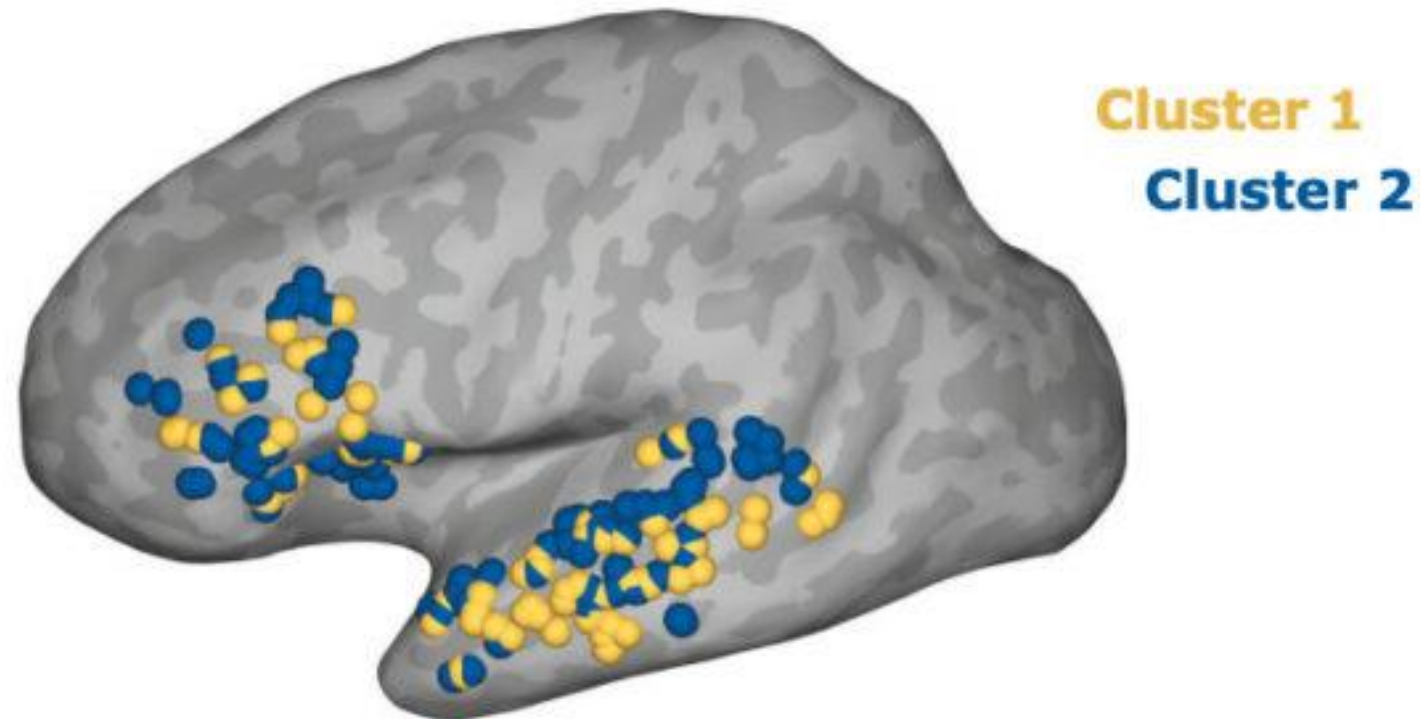


**You can't skip this part!**

**But this isn't all you do to teach reading!**



- Woolnough, O., C. Donos, E. Murphy, P. S. Rollo, Z. J. Roccaforte, S. Dehaene, and N. Tandon. "Spatiotemporally Distributed Frontotemporal Networks for Sentence Reading." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 120, no. 17 (Apr 25 2023): e2300252120. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2300252120>.
- McDonald, Fiona. "Scientists Show 2 Distinct Brain Networks Are Activated While Reading." *Science Alert* (20 Apr 2023). <https://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-show-2-distinct-brain-networks-are-activated-while-reading>.



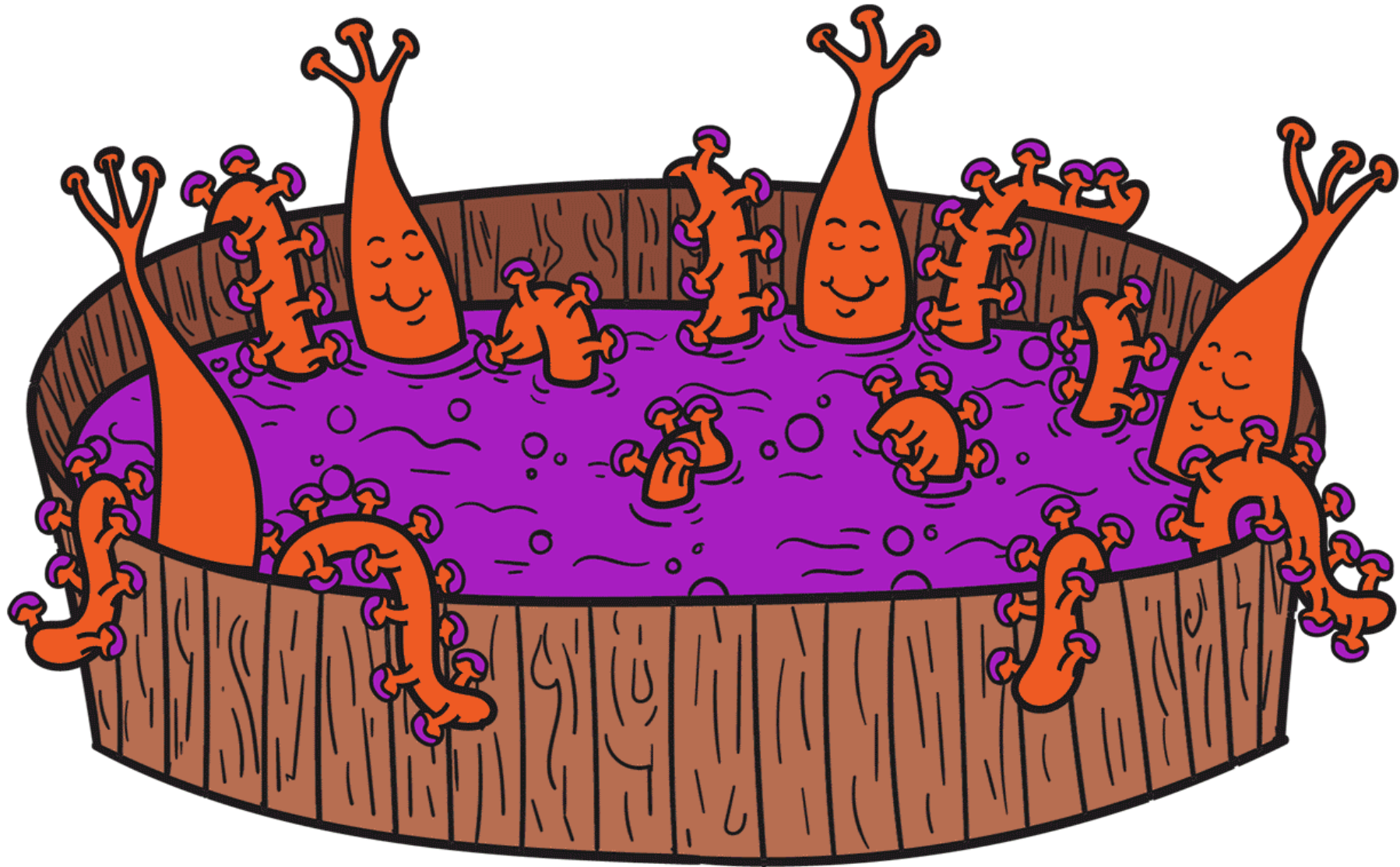
**Cluster 1** is activated as we gain meaning from sentences, and **cluster 2** is activated as we understand the meaning of individual words. (Woolnough et al., *PNAS*, 2023)

# Reformers and traditionalists are *both* right

- Students need to see the big picture.
- But this happens only bit by bit.
- With interleaved practice, the patterns develop, thickening and enriching understanding.
- With procedural (basal ganglia) learning, students know without being conscious of how they know.
- Bottom line—the leap forward happens **AFTER** memorization. Memorization allows for internalization of important numerical relationships in ways that aren't obvious.

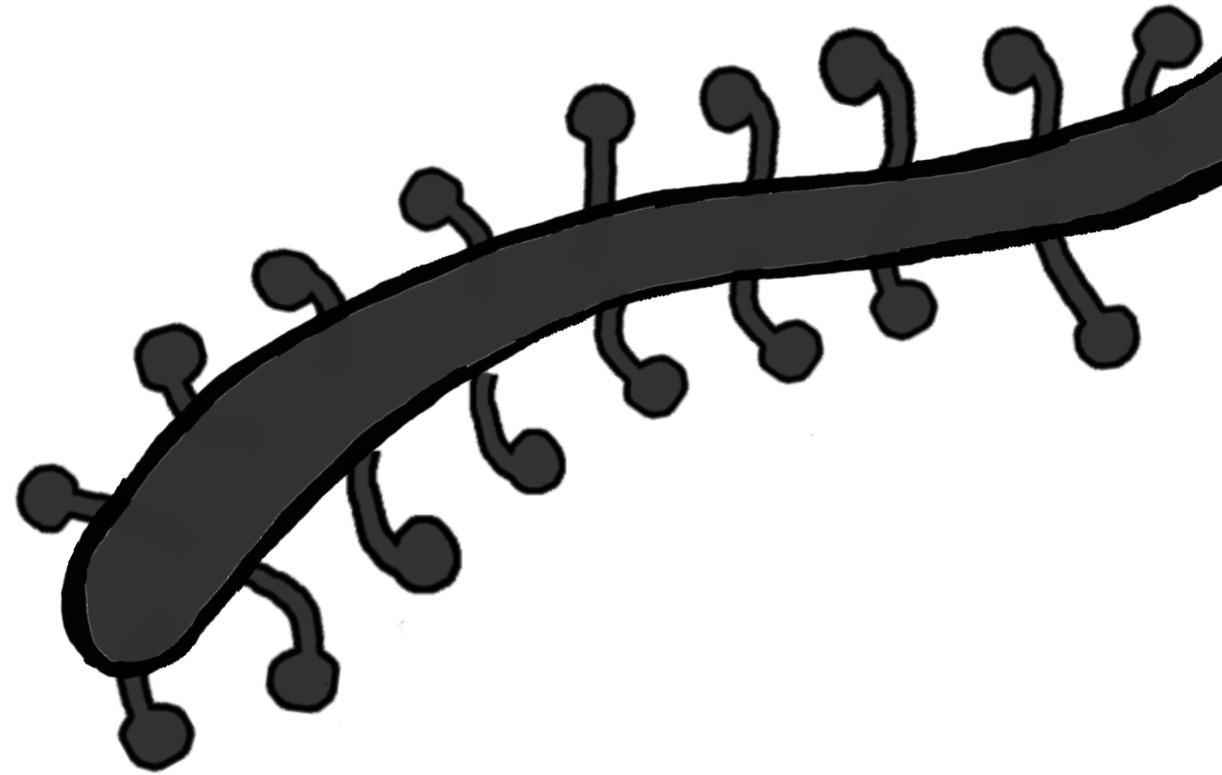
# Just as with language, for math

- The big picture of constructivist approaches matters. (The patterns of math; the patterns of reading.)
- But internalization of simplistic ideas (eg,  $2 \times 4 = 8$ ;  $k = \text{“}k\text{”}$  sound) matters *first*.



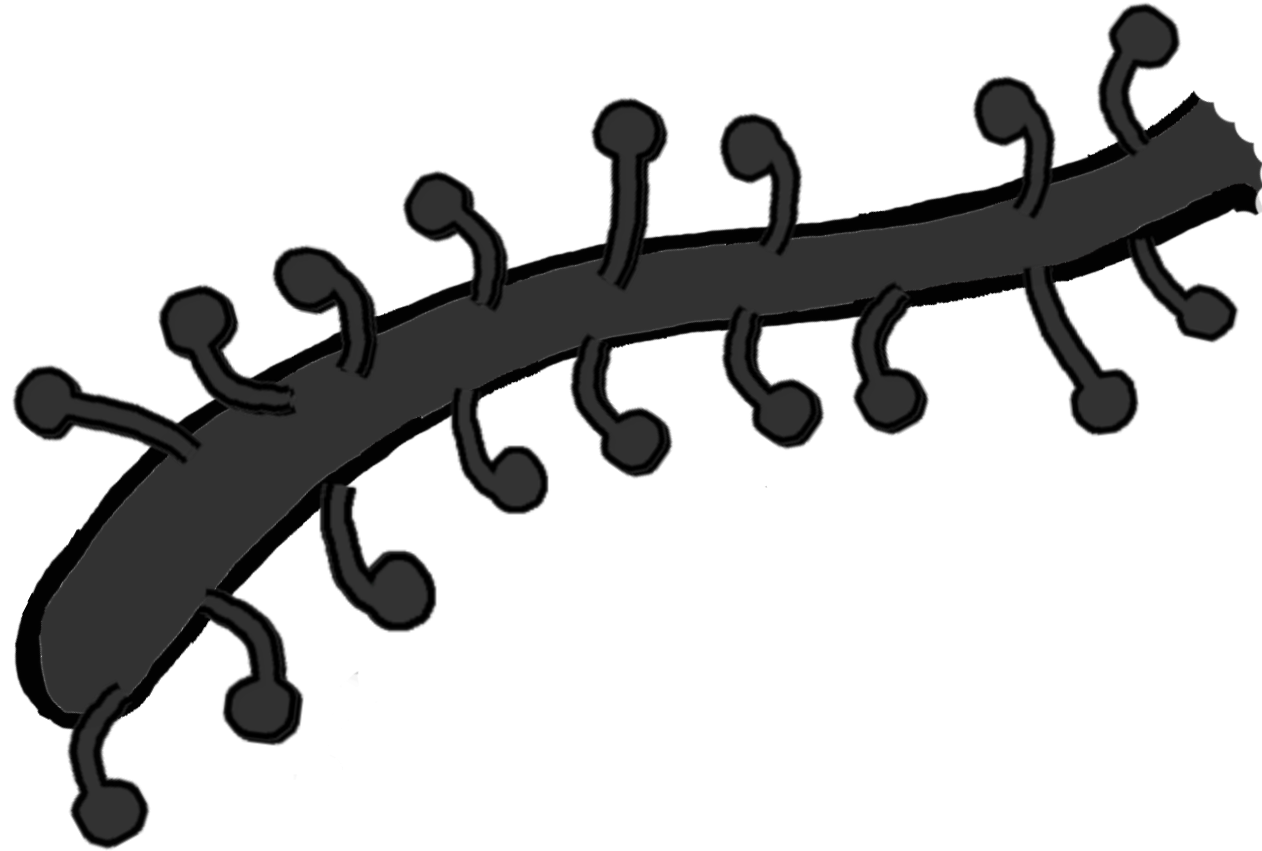
**Fast learner—doesn't forget**

**Slow Learner—forgets**

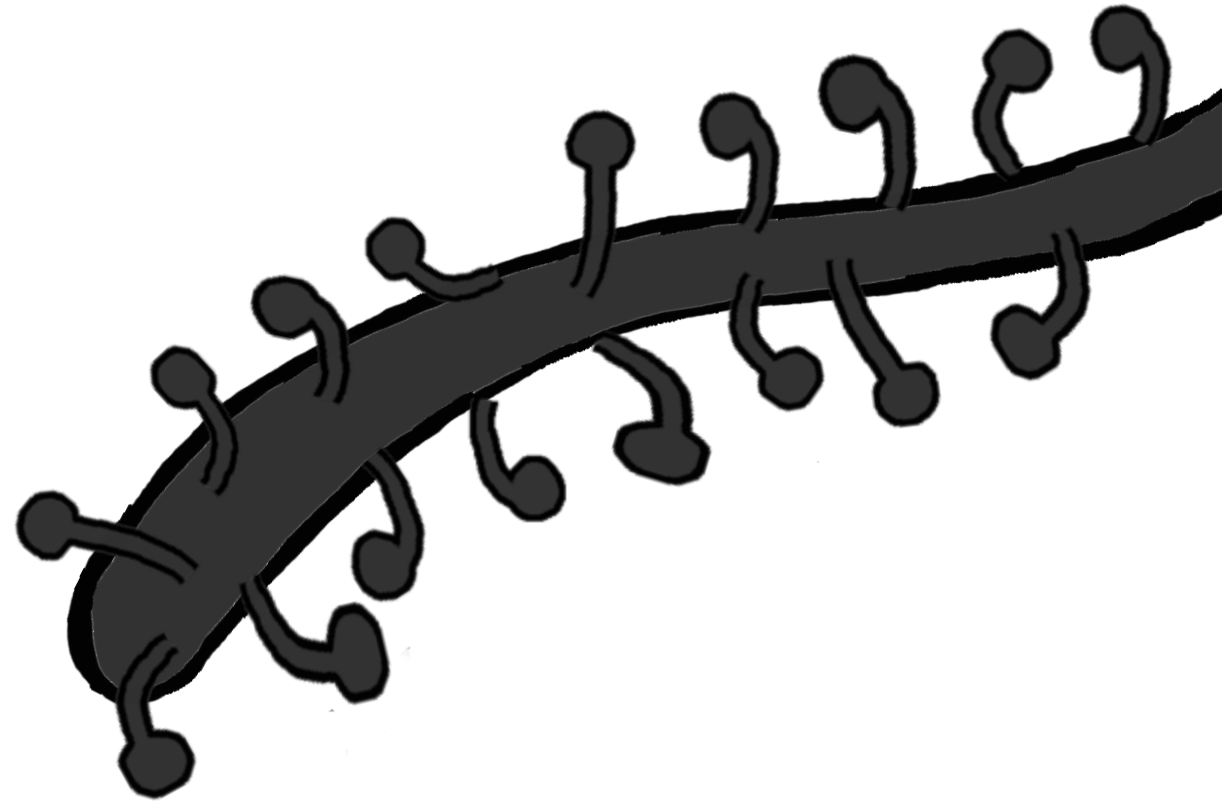




**Fast learner—doesn't forget**



**Slow Learner—forgets & relearns**





**Race car learners**

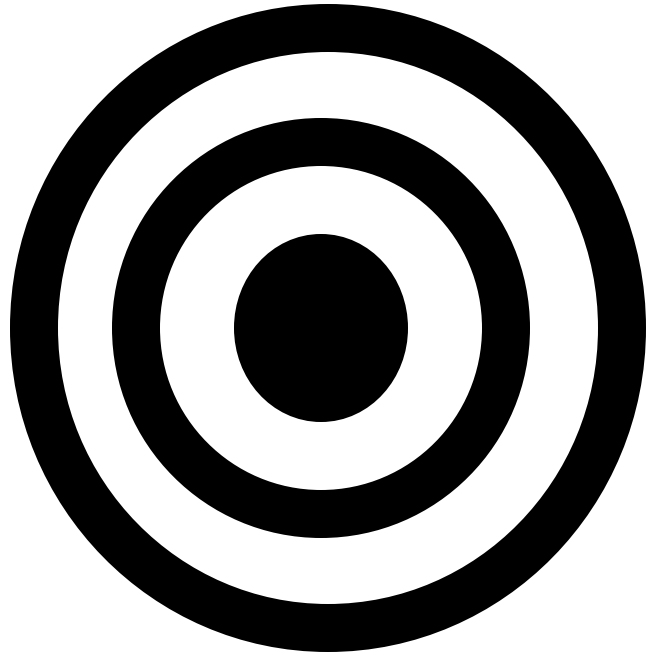
**THE WORLD NEEDS  
BOTH KINDS OF  
LEARNERS!**

**Hiker learners**

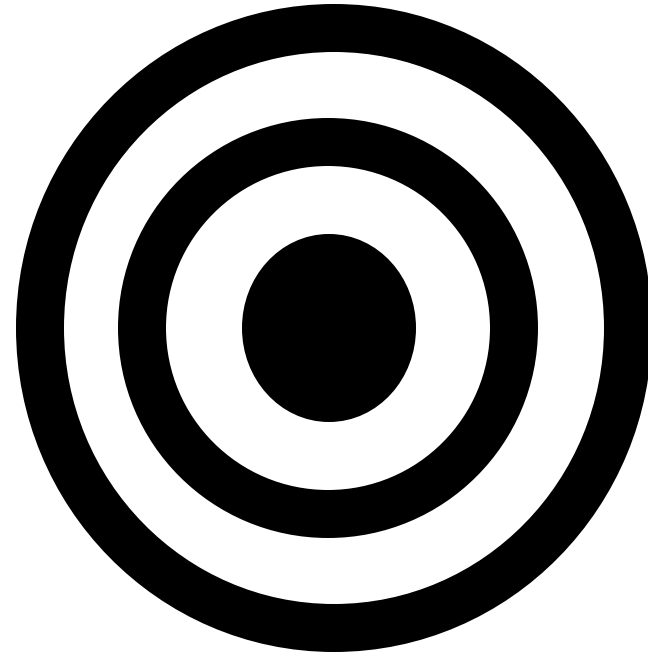


# Characteristics of fast versus slow learners

- Fast but often inaccurate
- Slow but more accurate



Inflexible



Flexible

Supplemental schooling our two daughters in math from ages 3 to 15.

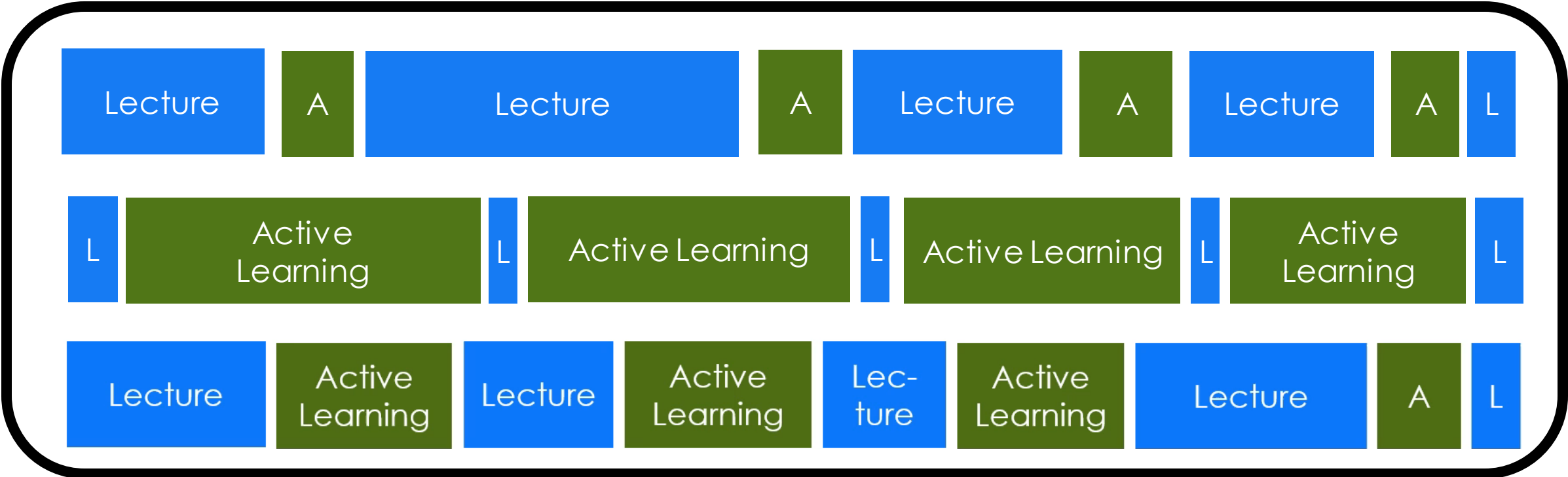
KUMON

Smartick



Lecture

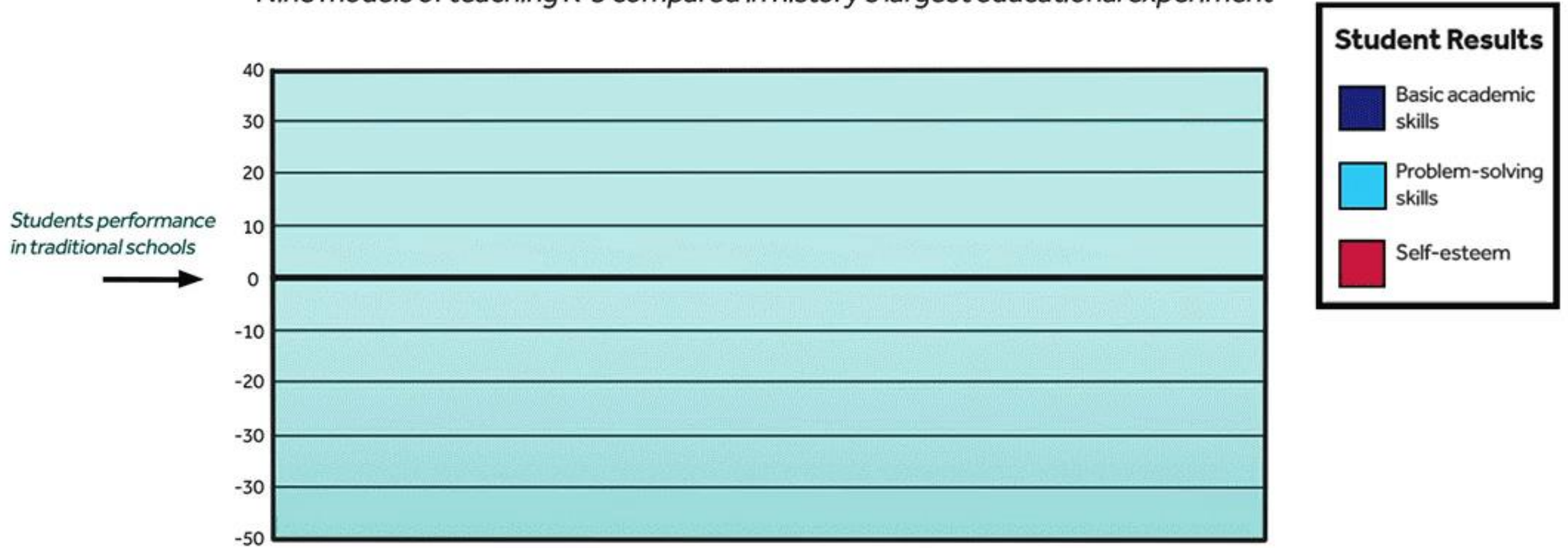
Active Learning

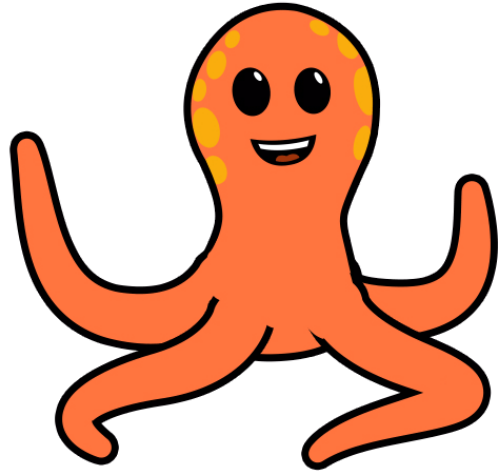


**Direct instruction**

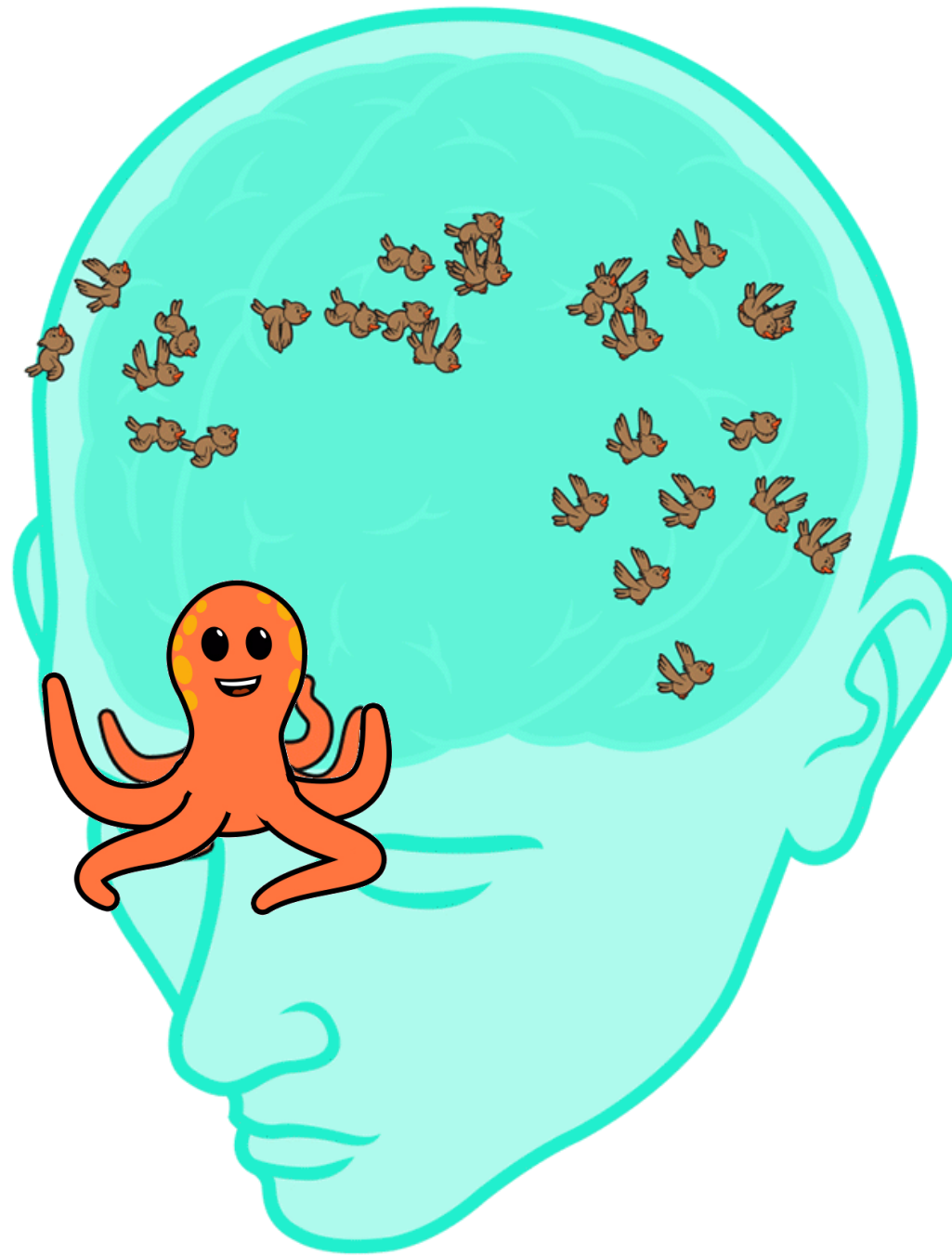
# Project Follow Through, 1967 - 1977

Nine models of teaching K-3 compared in history's largest educational experiment



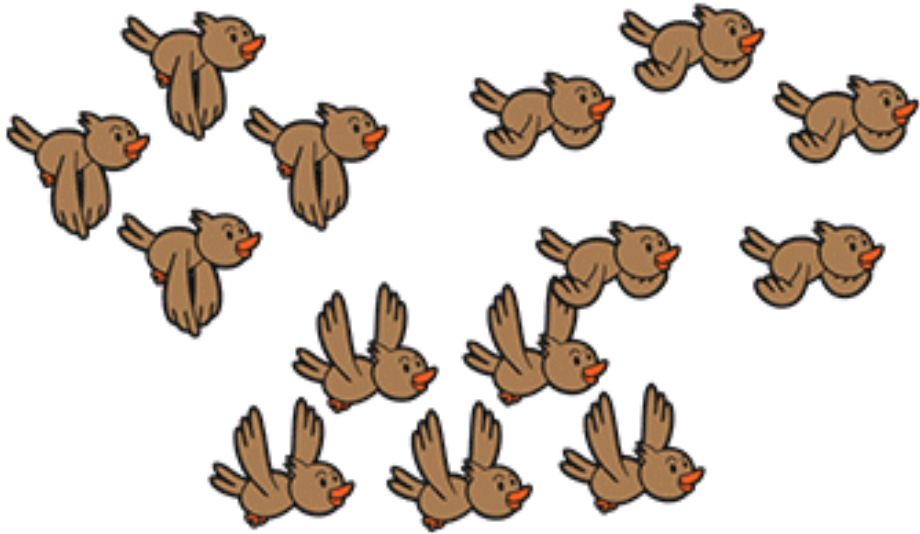


## **Insights from movie making!**

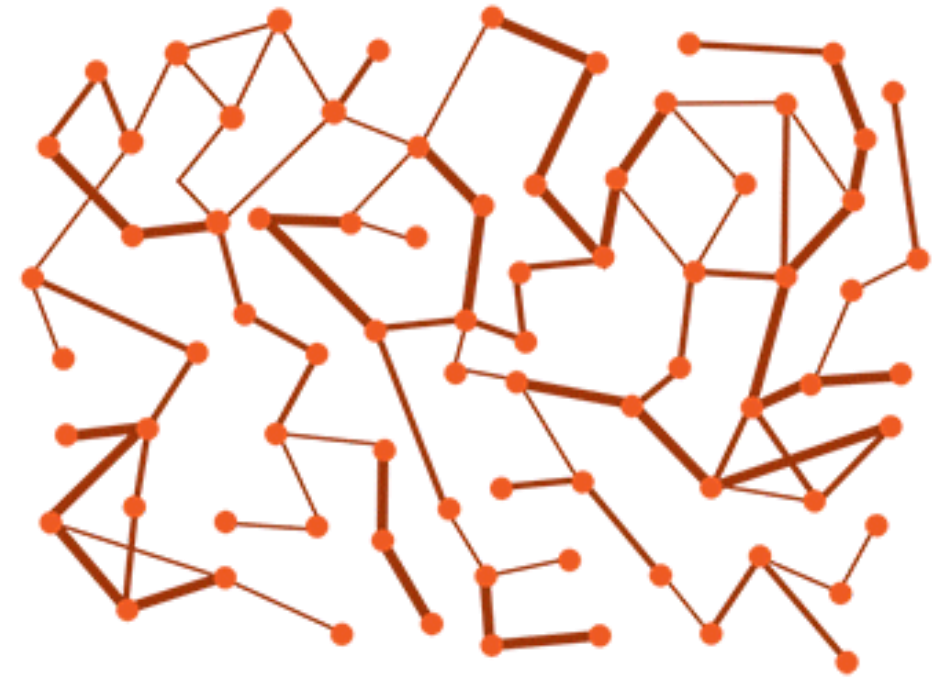


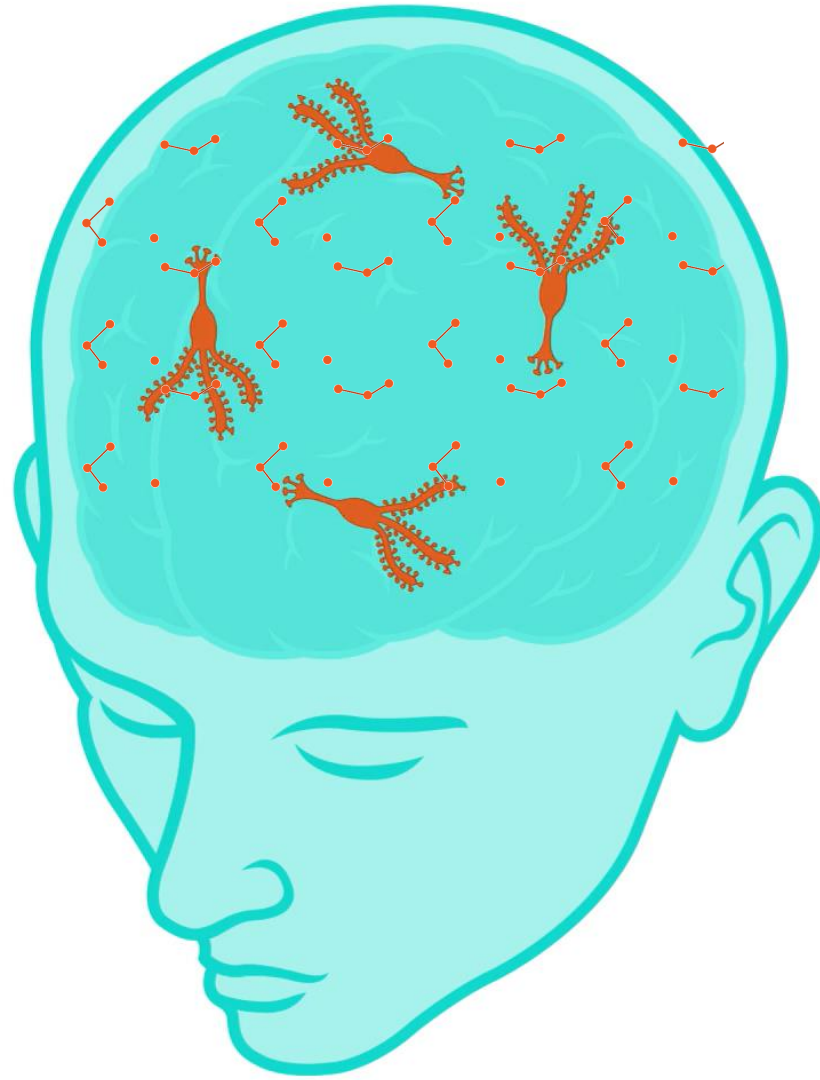


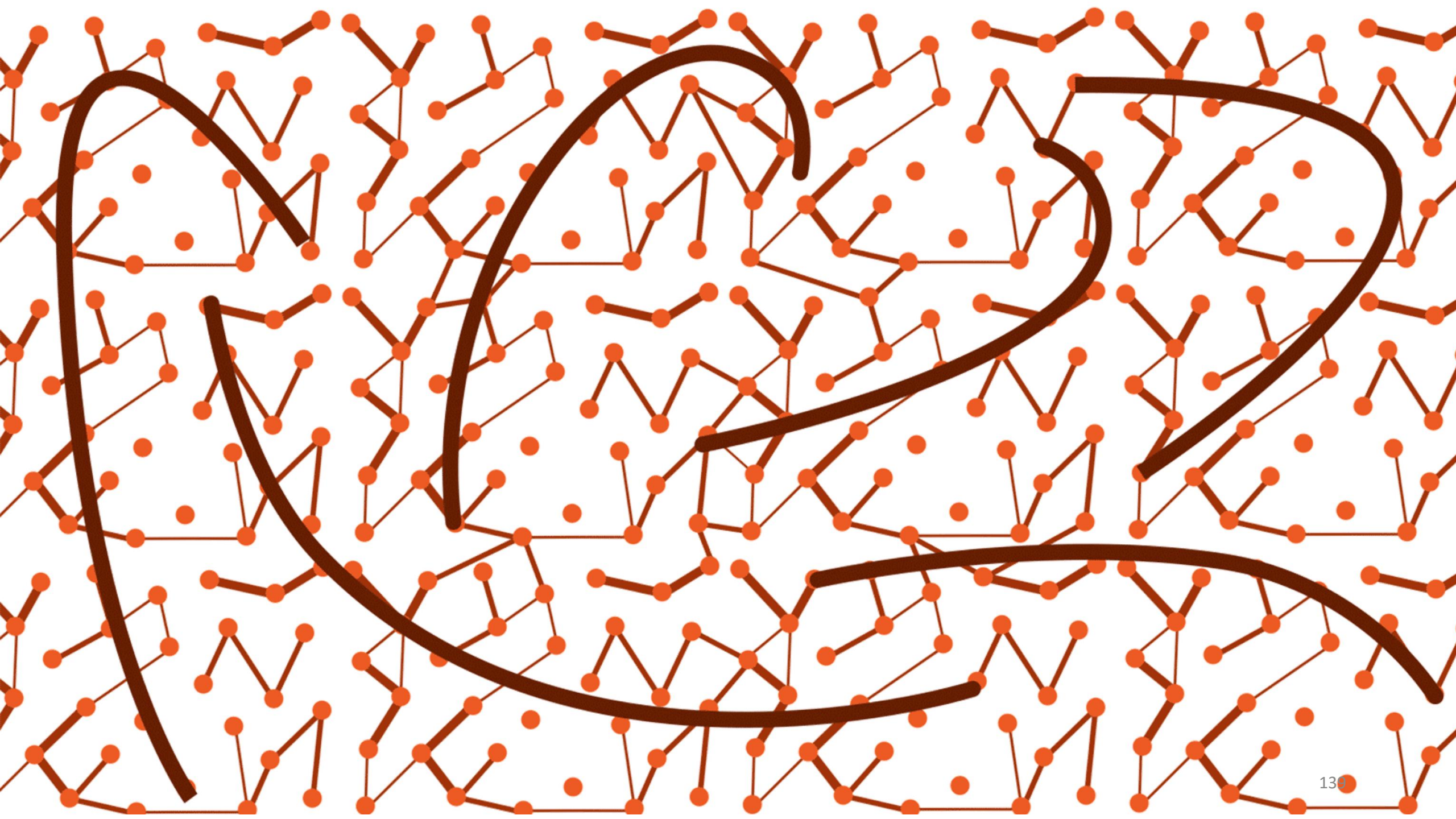
# Mental models



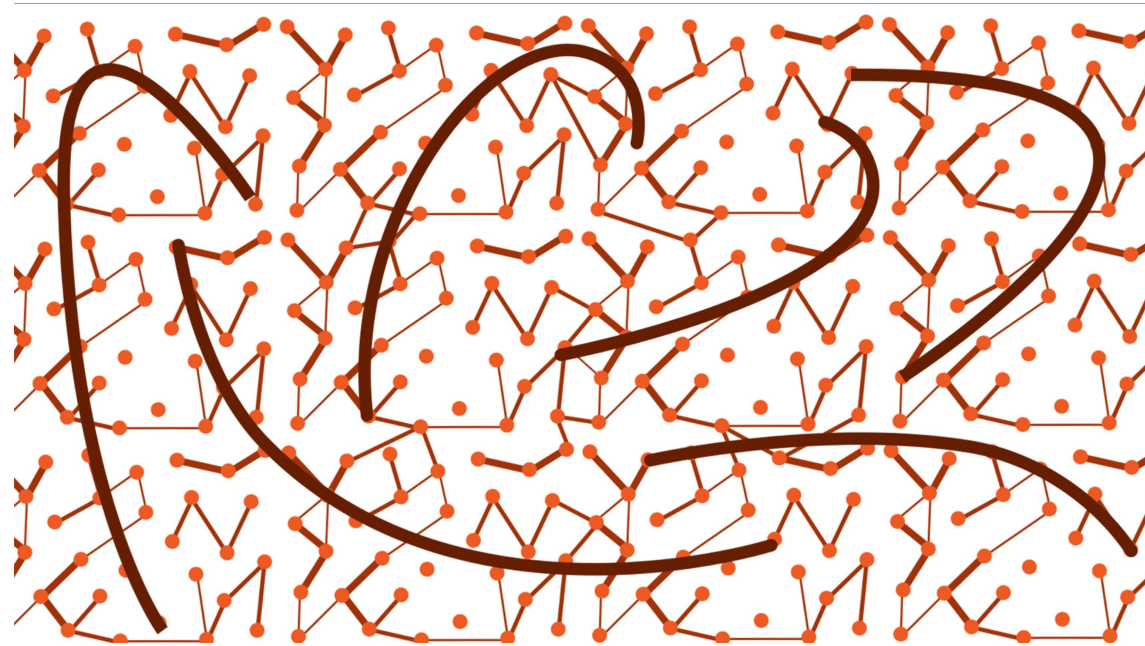
# Schema





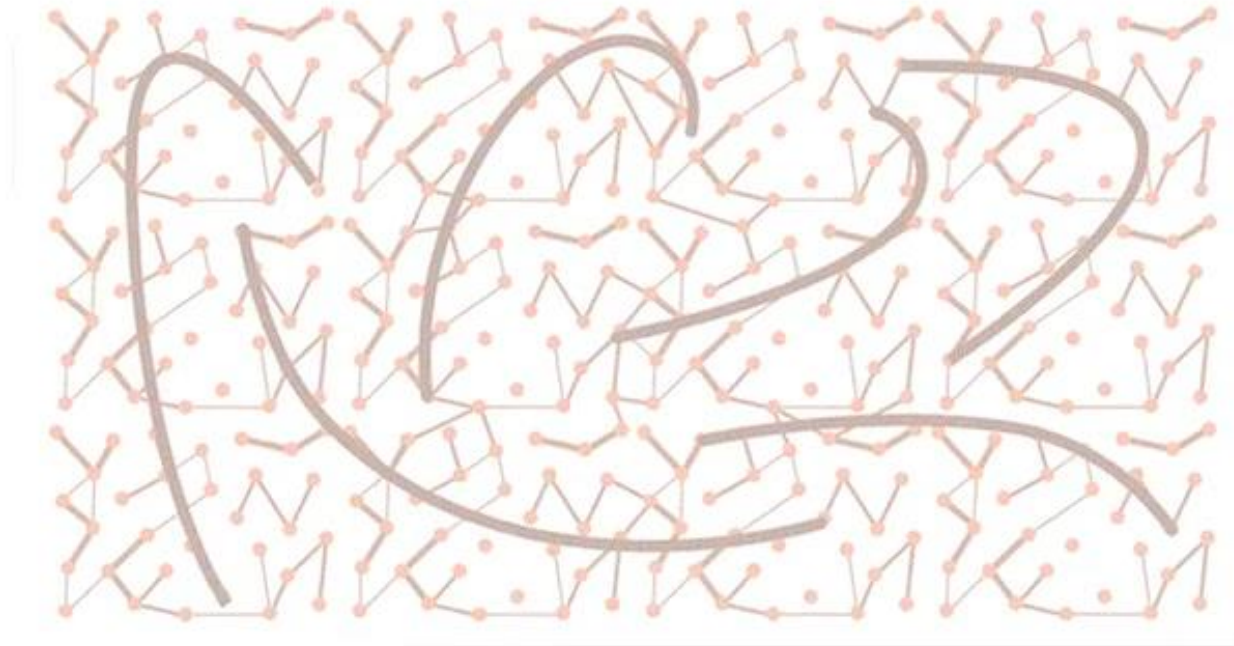


# Schemas

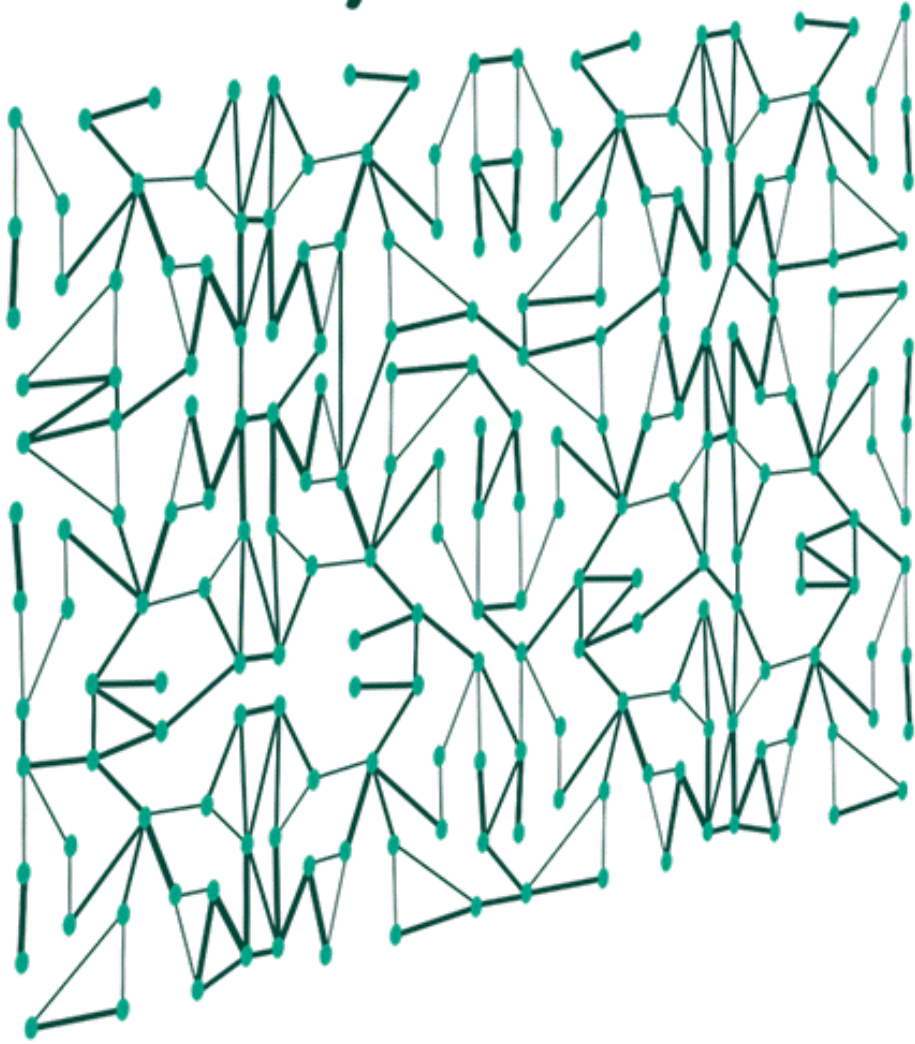


# Schemas

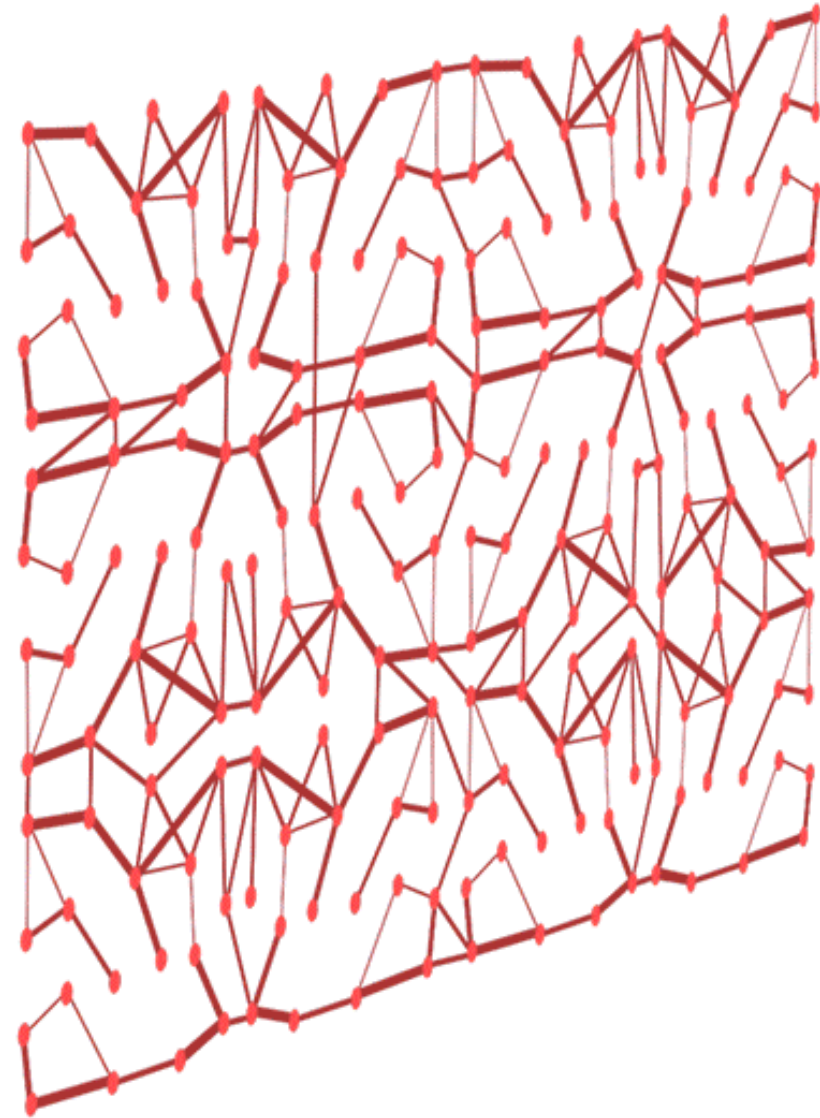
Japanese



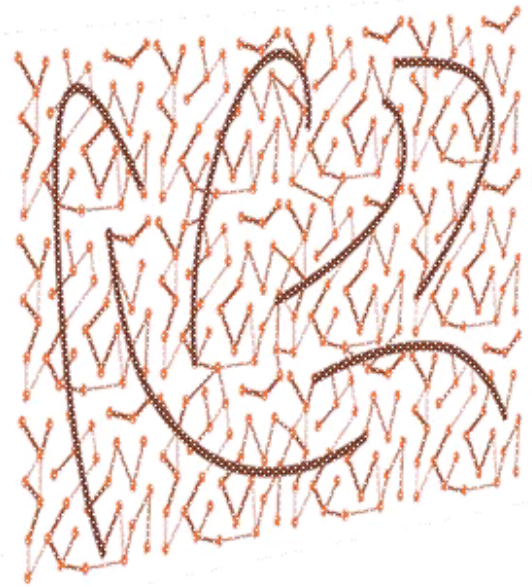
## Physics



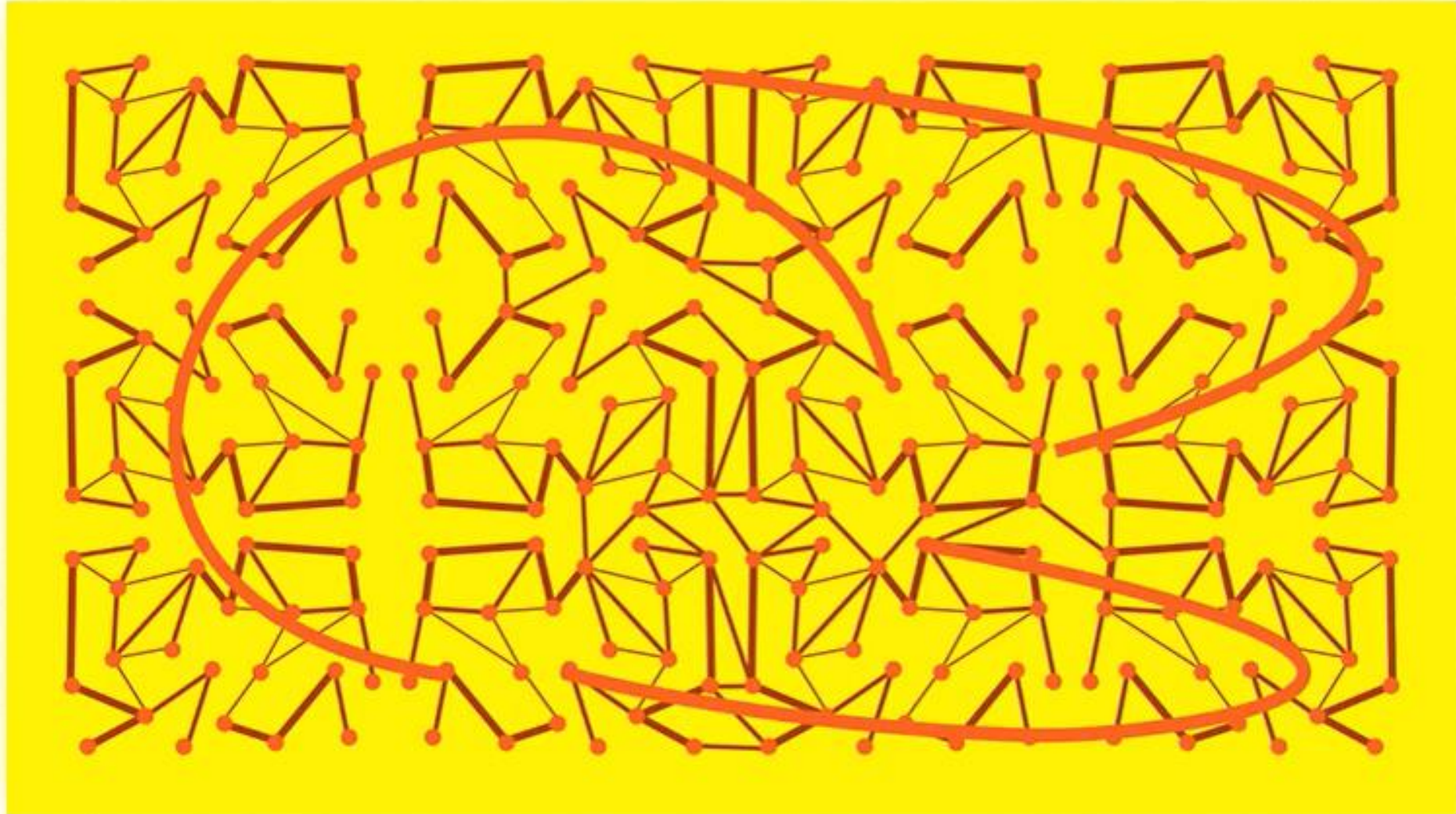
## Math



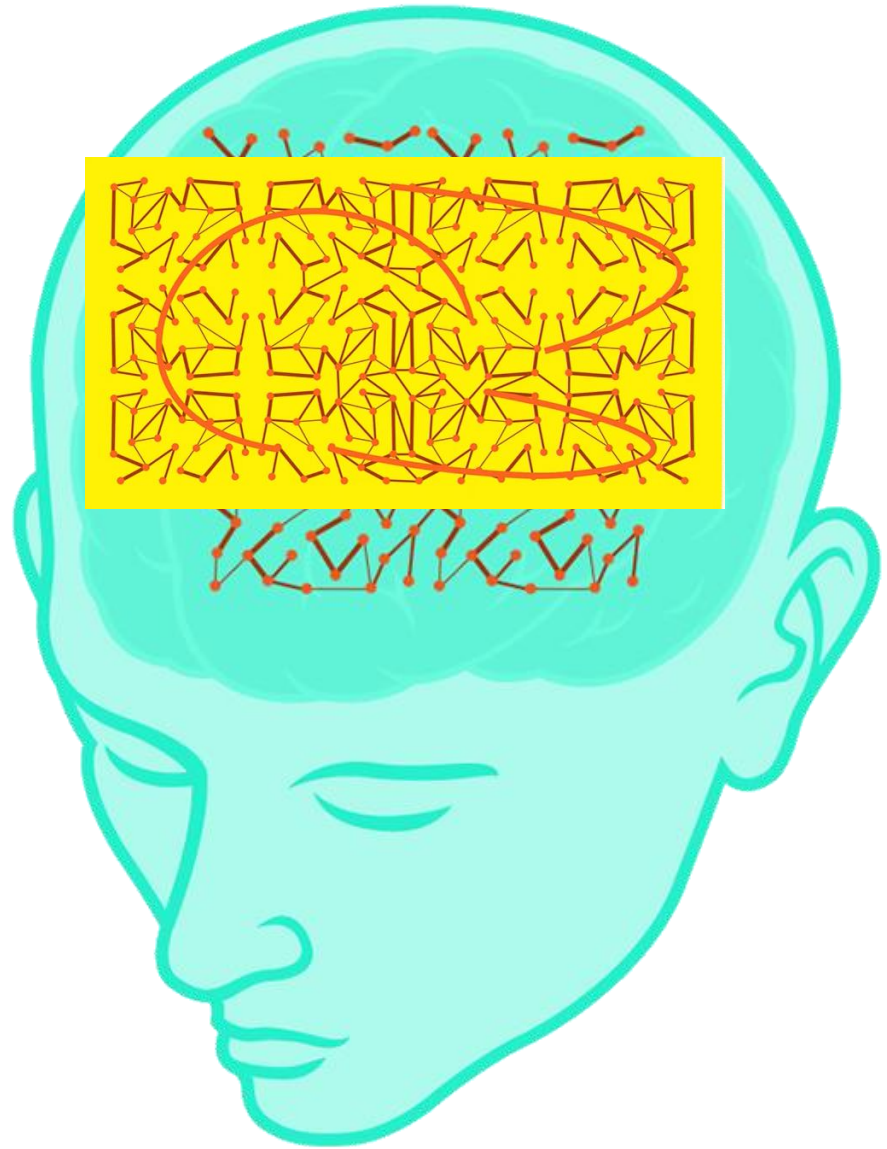
# Identity Schema

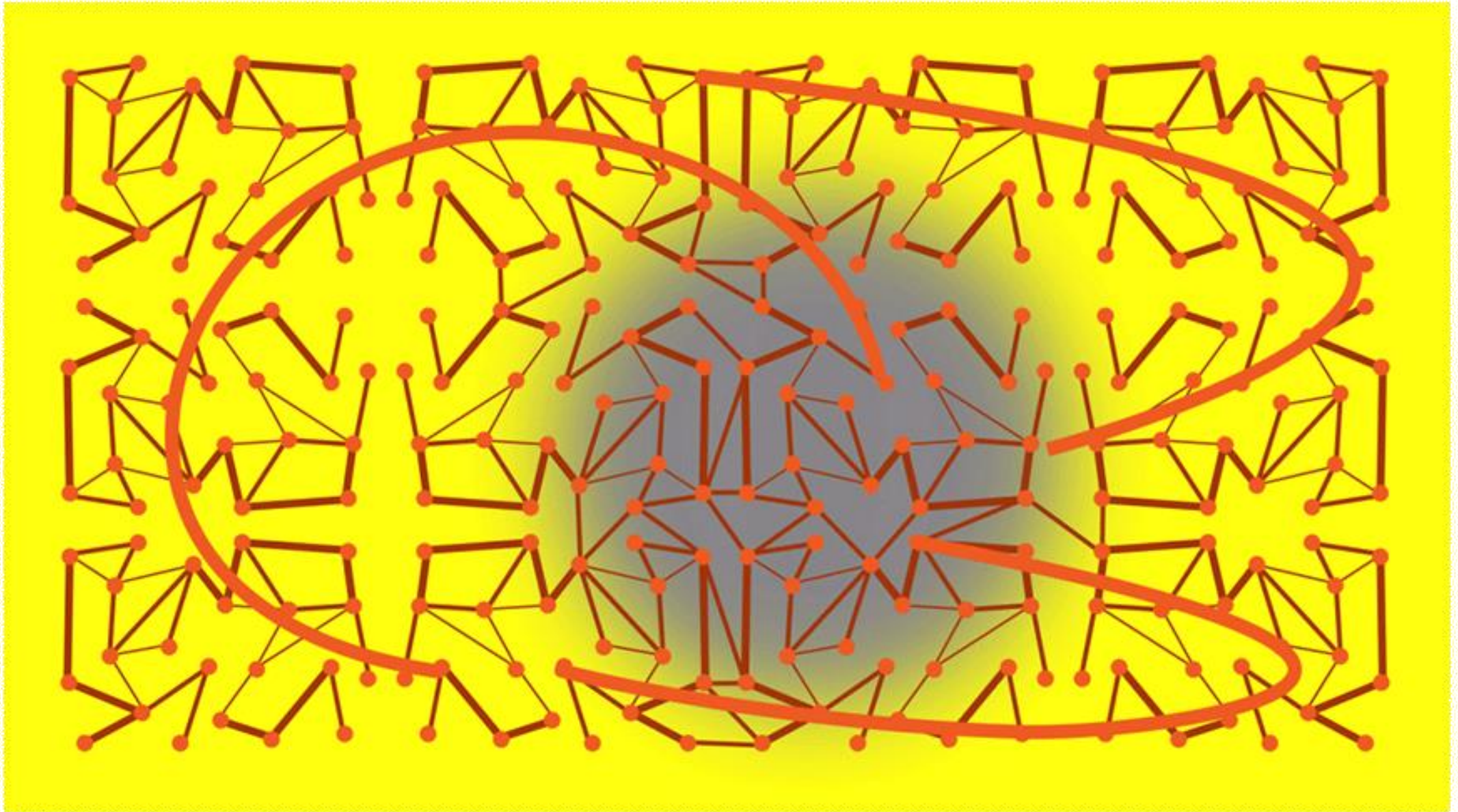


# Identity Schema

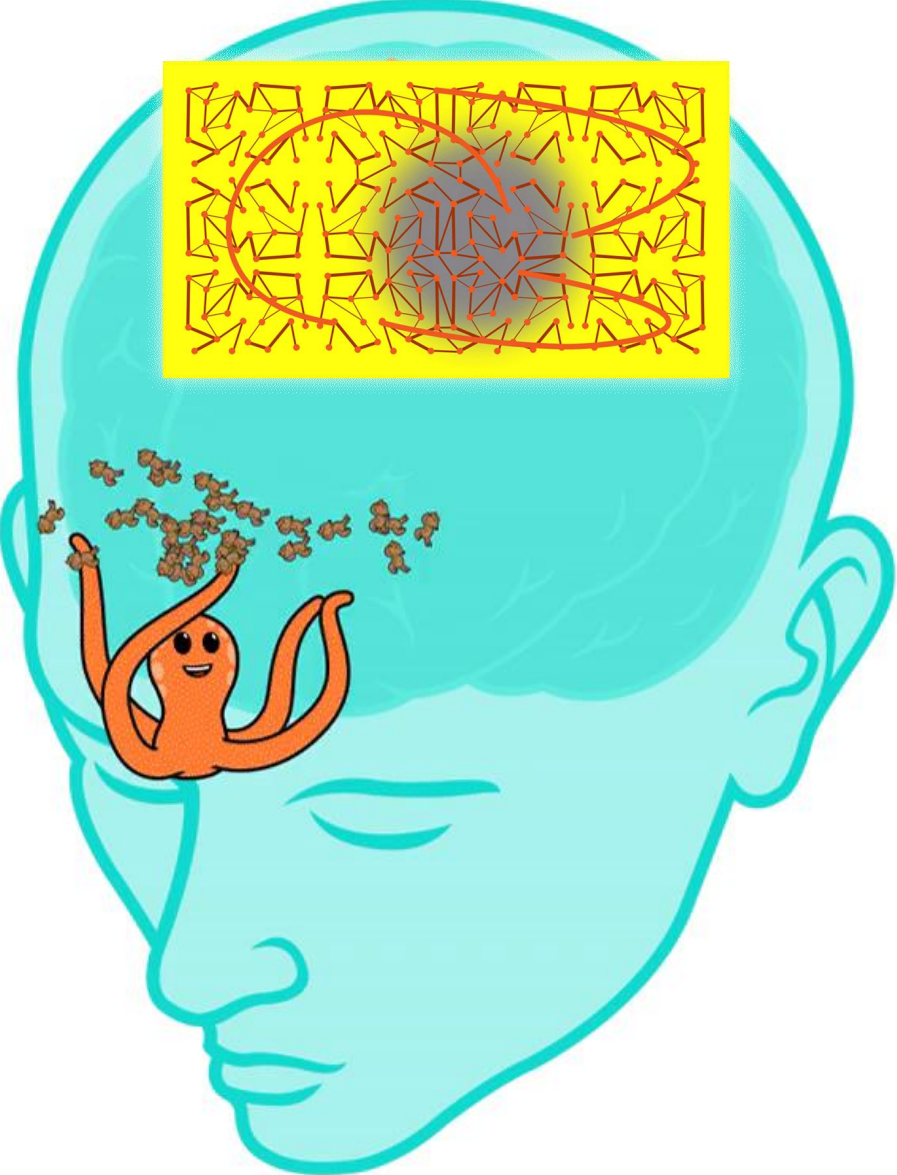








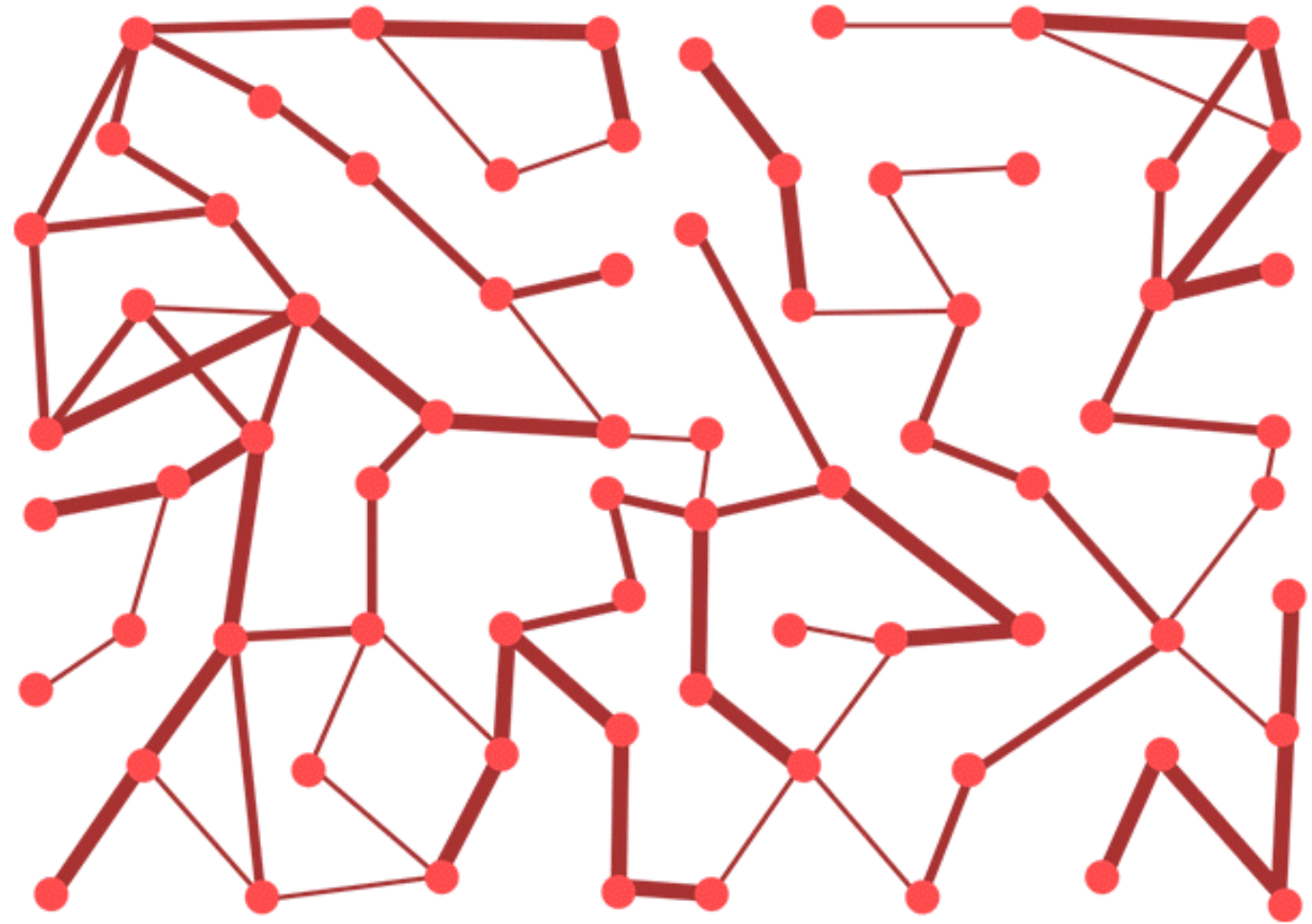
# Student





“When we hear the words of the Buddha... we have to think about their meaning and apply that meaning to our own lives. And when we do this, we generate changes in the structure and functions of our brains..”

*The Joy of Living*, Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche, Page 17





## BrainAGE and regional volumetric analysis of a Buddhist monk: a longitudinal MRI case study

Nagesh Adluru <sup>a</sup>, Cole H. Korponay <sup>b</sup>, Derek L. Norton<sup>c</sup>, Robin I. Goldman<sup>d</sup> and Richard J. Davidson <sup>d,e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Waisman Center, UW-Madison, USA; <sup>b</sup>McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School, USA; <sup>c</sup>Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, UW-Madison, USA; <sup>d</sup>Center for Healthy Minds, UW-Madison, USA; <sup>e</sup>Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, UW-Madison, USA

### ABSTRACT

Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche (YMR) is a Tibetan Buddhist monk, and renowned meditation practitioner and teacher who has spent an extraordinary number of hours of his life meditating. The brain-aging profile of this expert meditator in comparison to a control population was examined using a machine learning framework, which estimates “brain-age” from brain imaging. YMR’s brain-aging rate appeared slower than that of controls suggesting early maturation and delayed aging. At 41 years, his brain resembled that of a 33-year-old. Specific regional changes did not differentiate YMR from controls, suggesting that the brain-aging differences may arise from coordinated changes spread throughout the gray matter.

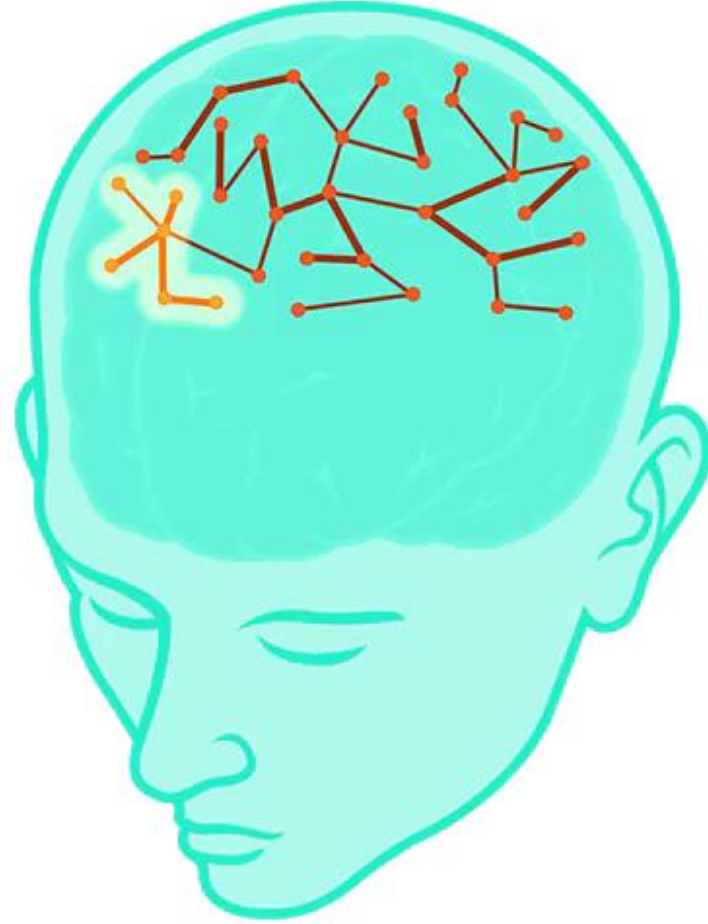
### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### KEYWORDS

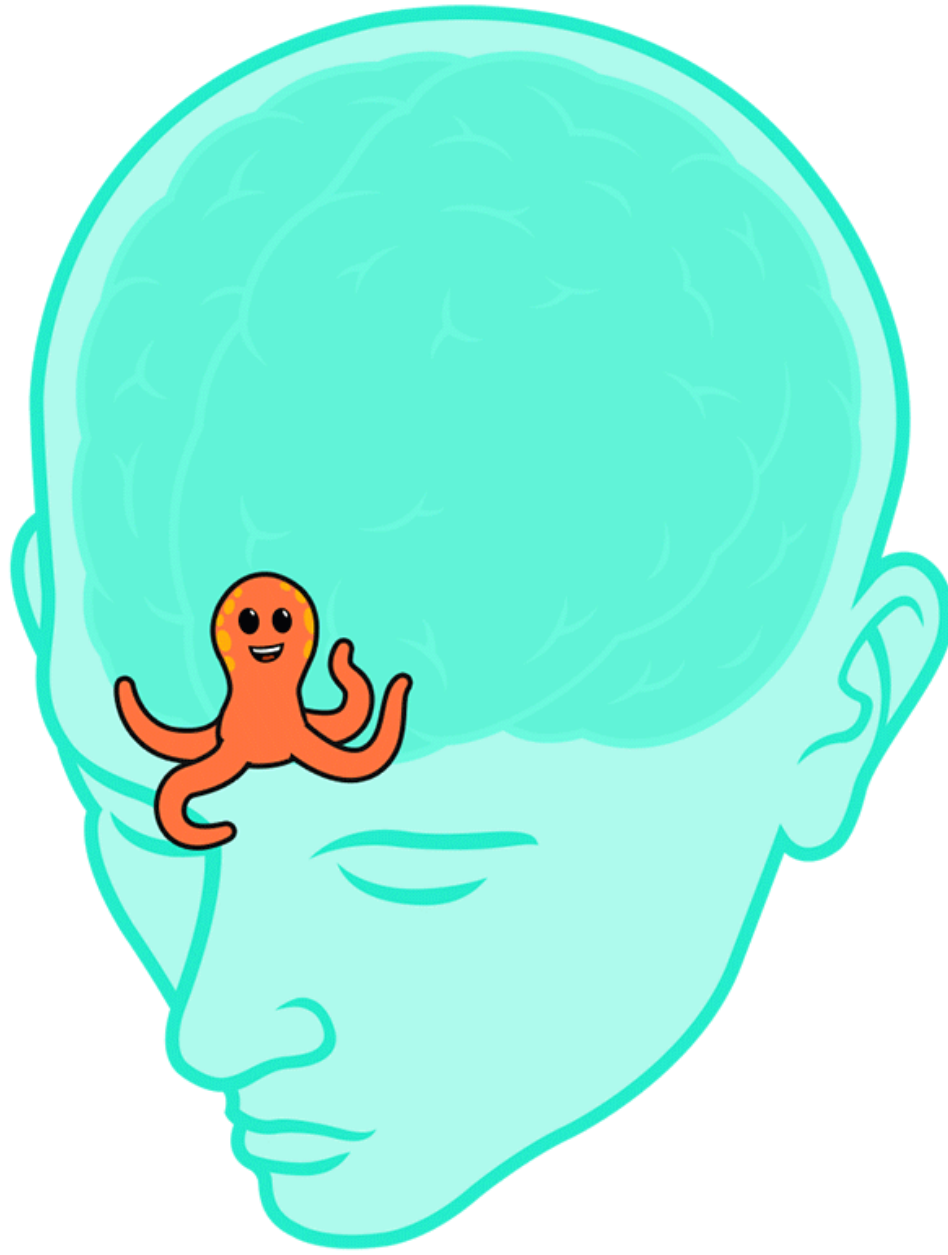
MRI case study; machine learning; long-term meditator; Buddhist monk









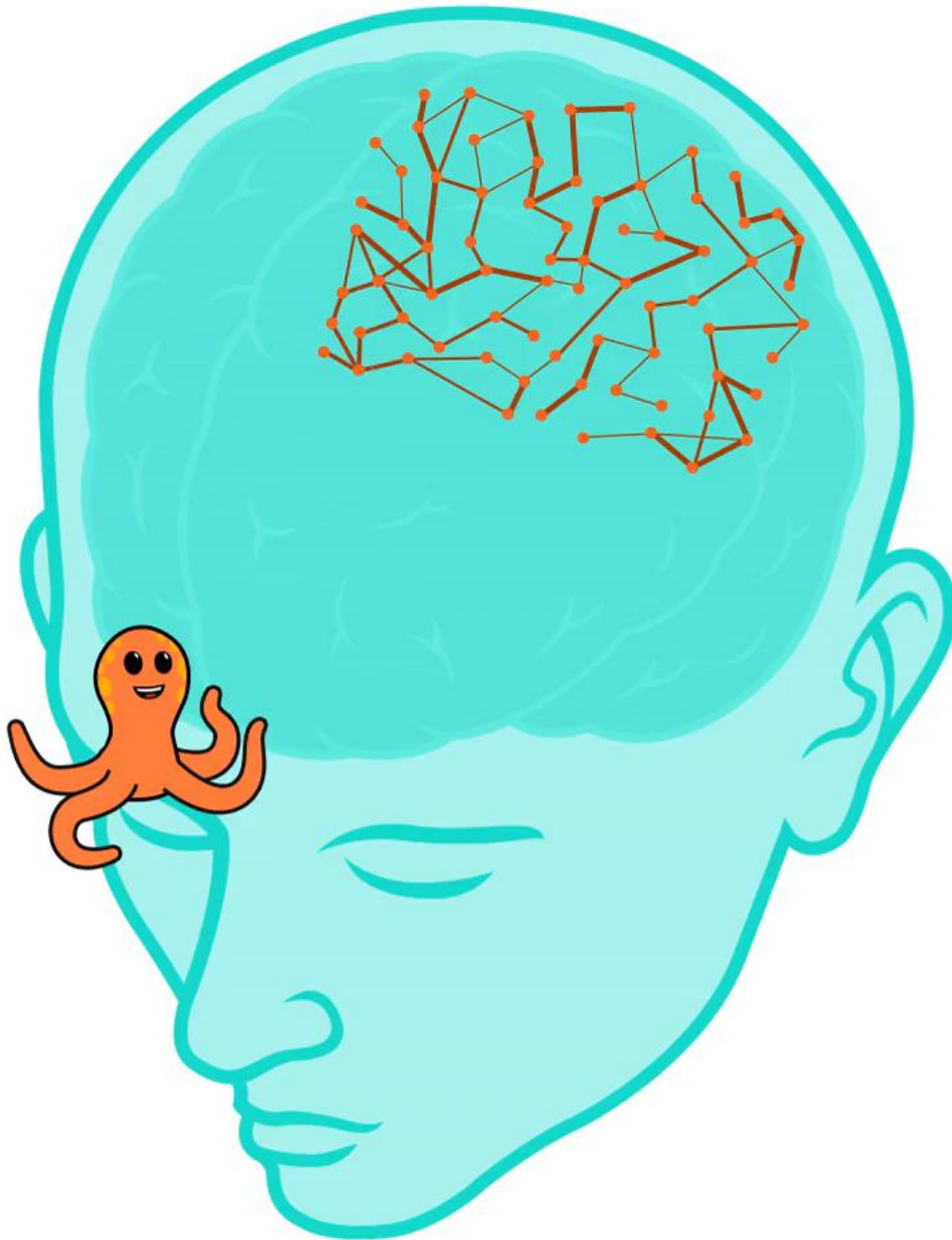


**Events** ↔ **Mental models**

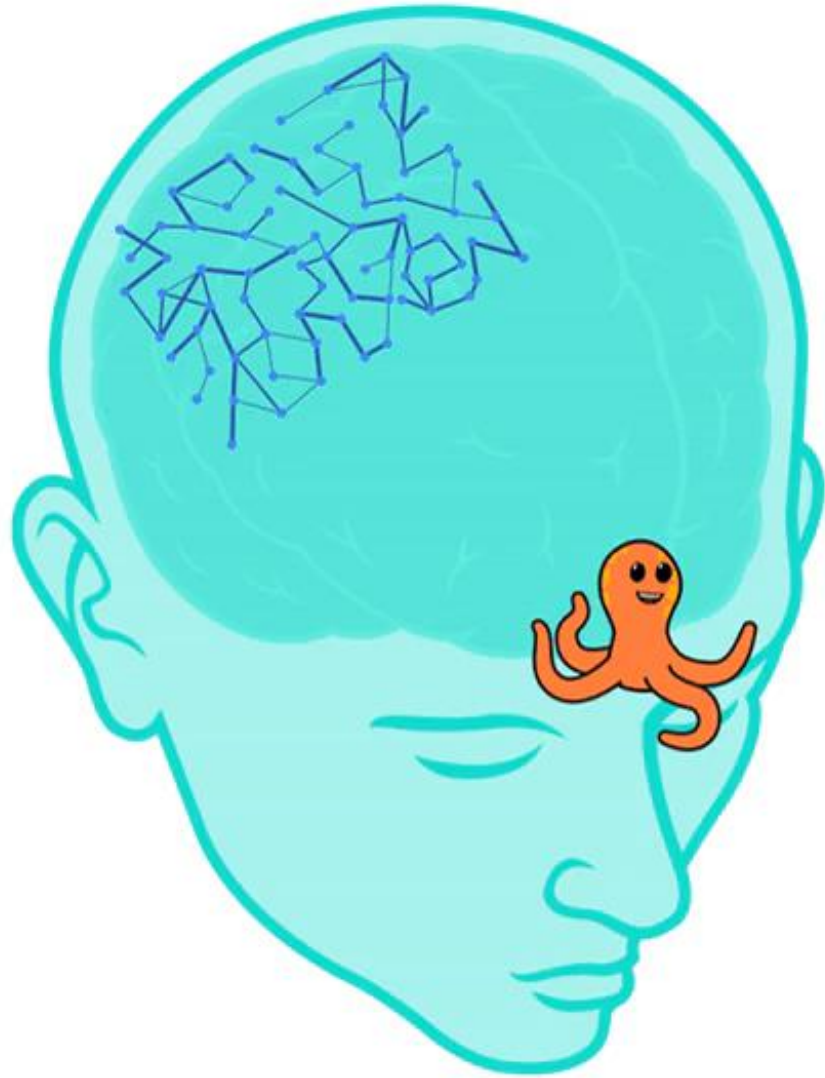


**Practice putting the  
mental model into  
long-term memory  
(schema)**

**Practice pulling the  
mental model OUT of  
long-term memory**



# Student



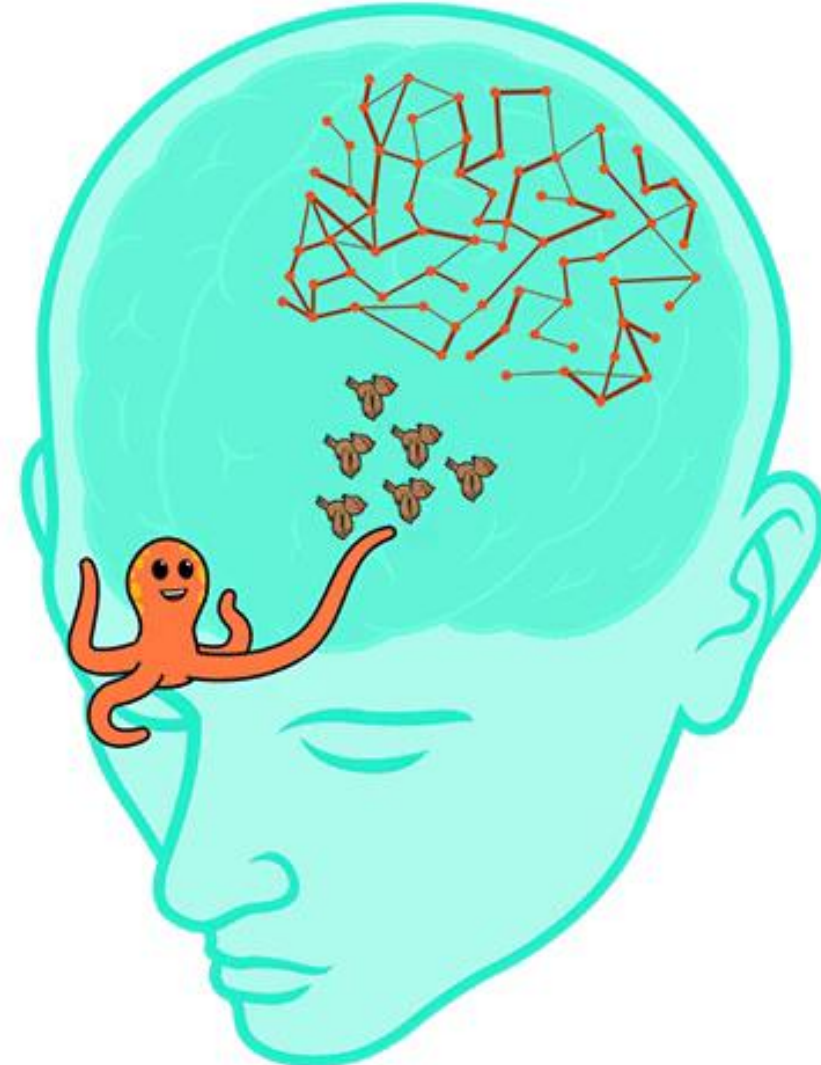
# Teacher



**Teaching means  
getting in neural  
synchrony**

# Teaching means getting in neural synchrony

Teacher







# Social learning

# The challenge of discussion forums



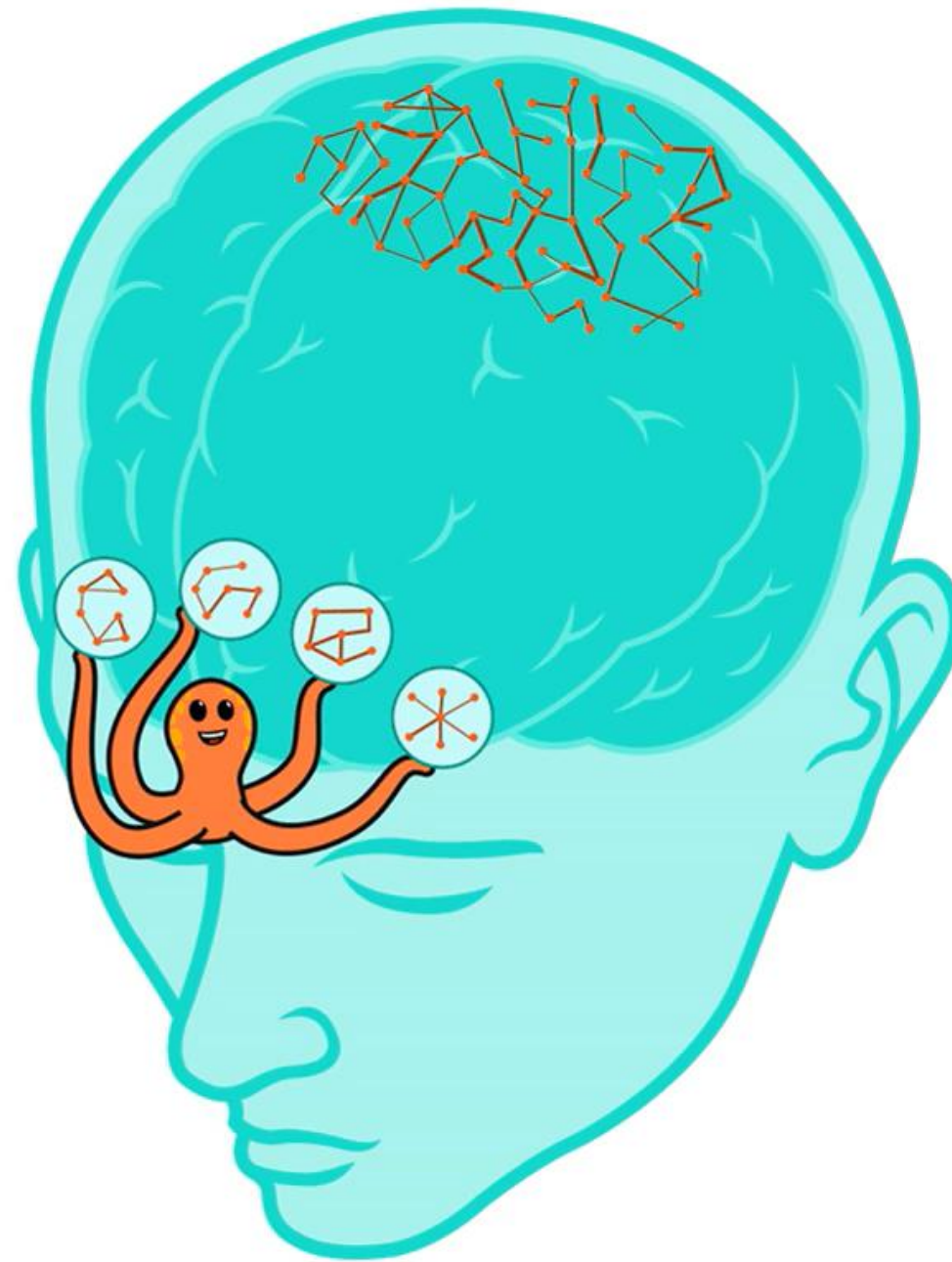
# The “tyranny of film”



Hutson, J. P., P. Chandran, J. P. Magliano, T. J. Smith, and L. C. Loschky. "Narrative Comprehension Guides Eye Movements in the Absence of Motion." *Cogn Sci* 46, no. 5 (May 2022): e13131. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13131>.



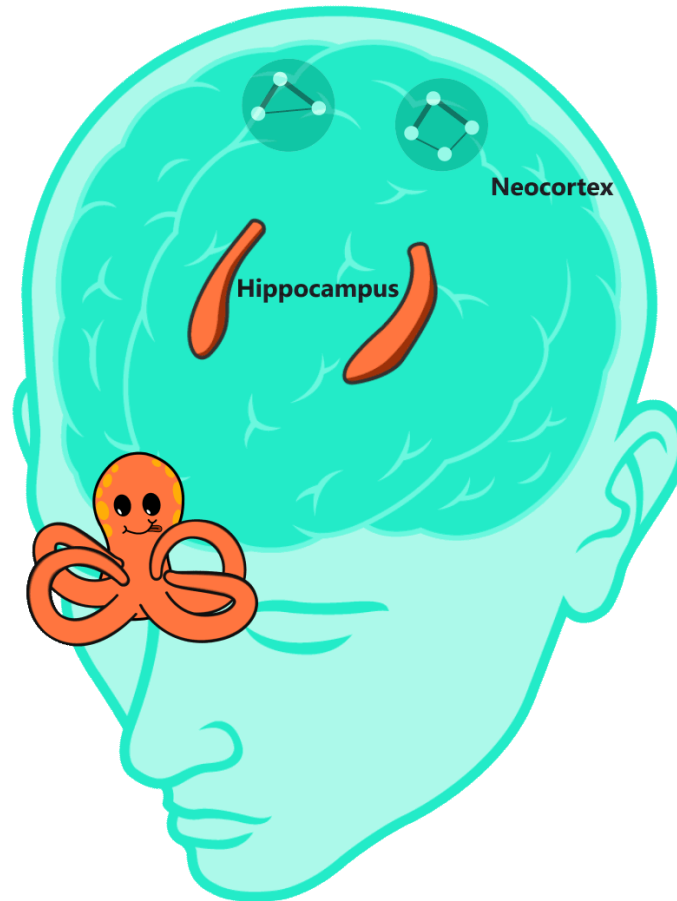
## The hippocampus in declarative learning





# Short breaks or lighter tasks

Allow the hippocampus to strengthen links in the neocortex



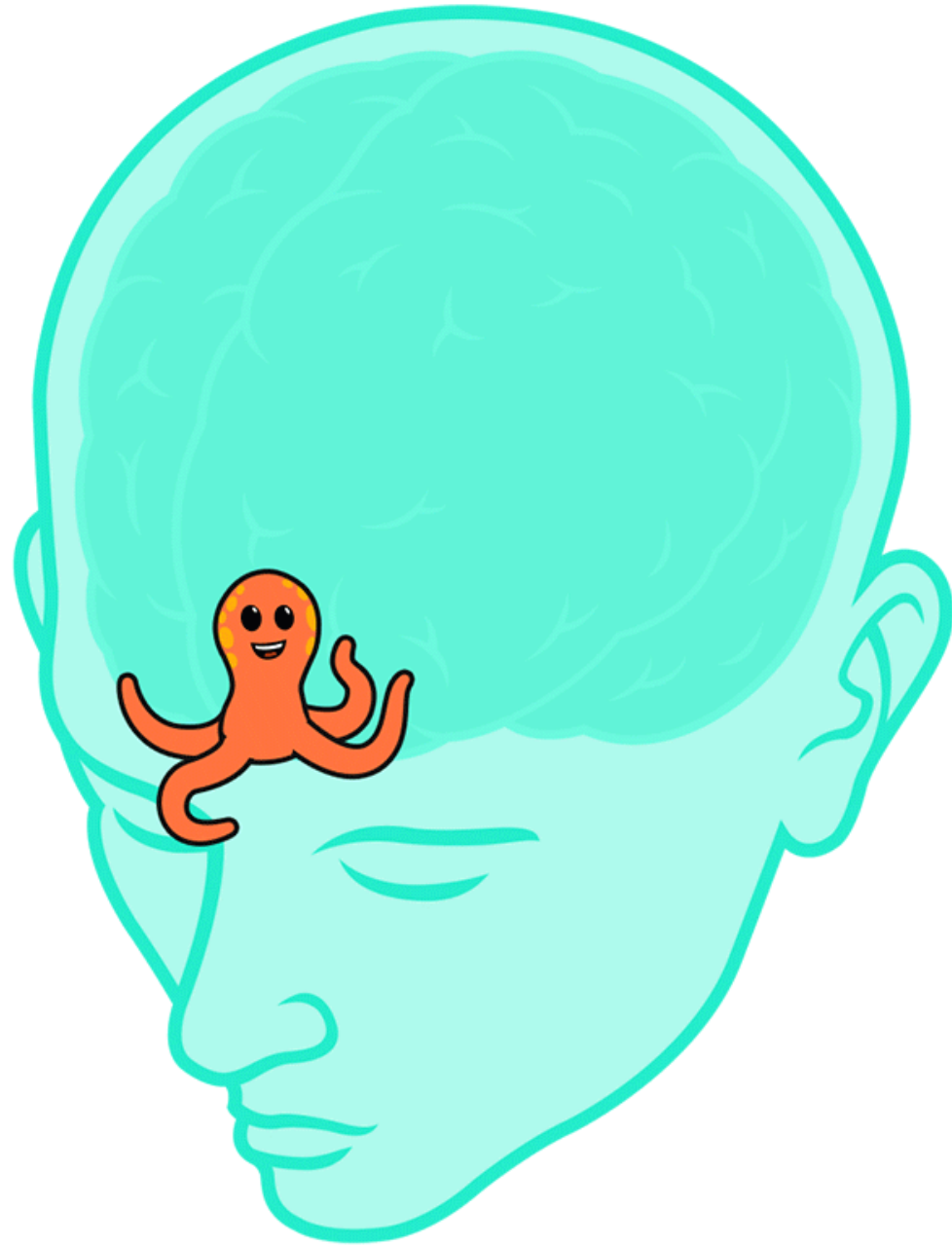
# Think-pair-share



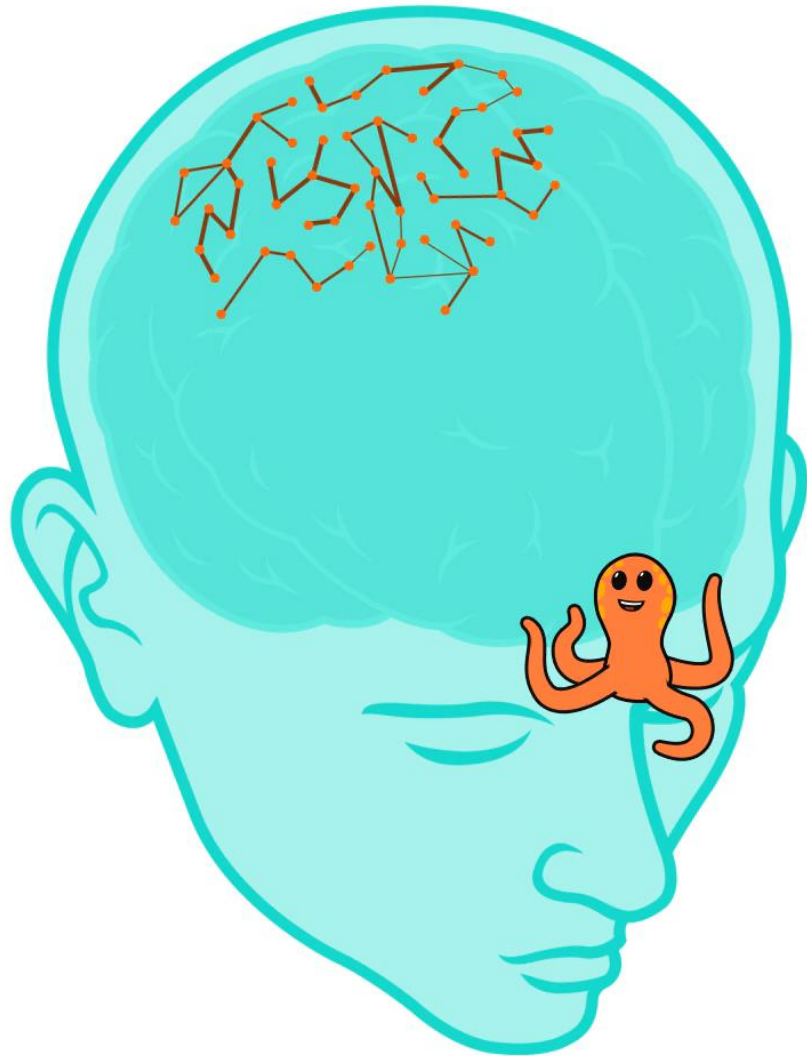


# Why cramming works— but only temporarily





# TWEAKING *YOUR* SCHEMAS



- Add retrieval practice apps to your teaching repertoire!

**ALL RECALLS** 160 ?

Sort By: Date Created + New

- litera 1
- fusiform** 1.0 ★ 1 ? 1
- fusiform gyrus 2
- meditation 5
- fMRI and Learning Project Des... 2
- default mode 17
- default mode network
- focused
- dopamine 17
- Untagged items 35
- Snoozed recalls
- Flagged recalls 2
- Cloned, never practiced

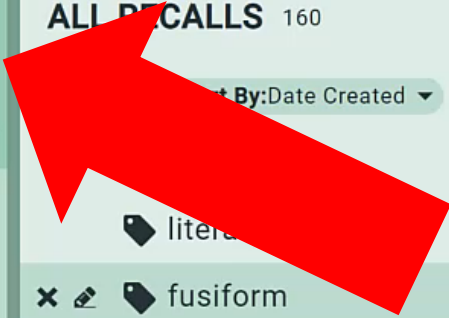
**GROUPS**  
Shared Content

**RECALLS**  
Flashcards

**LIBRARY**  
Your materials  
70

**PRACTICE**  
Today's recalls  
30

?



Untagged items × Search recalls 25 | 35 ?

Sort By: Question text (A-Z) ▼

- Although one might have thought that the relationship between language and math would depend strongly on the domain of mat...
- Awake SWRs (sharp wave ripples) and reactivation typically occur during pauses in ongoing behavior or quiescent periods, and t...
- Executive functions are important to study because they are
- Explain the key breakdown of long-term memory components.
- Explain the neurological model of language
- General intelligence predicts memory change across sleep Kimberly M. Fenn & David Z. Hambrick
- high-level mathematical expertise and basic number sense share common roots in

# Retrieval Practice Apps

**Teacher can facilitate creation  
of decks in classes**

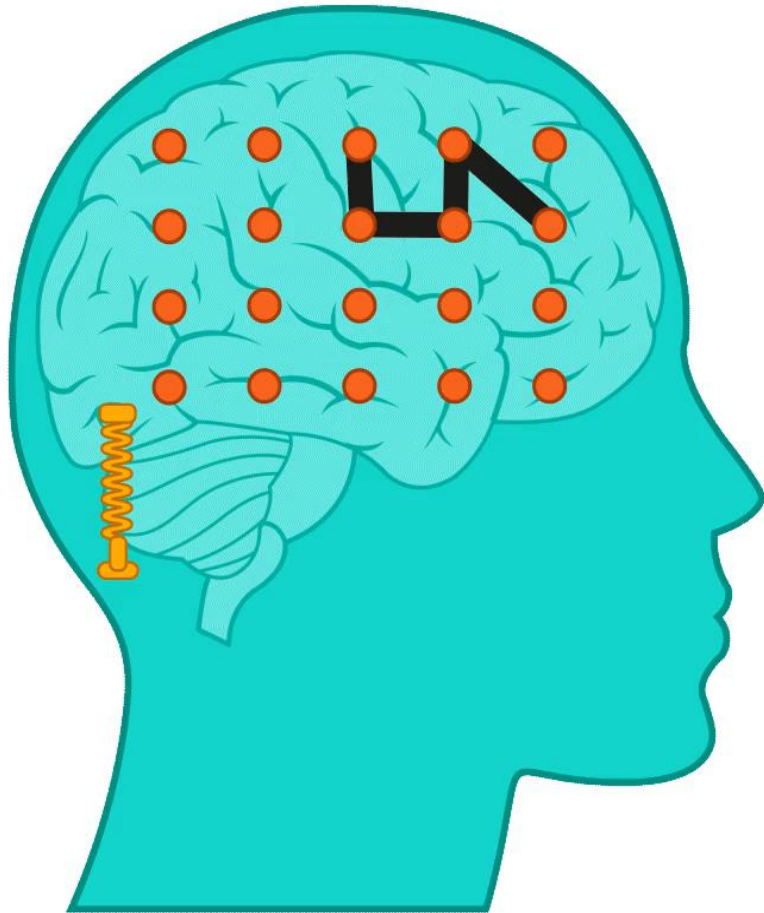
- iDoRecall
- Quizlet
- Kahoot!
- Anki

**Live, in-class**

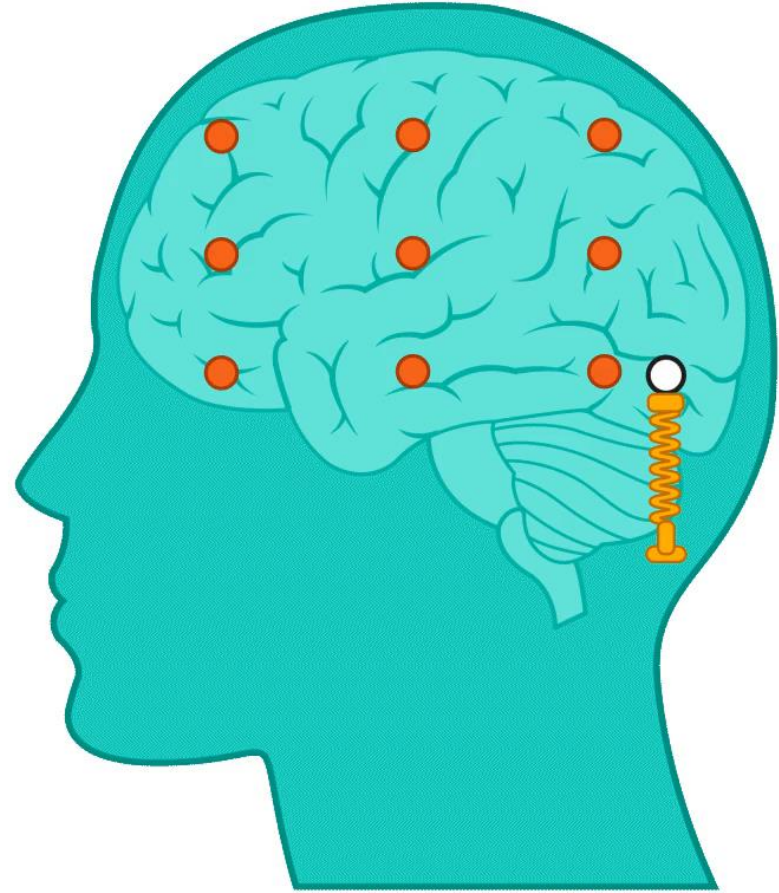
- PearDeck
- NearPod

**Making Learning a Habit**

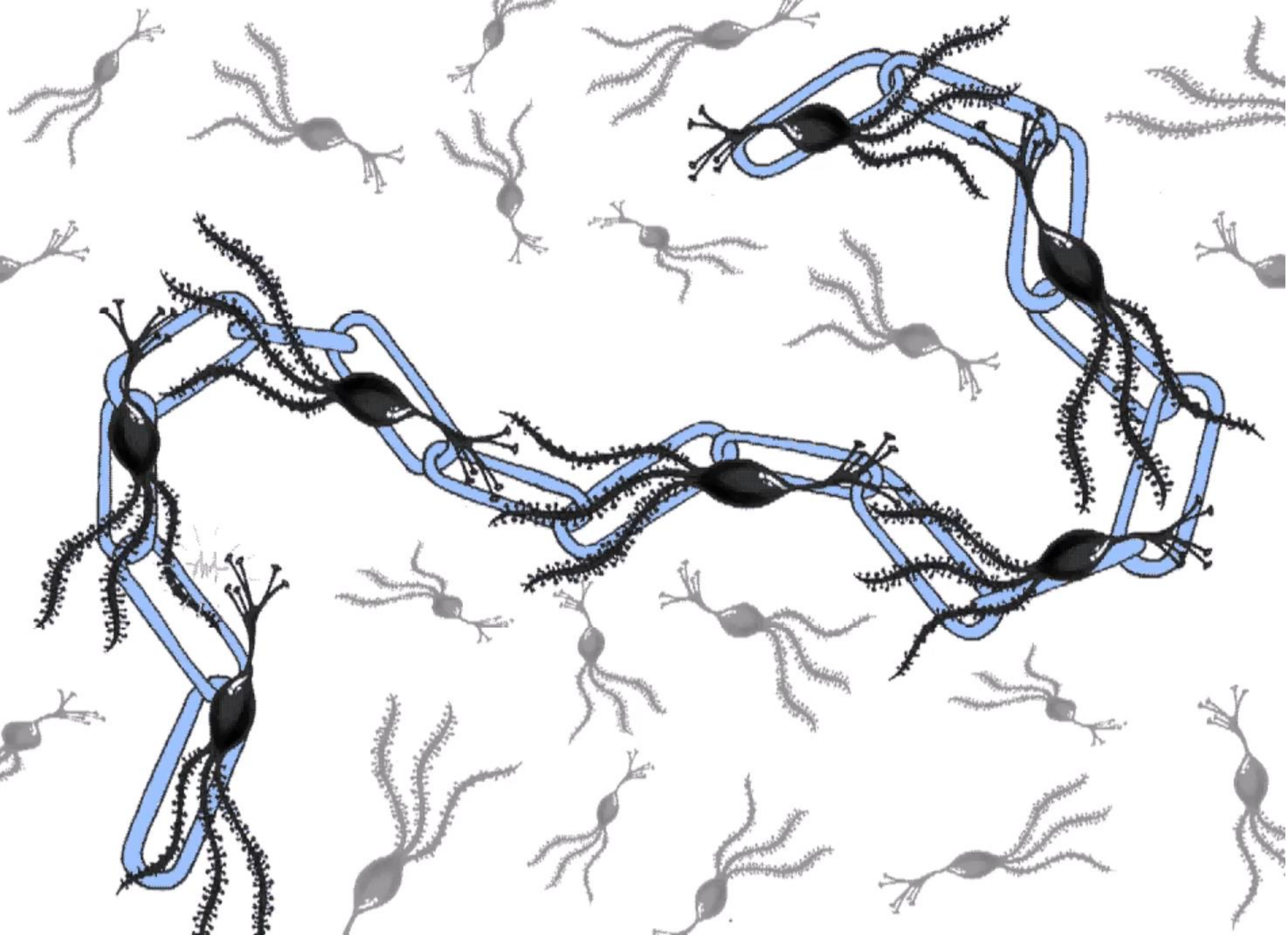
`conjure.so`



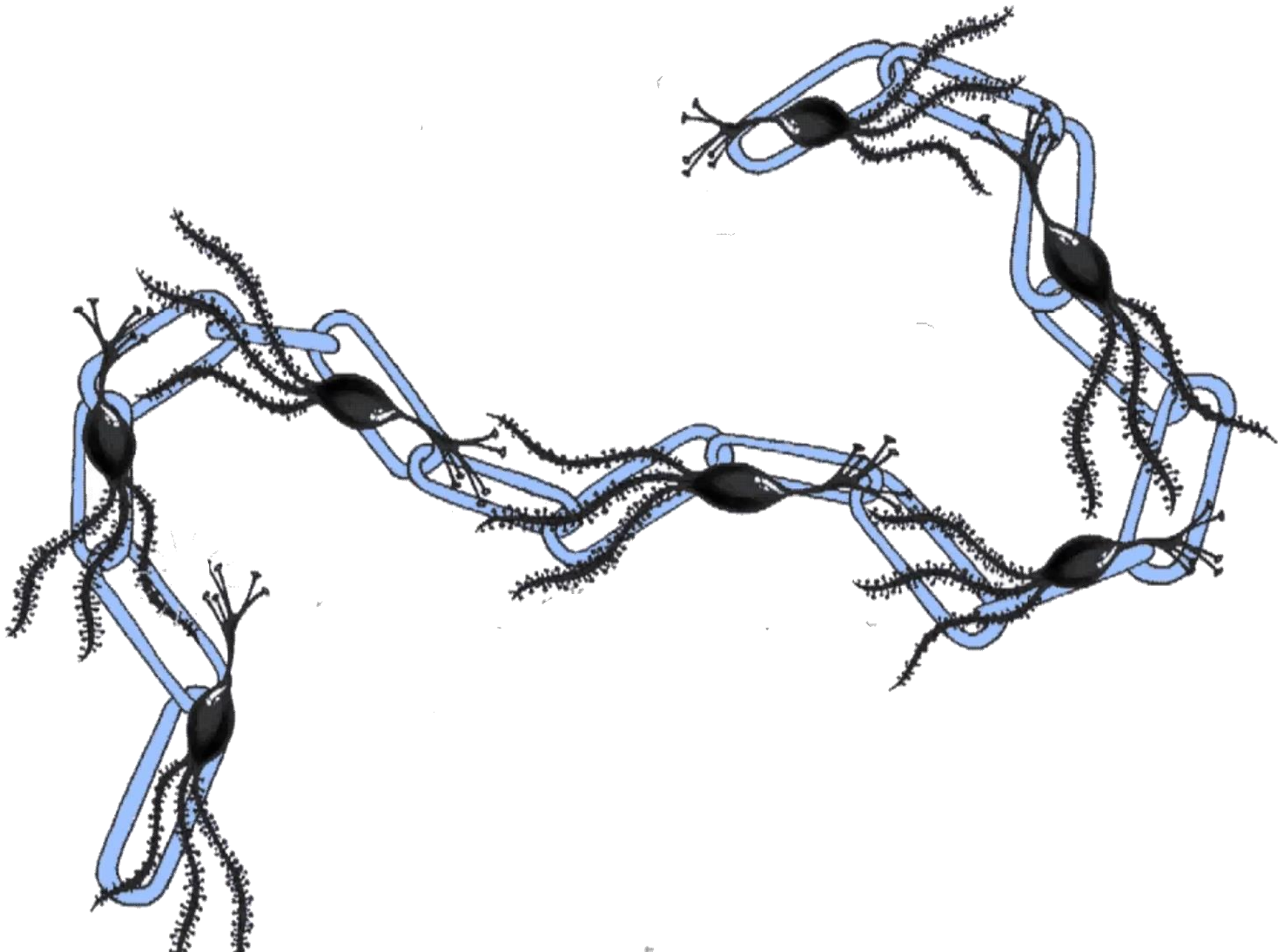
**FOCUSED MODE**



**DIFFUSE MODE**



These are like  
sets of links





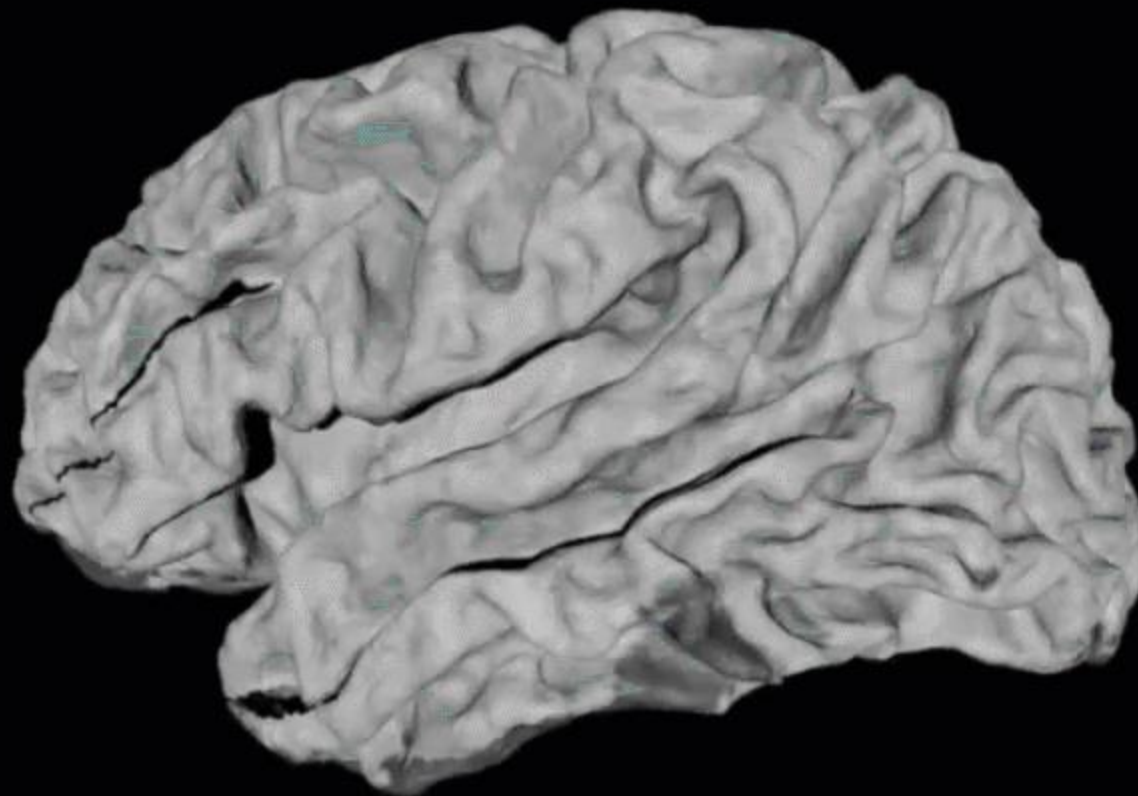
# The Neocortex



# The Neocortex

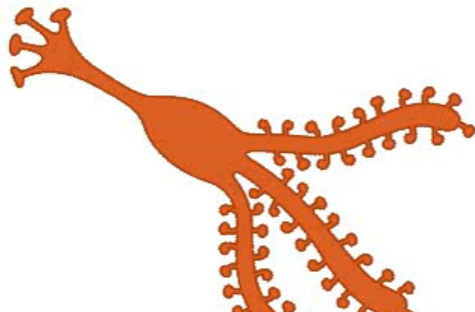
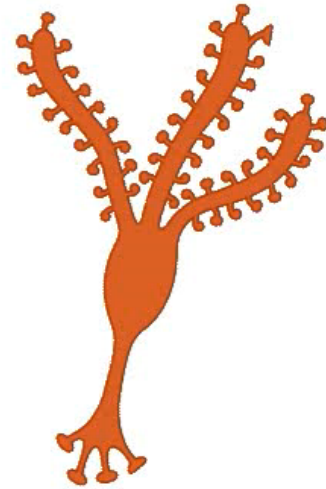
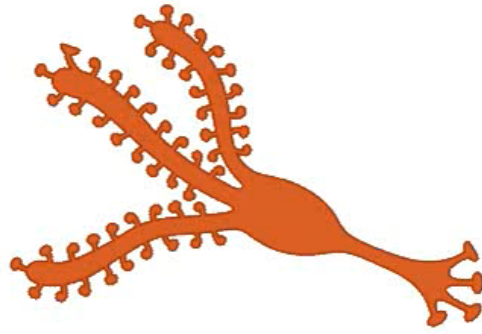
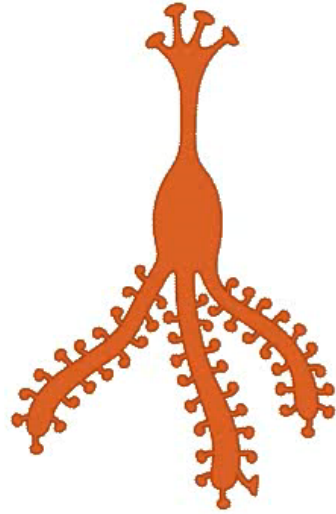


# The Neocortex

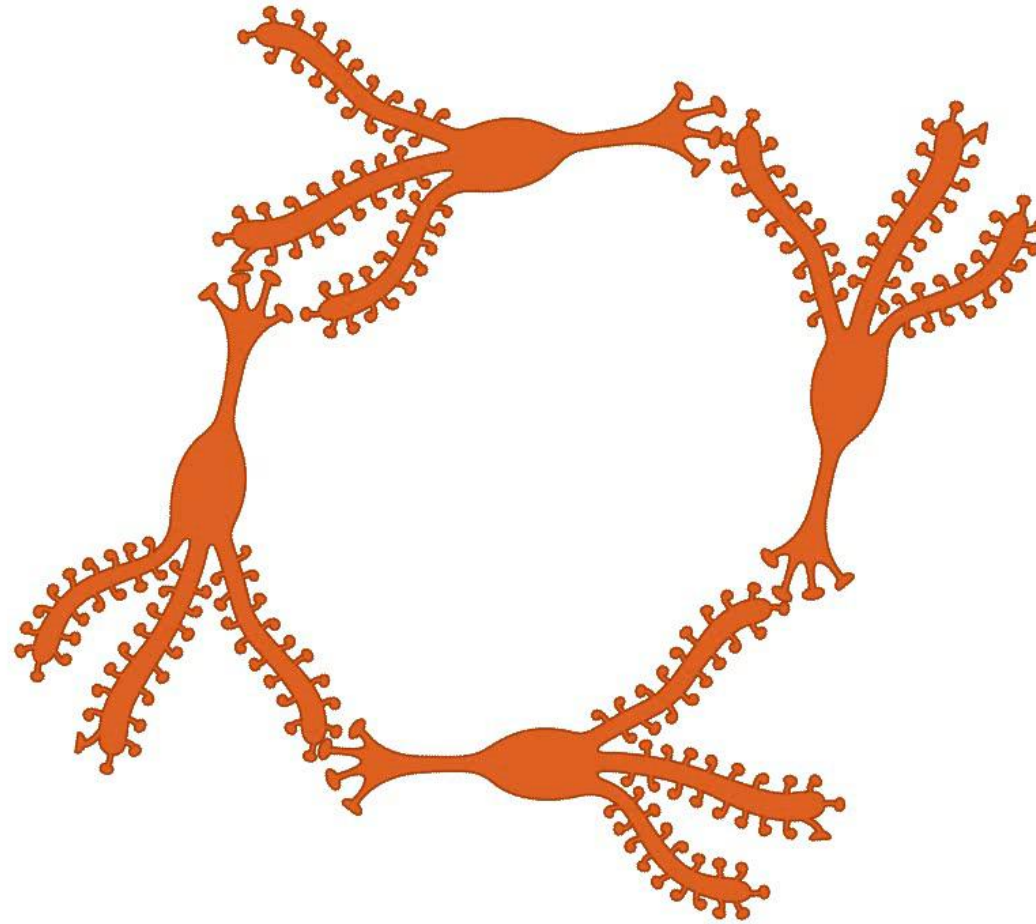


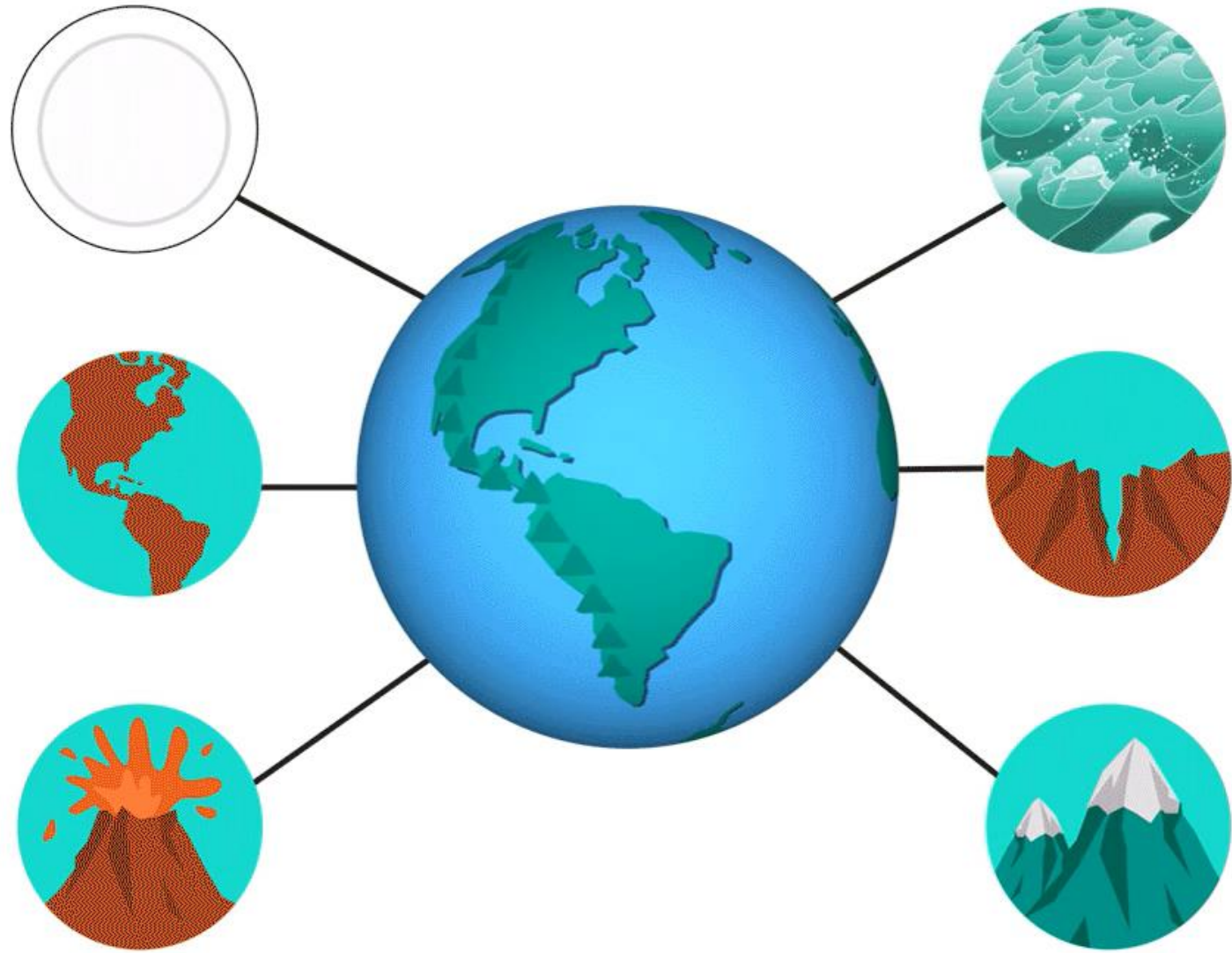
Courtesy Alexander Huth

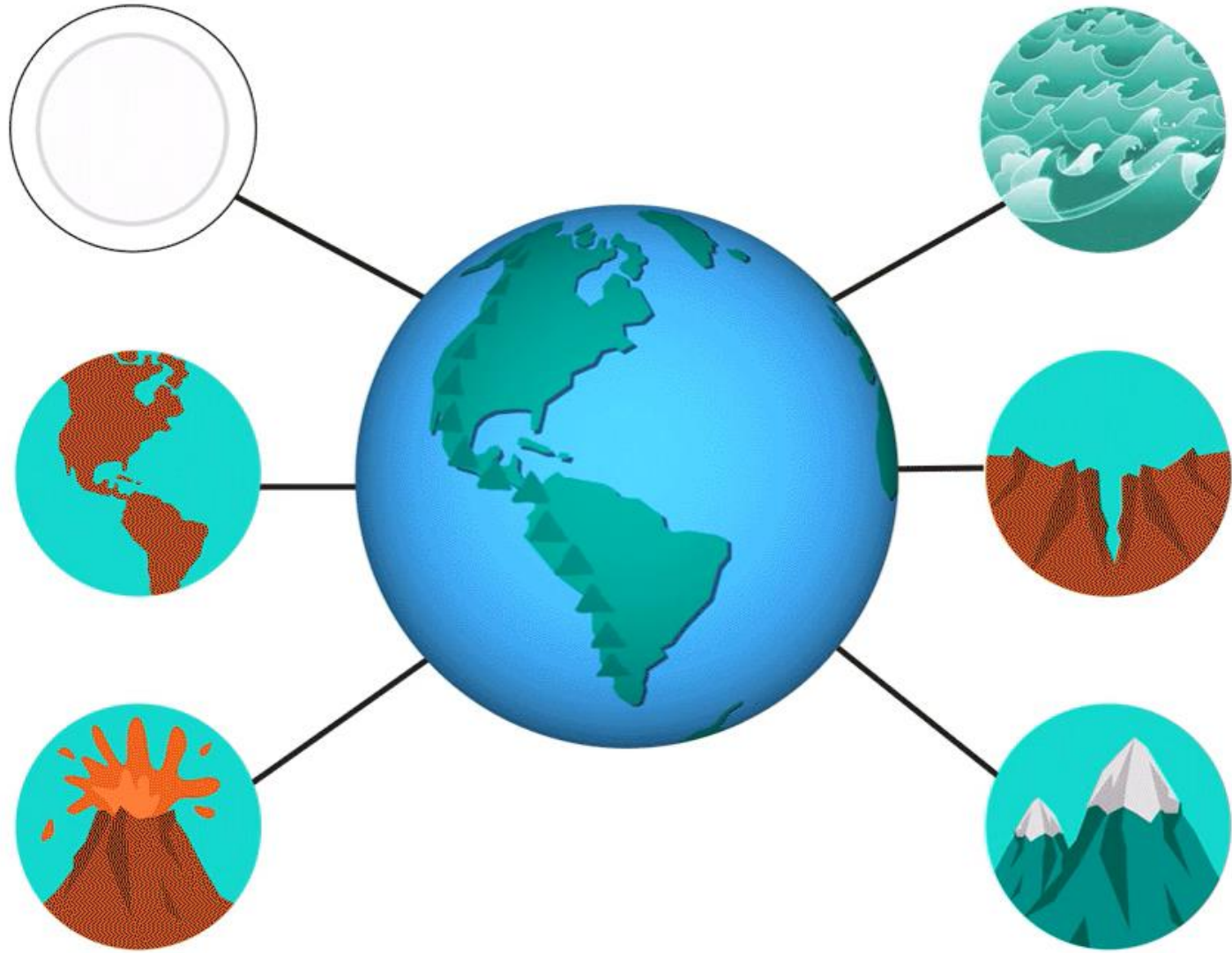
# Neuron shorthand

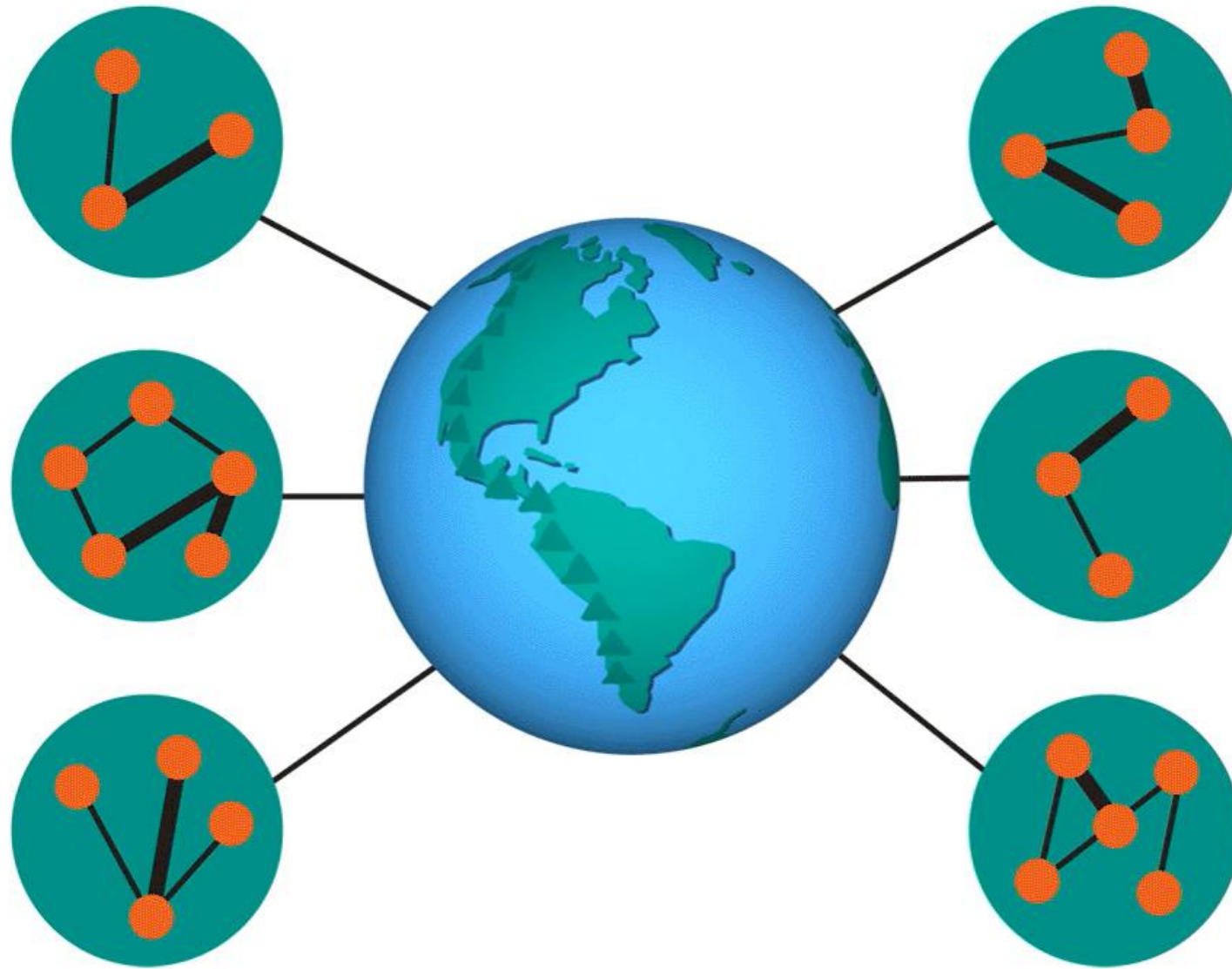


# Neuron shorthand

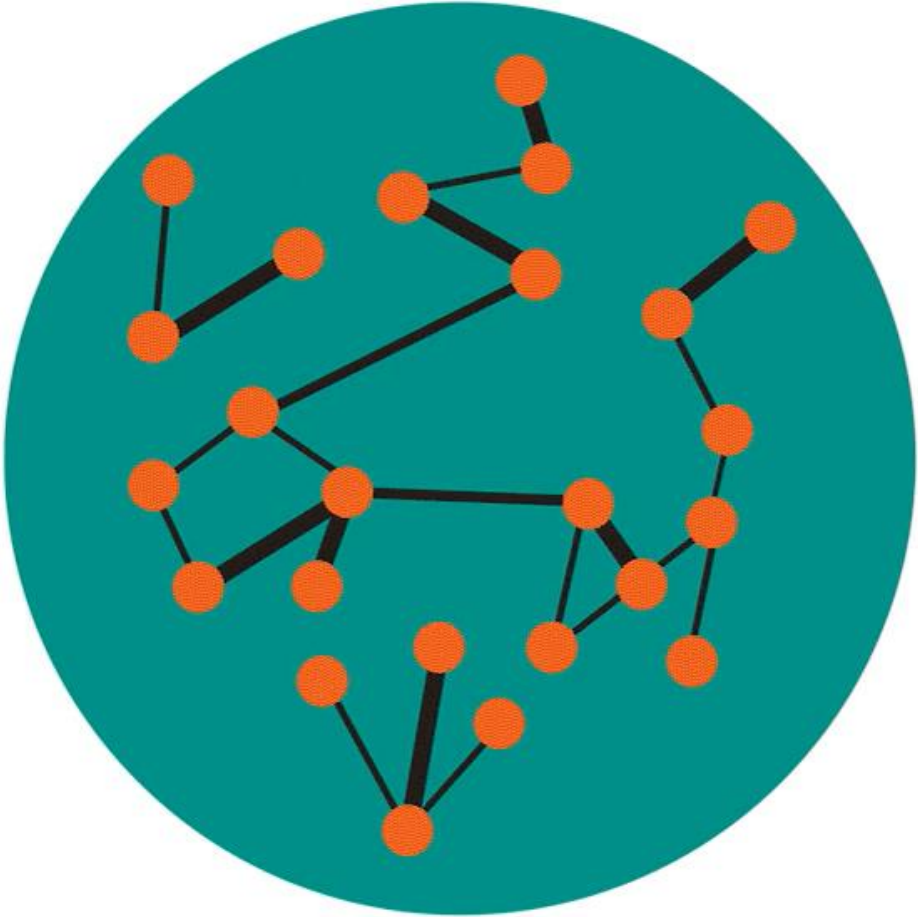


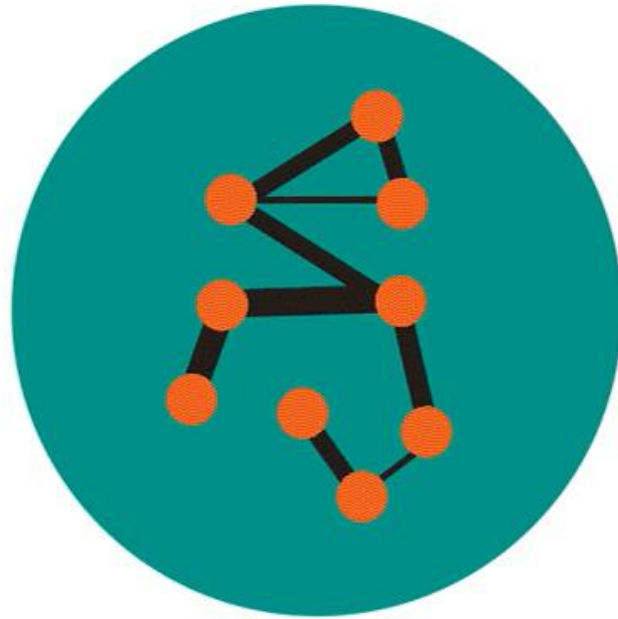






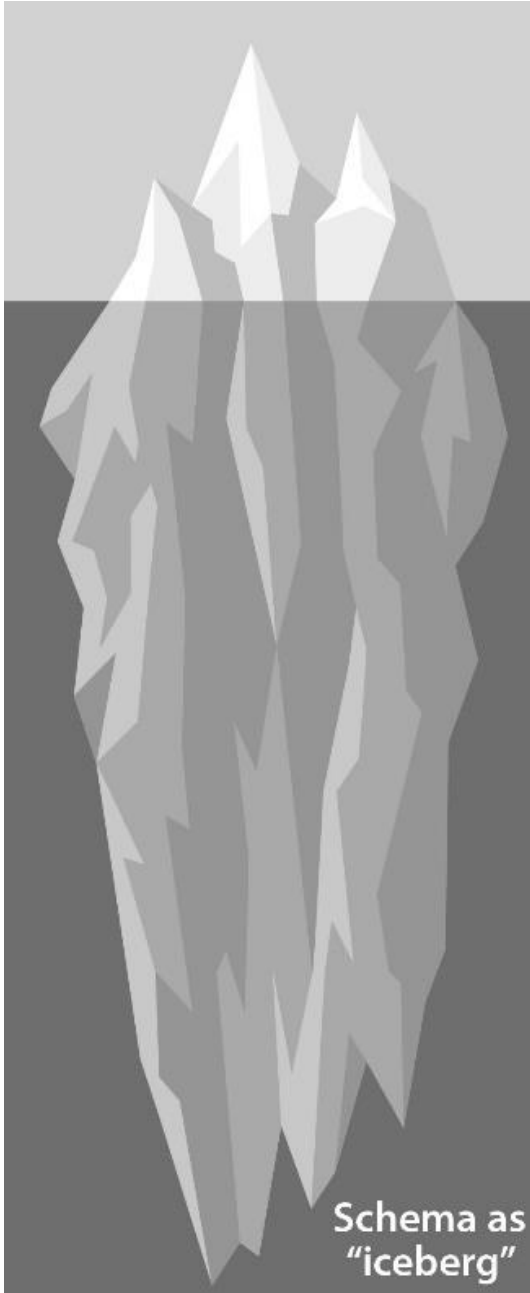
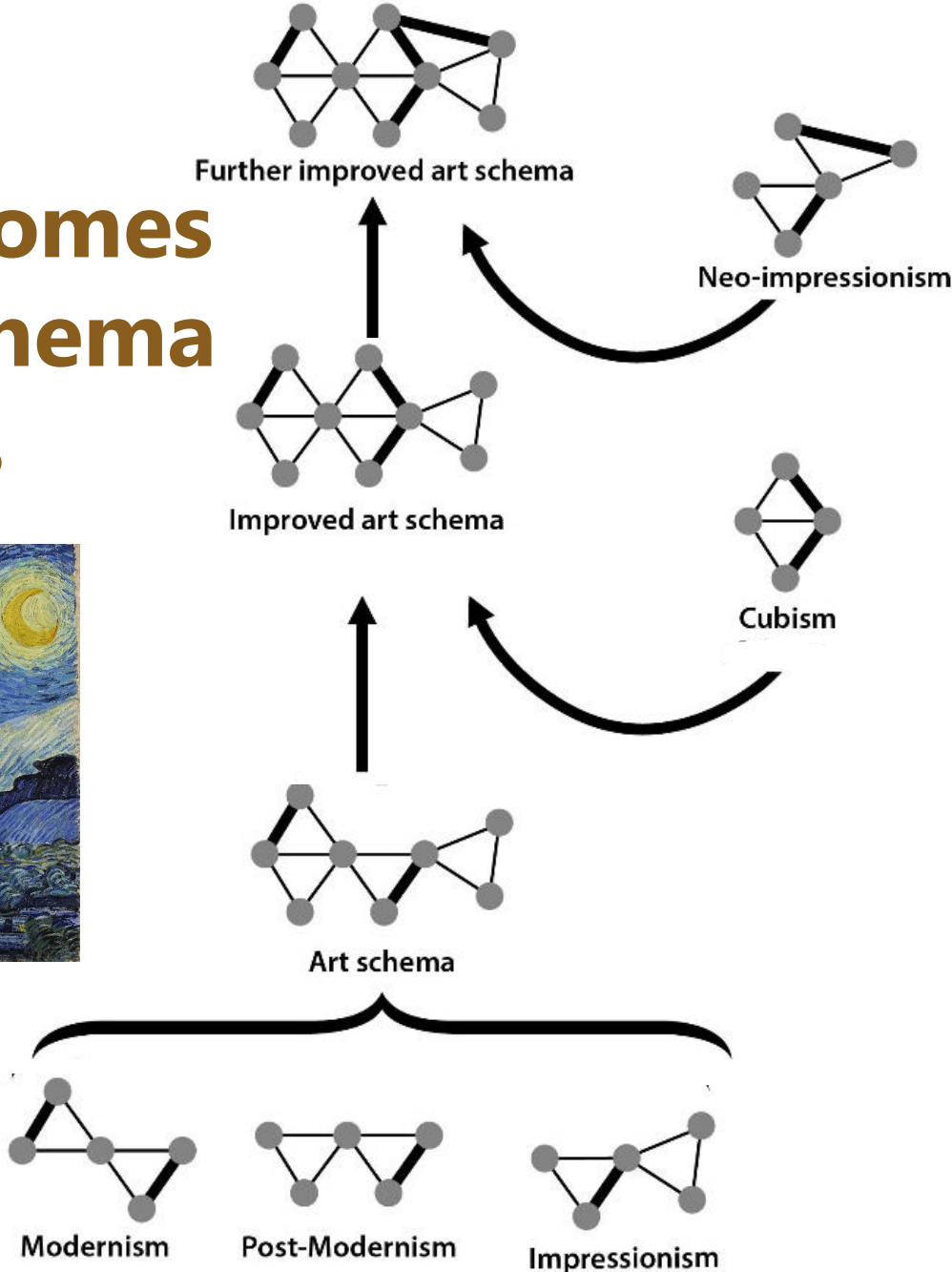


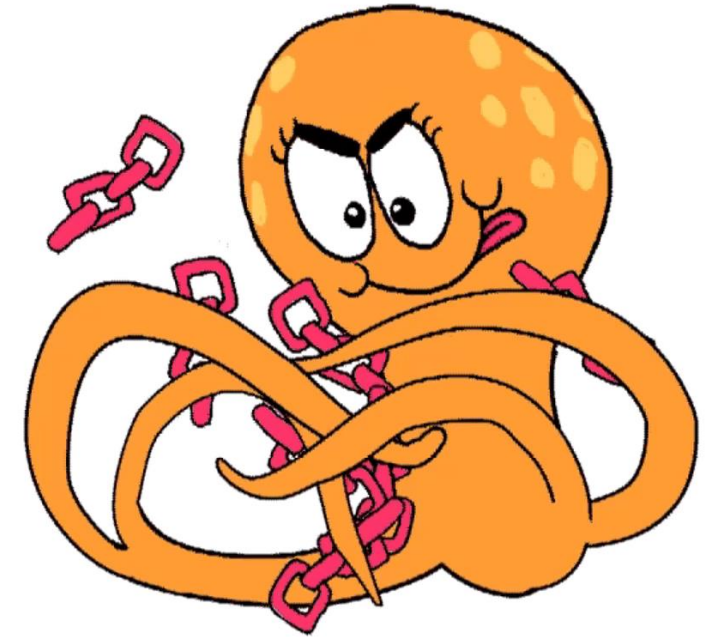




## Metaphor & analogy

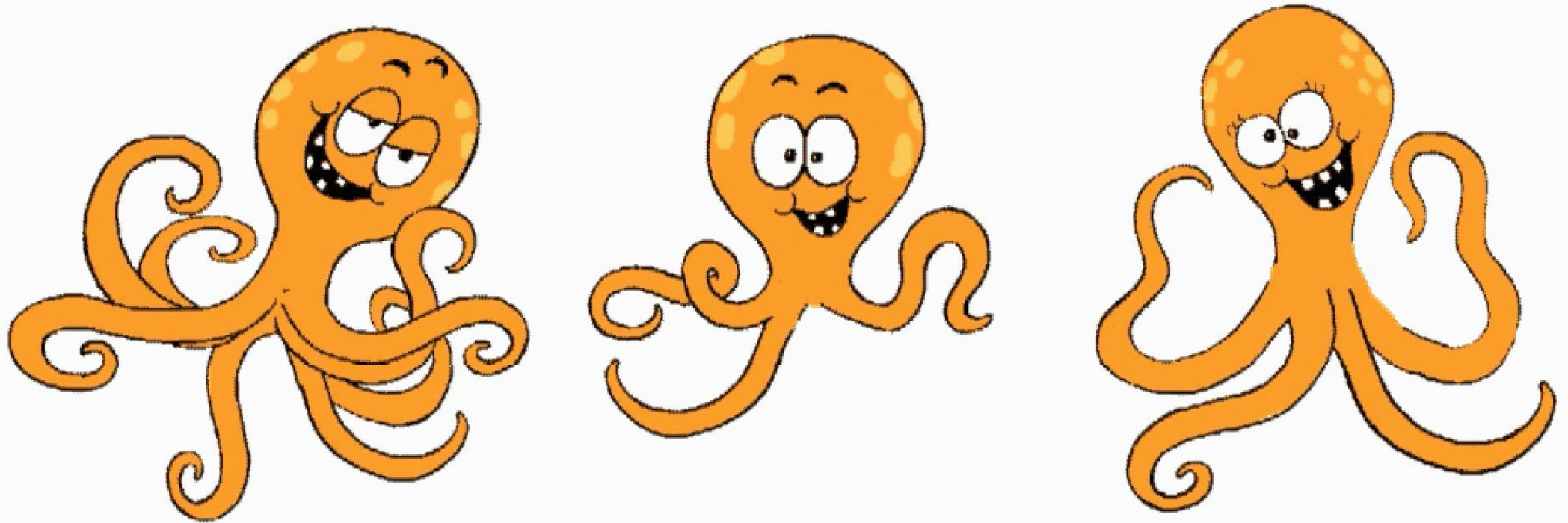
# Learning becomes easier as a schema expands

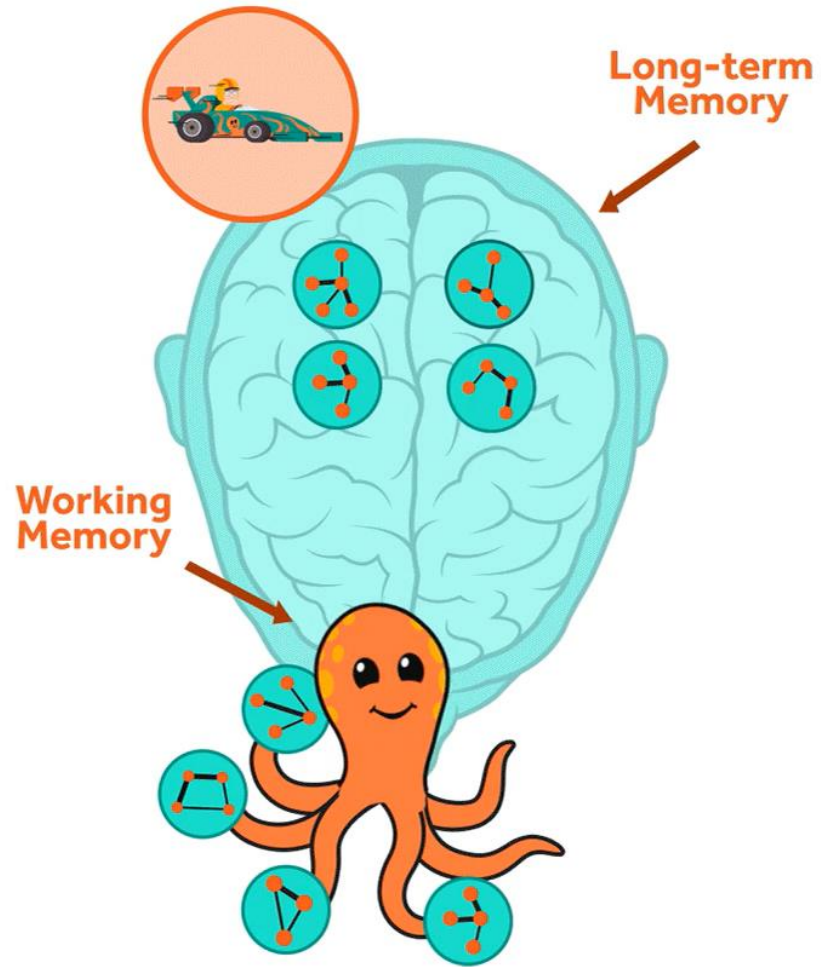


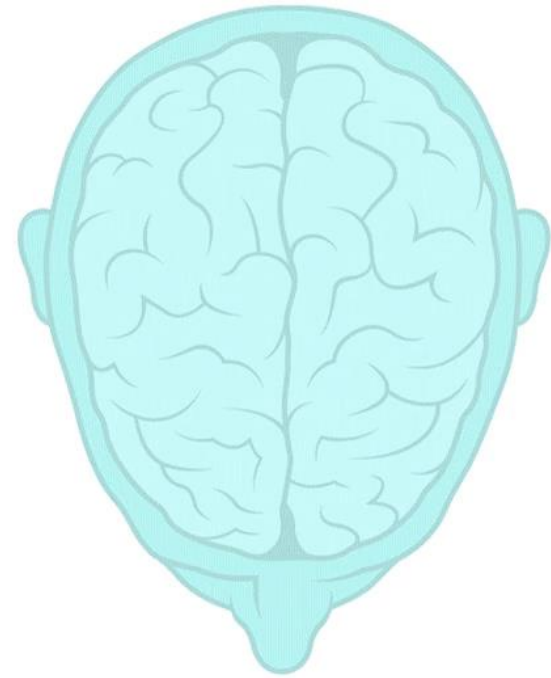
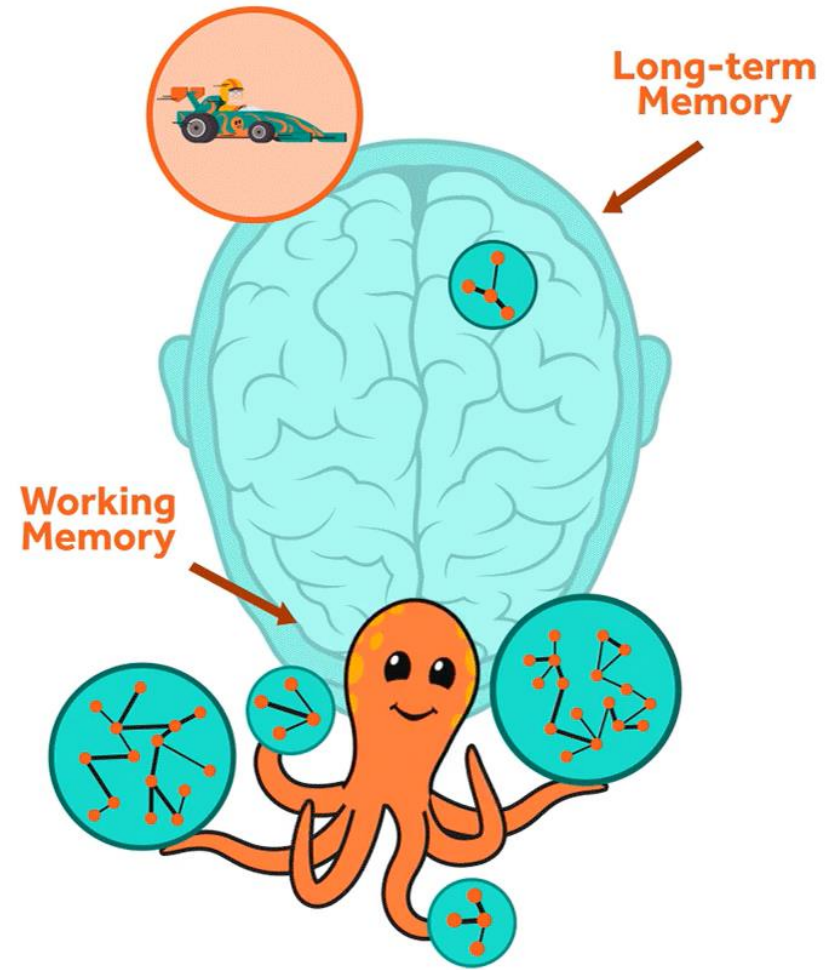


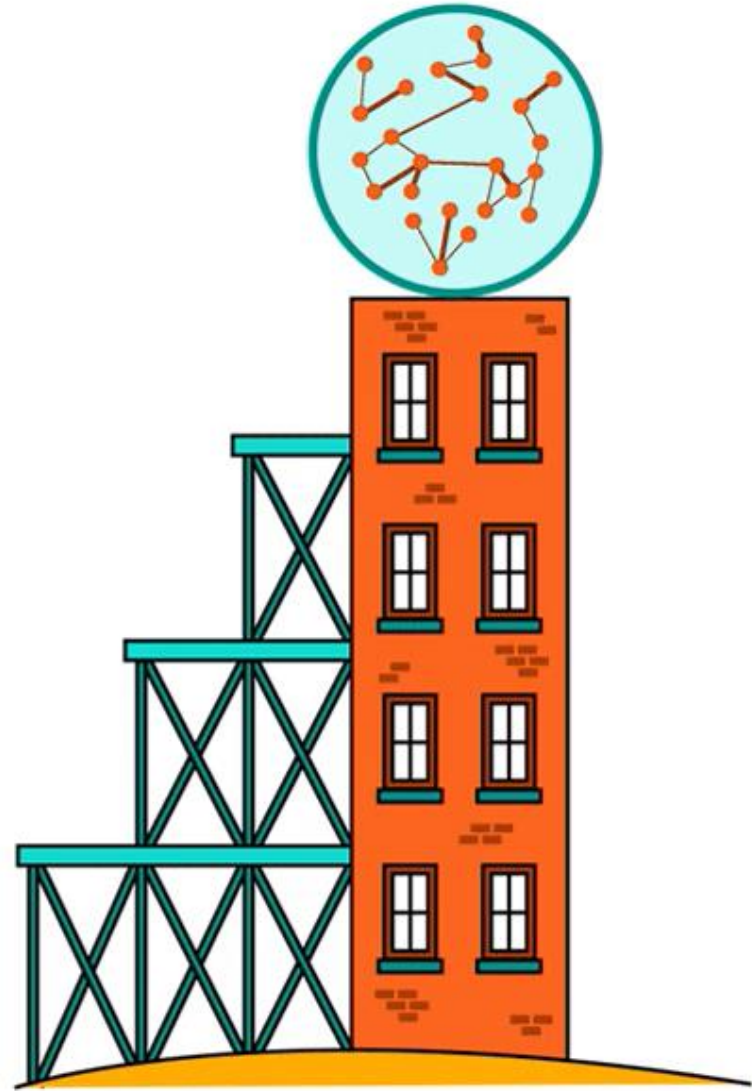
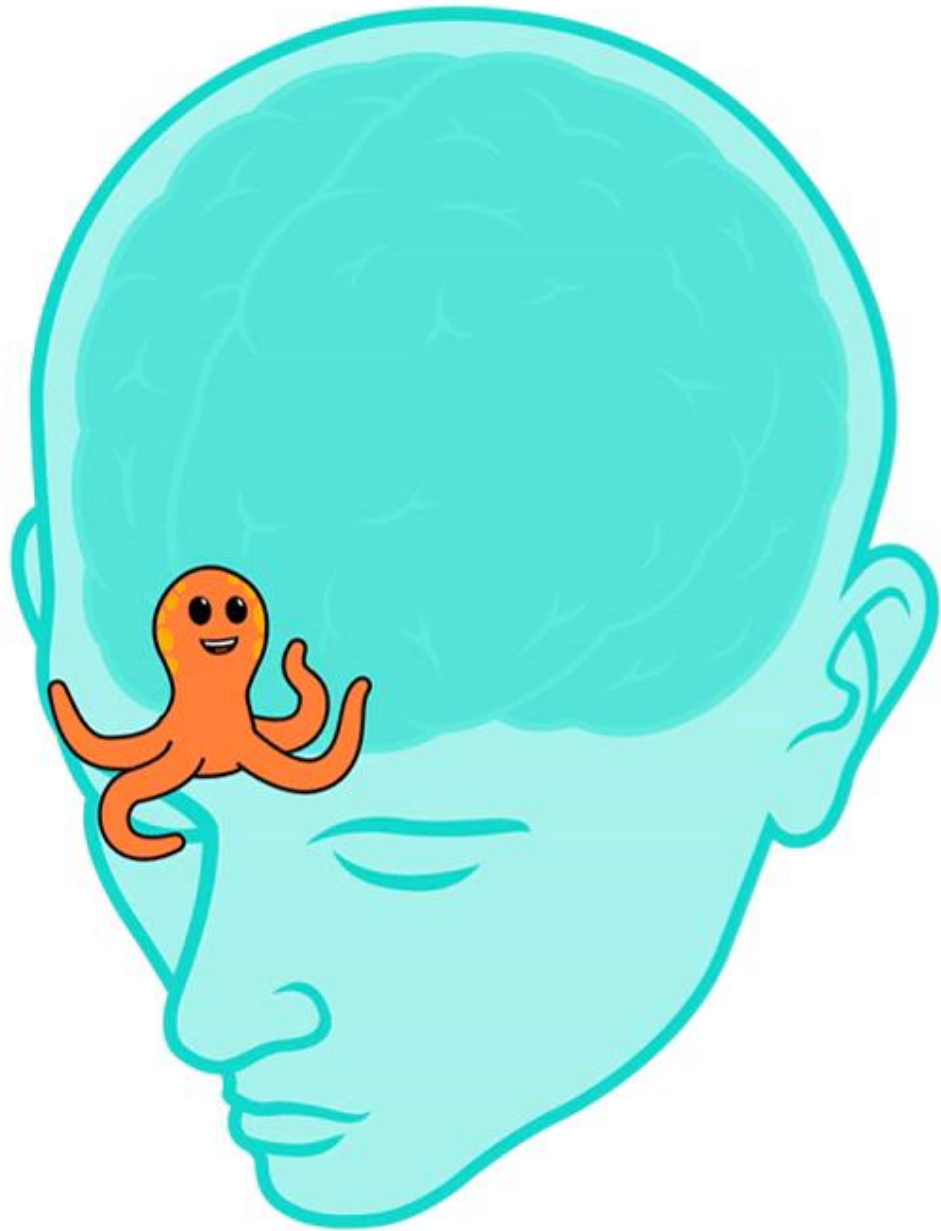
- Heavy cognitive load
- No working memory is available for anything else

***The lower the working memory capacity, the more the student is helped by their sets of links in long term memory!***









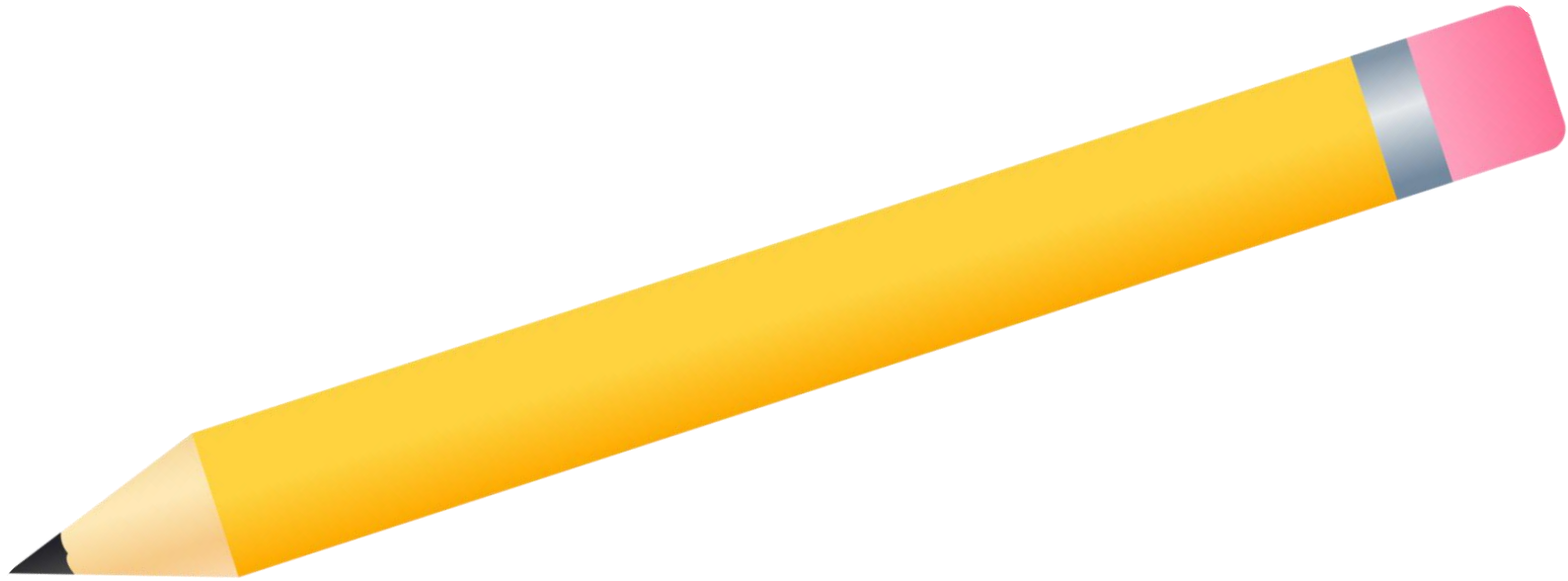




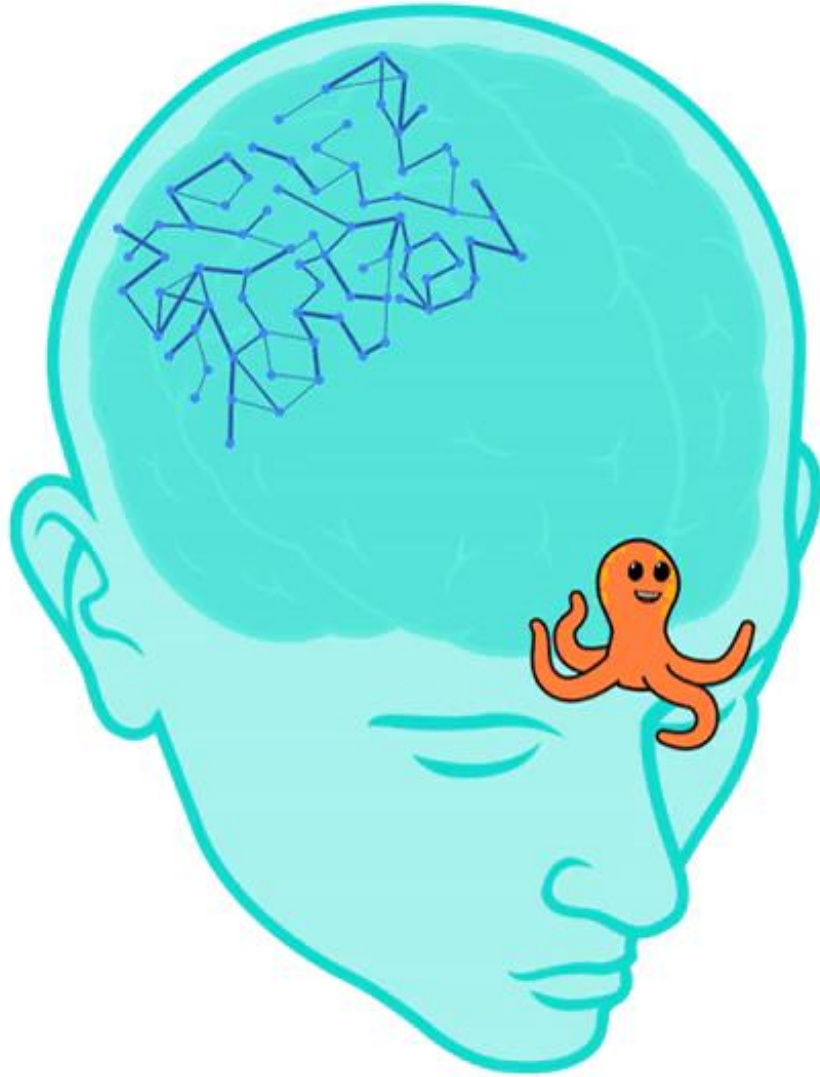
# Mirroring and Motivation

Go





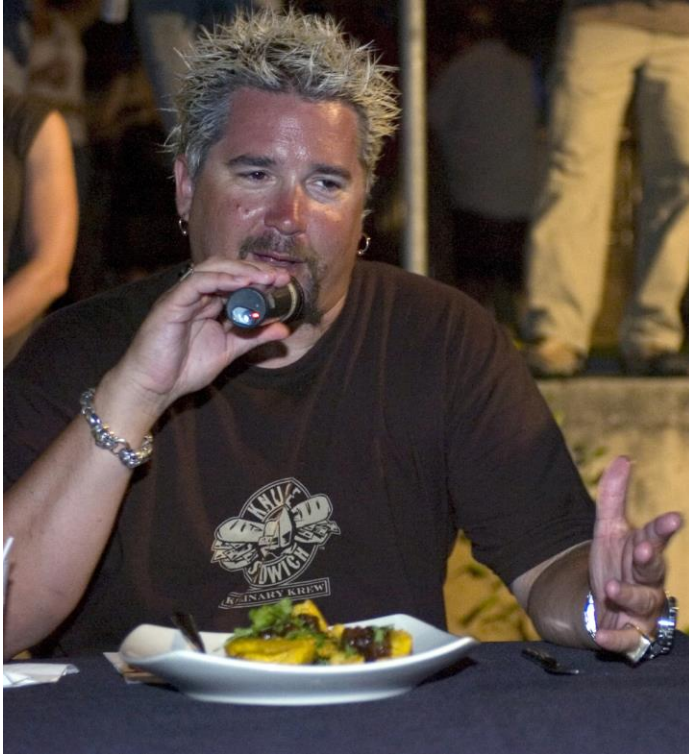
# Student



# Teacher

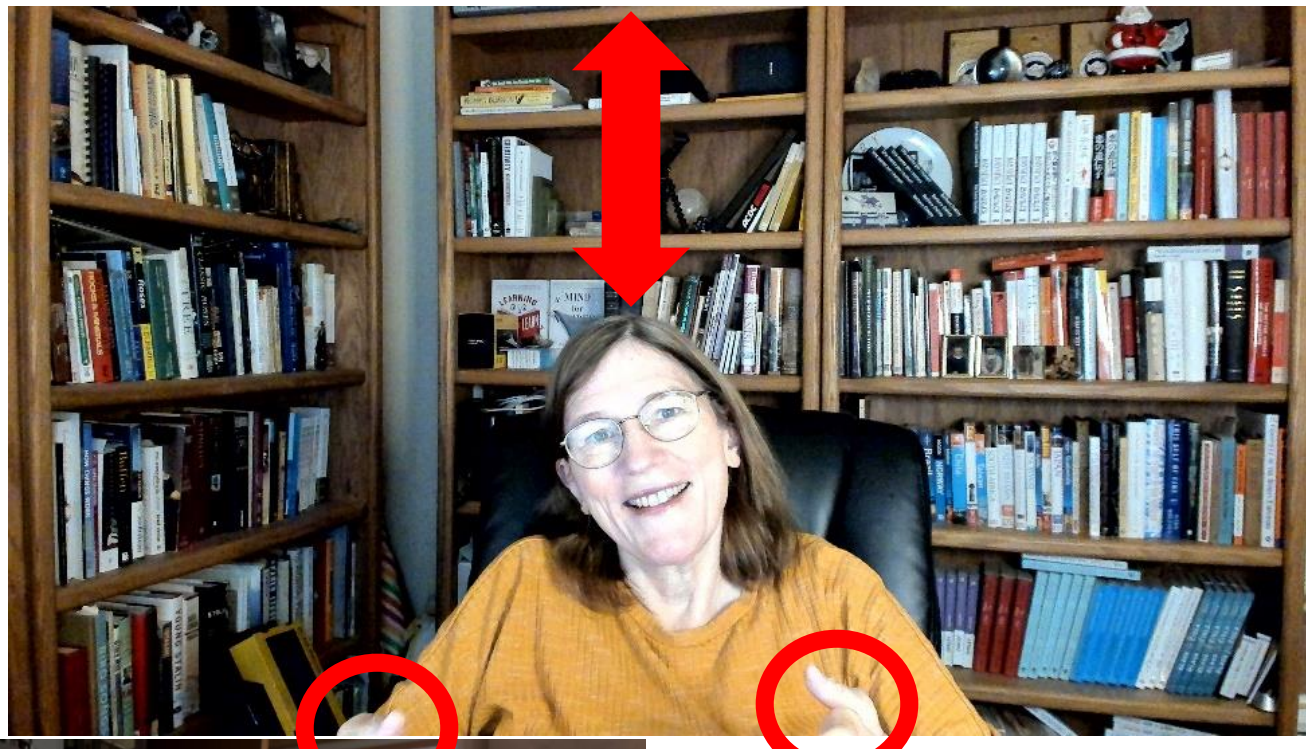


# Guy Fieri

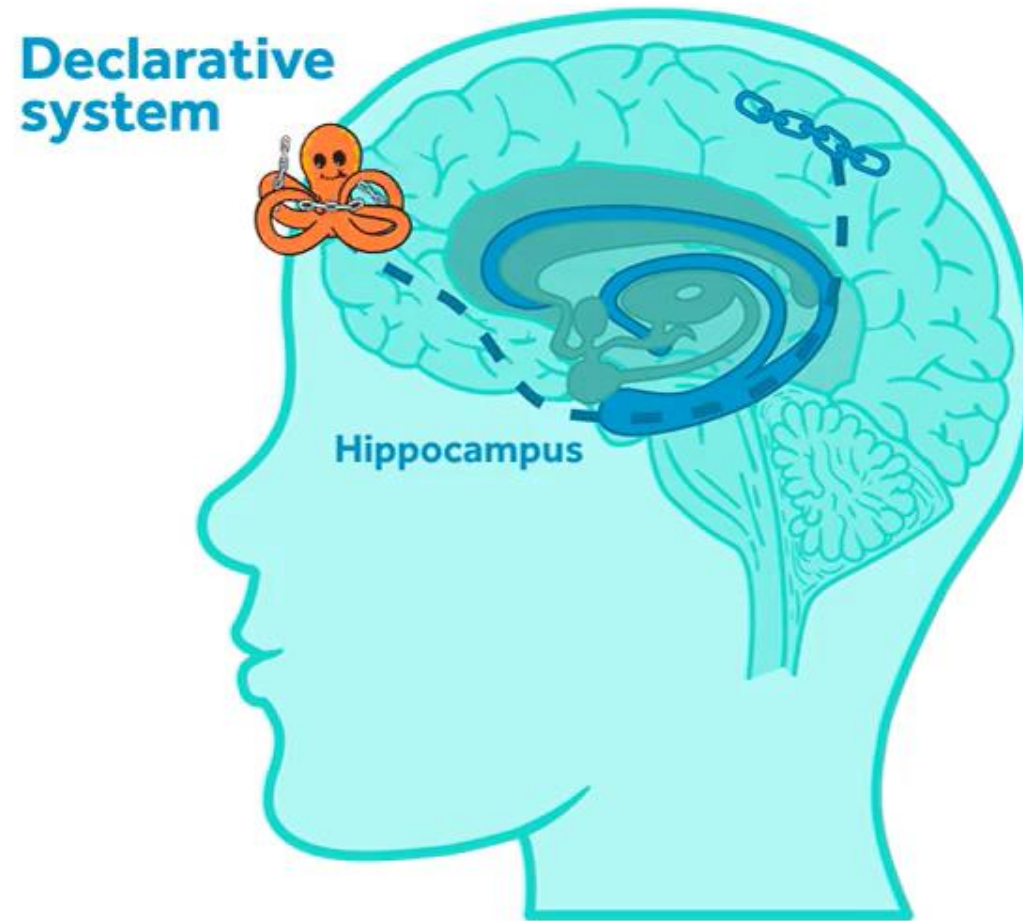


Camera subtracts 10 charisma points

*Remember the “Familiarity Principle”*



# I can tell you this...but







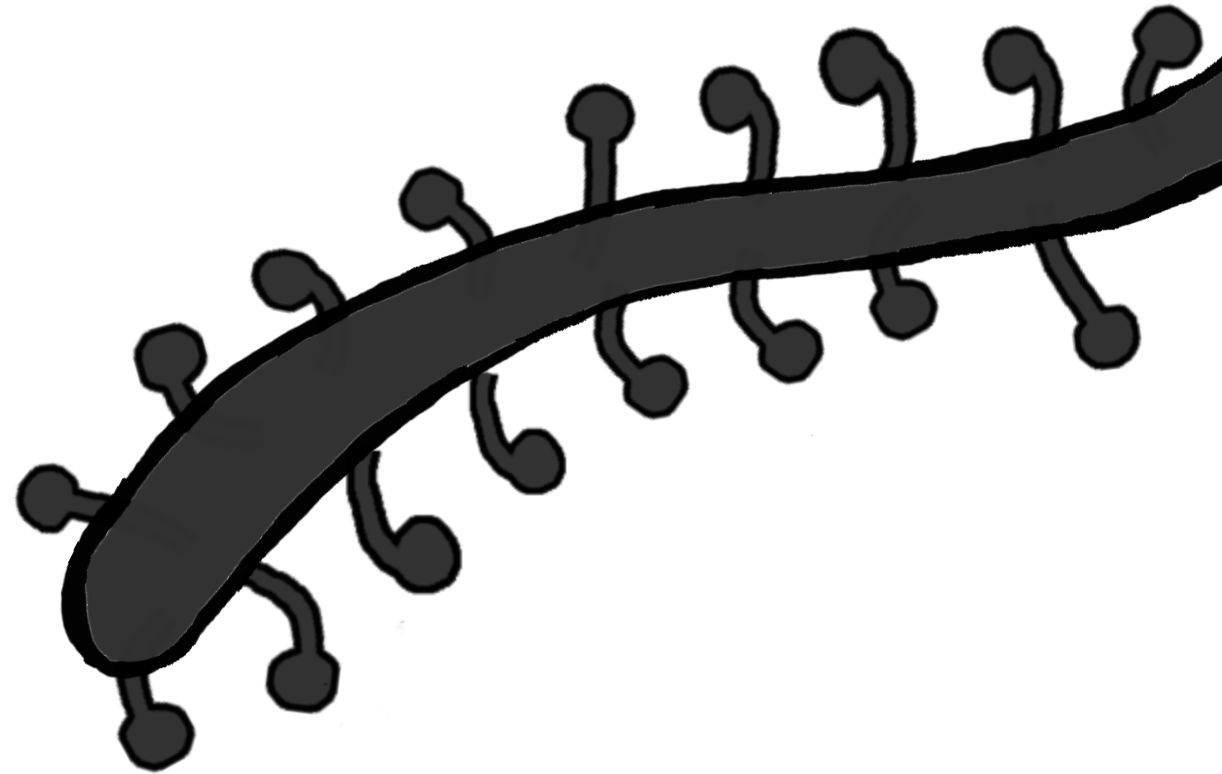


# Differing bath of neurochemicals

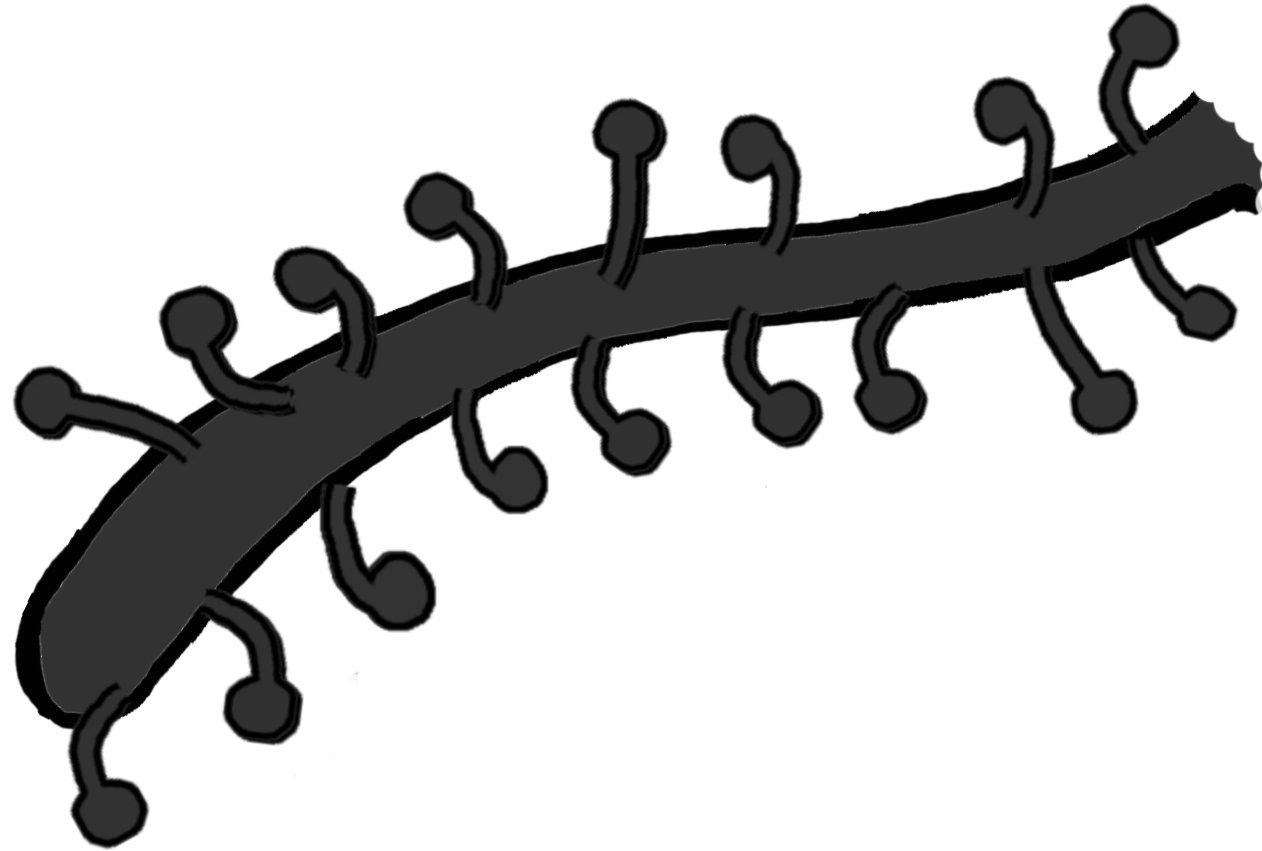


**Fast learner—doesn't forget**

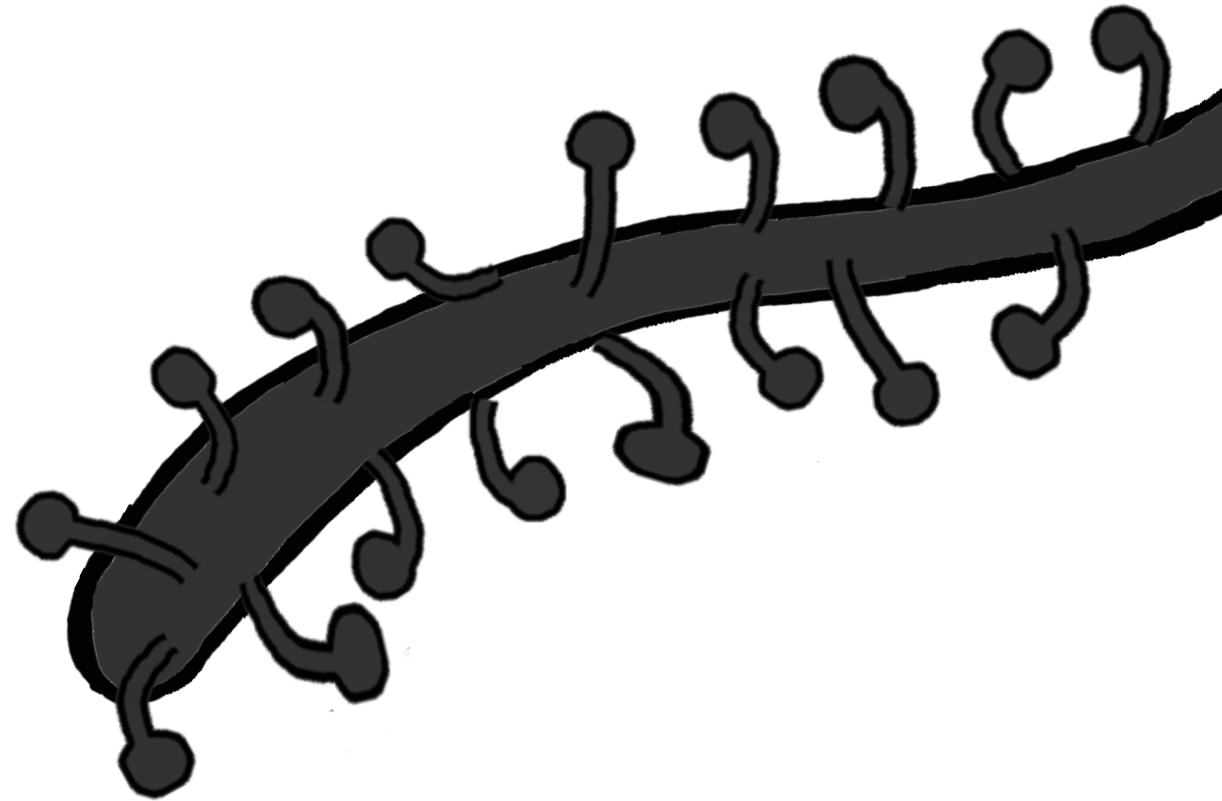
**Slow Learner—forgets**



**Fast learner—doesn't forget**



**Slow Learner—forgets & relearns**



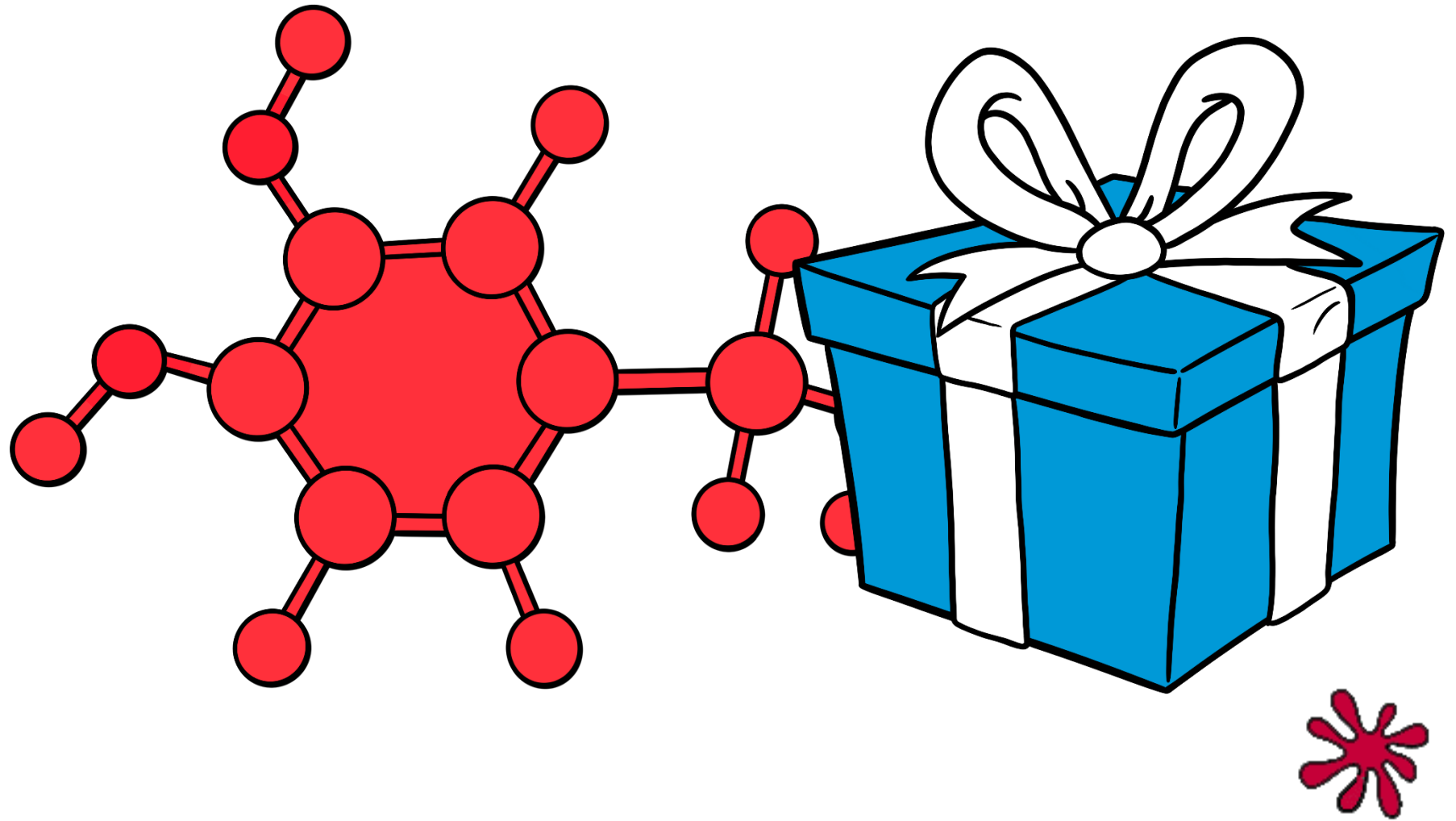


**Race car learners**

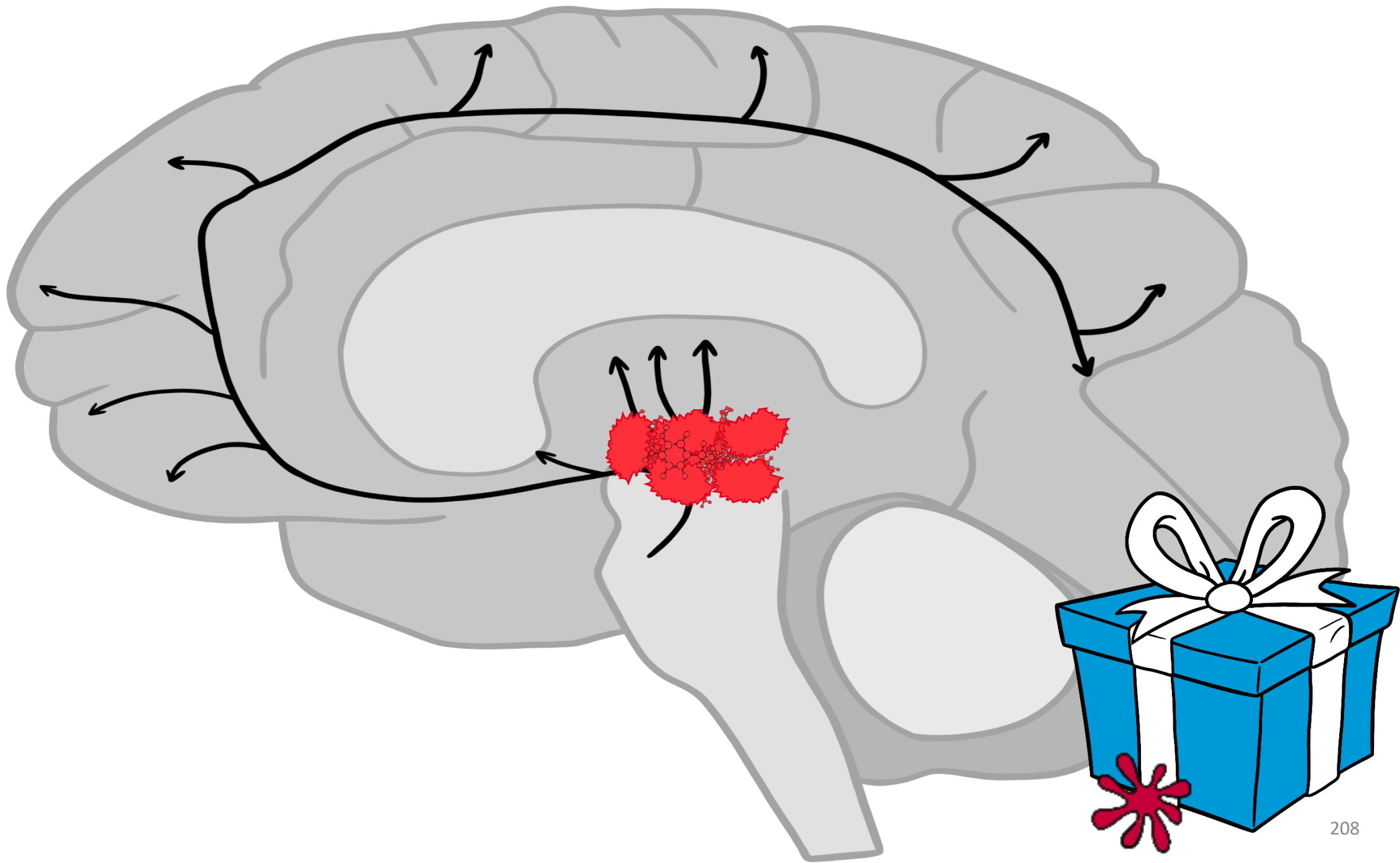
**Hiker learners**



# The value of good hooks



Dopamine—the “feel good molecule”







Mice with inactivated dopamine systems *can't learn anything new.*

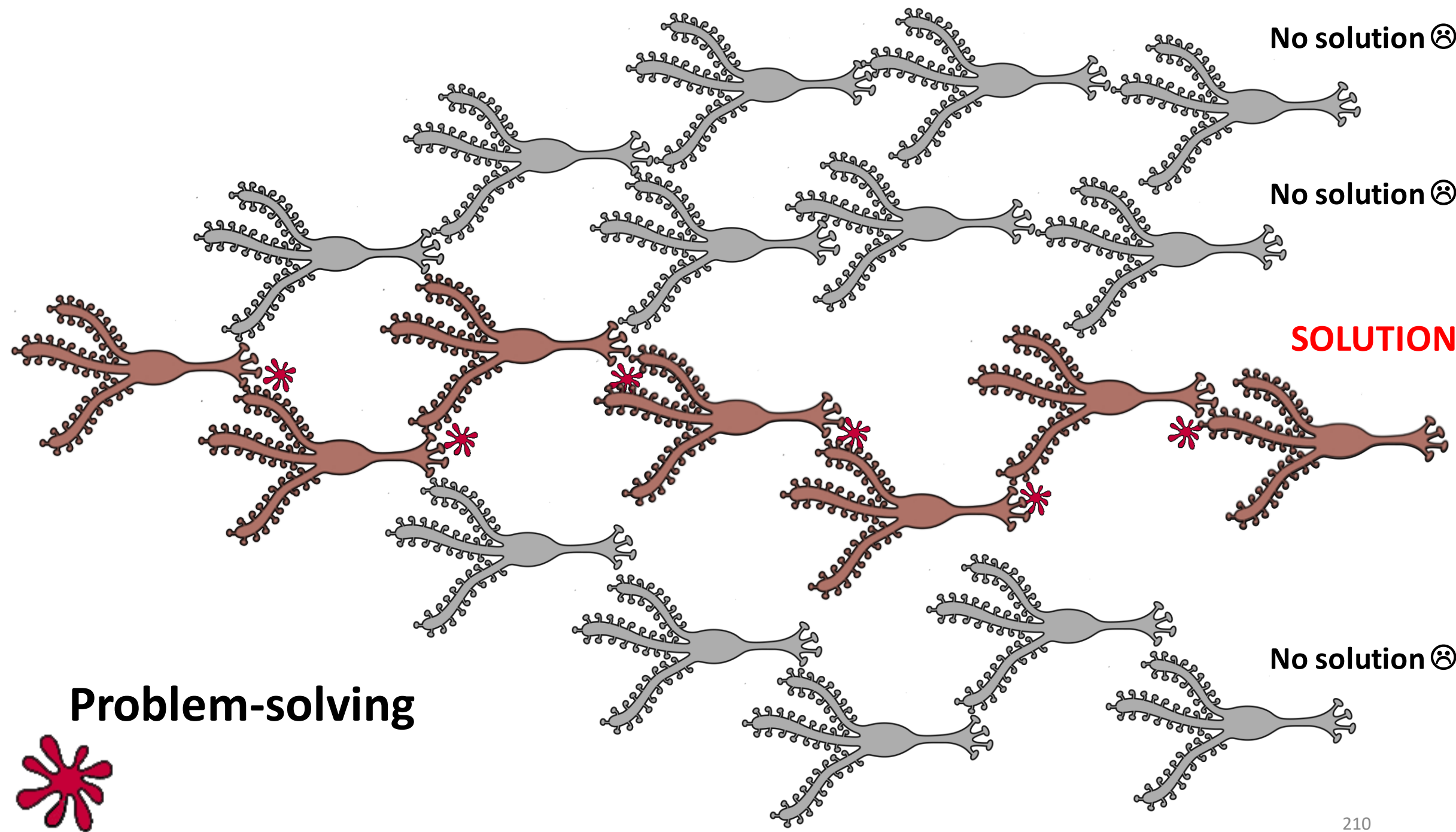
No solution ☹️

No solution ☹️

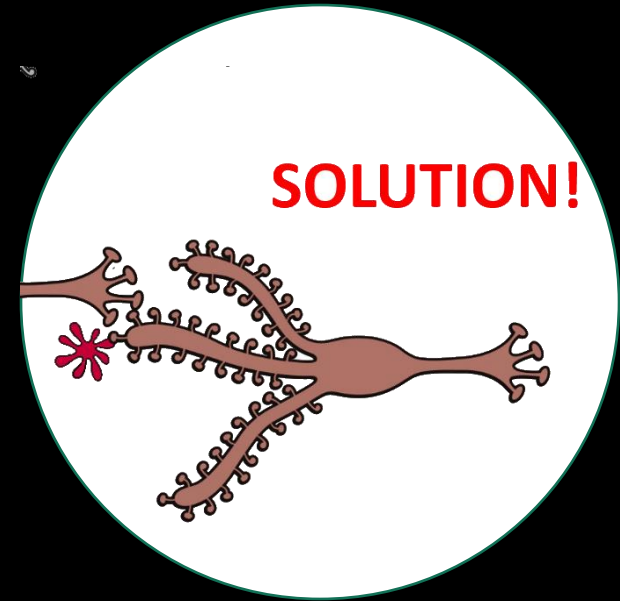
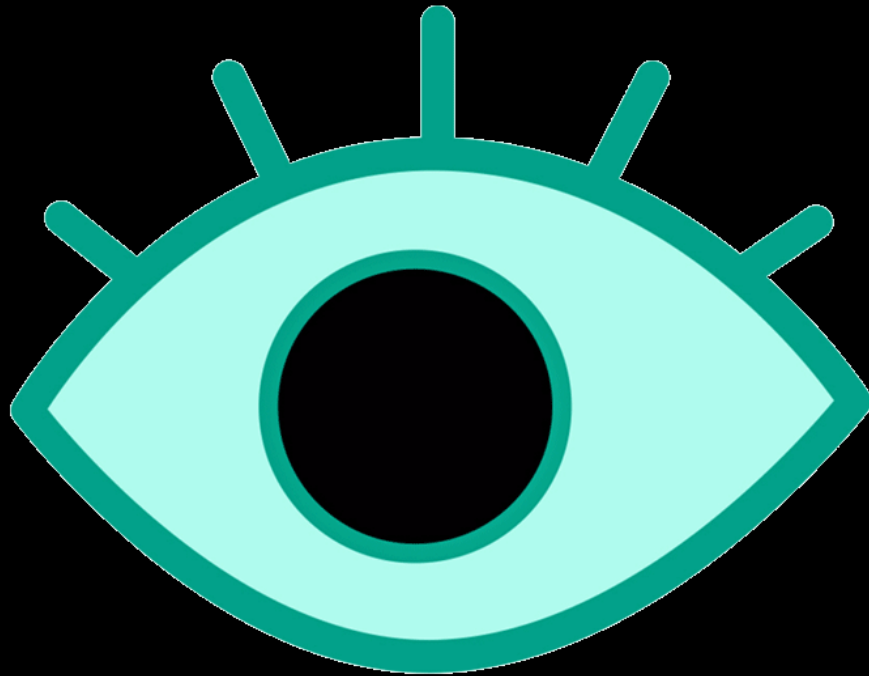
**SOLUTION!**

No solution ☹️

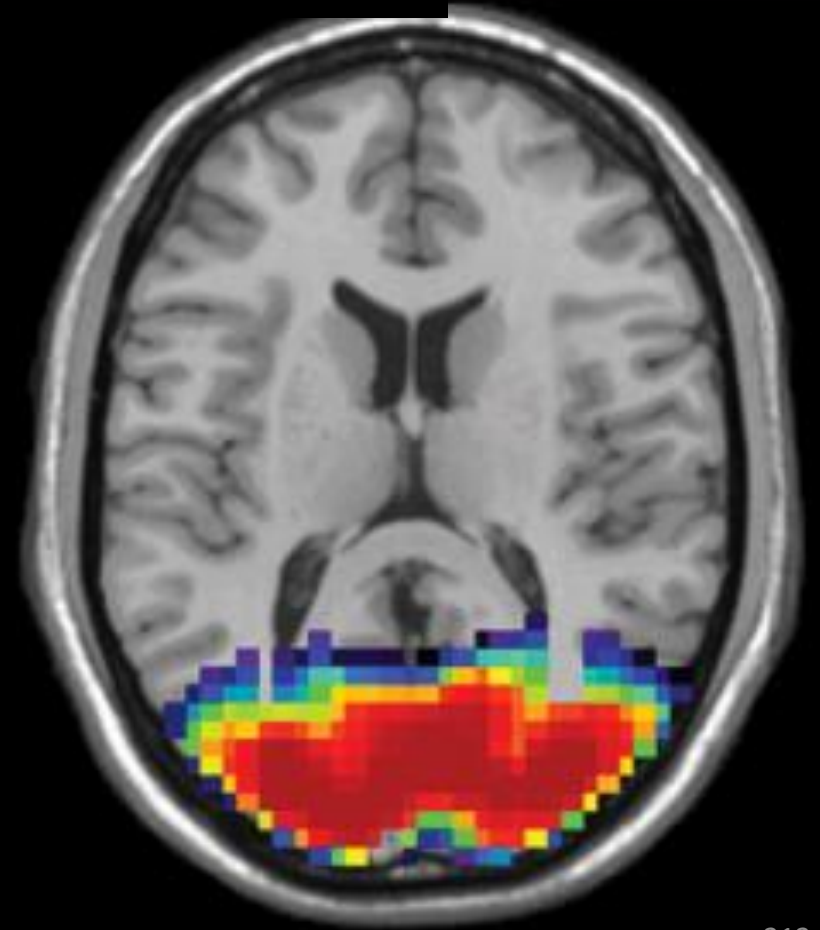
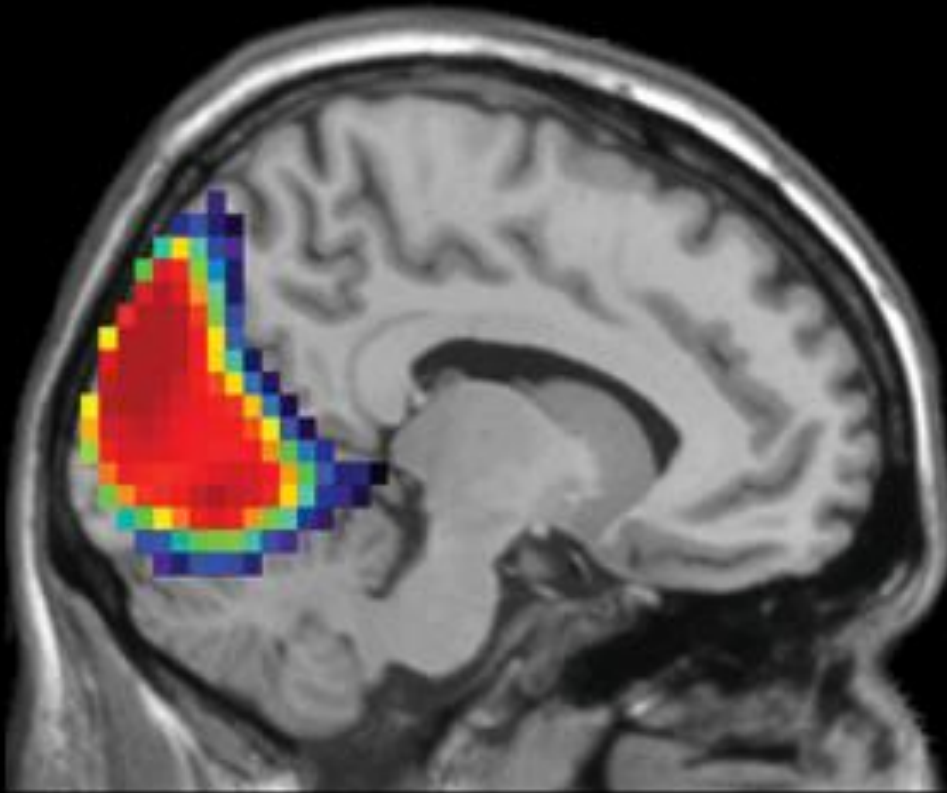
**Problem-solving**

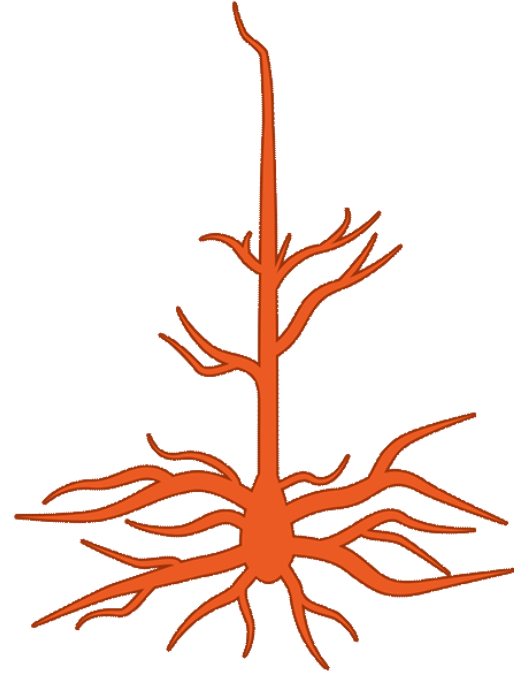
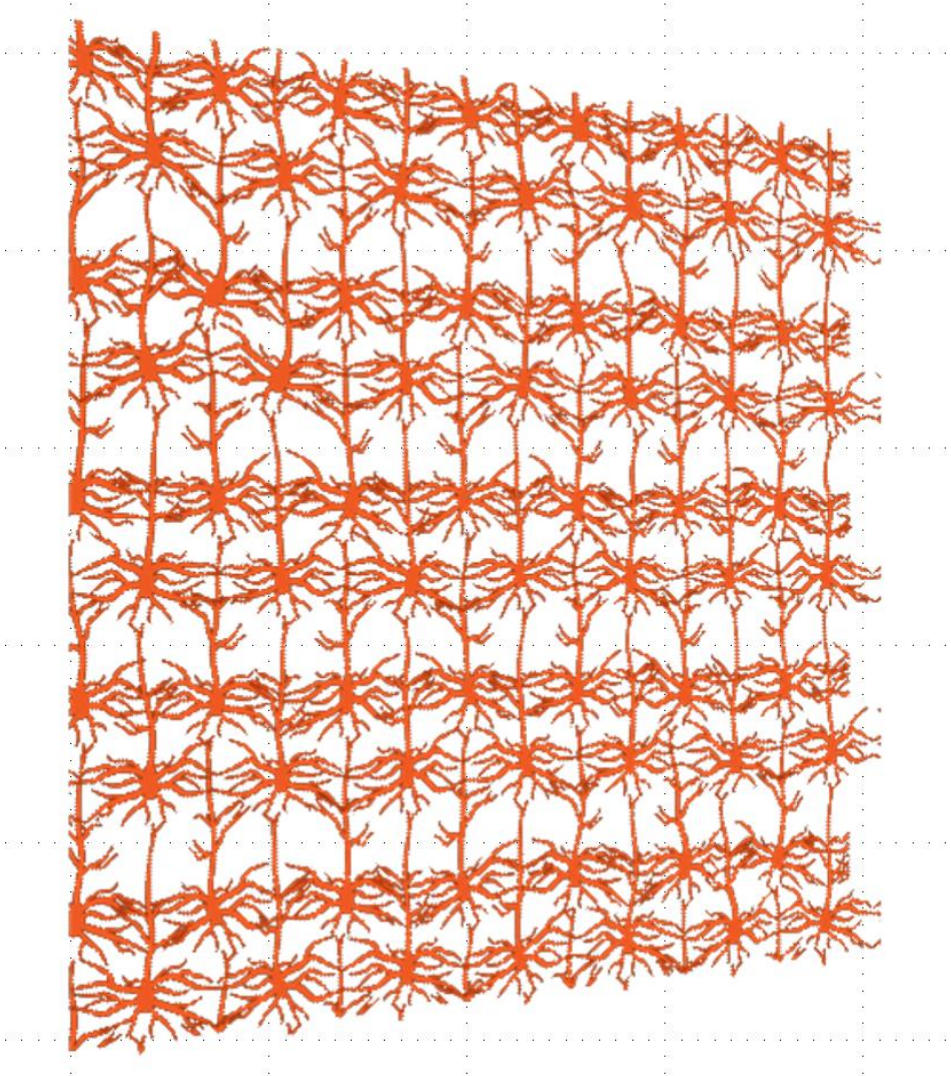


Hooks & curiosity suppress  
diffuse mode and enhance  
focus

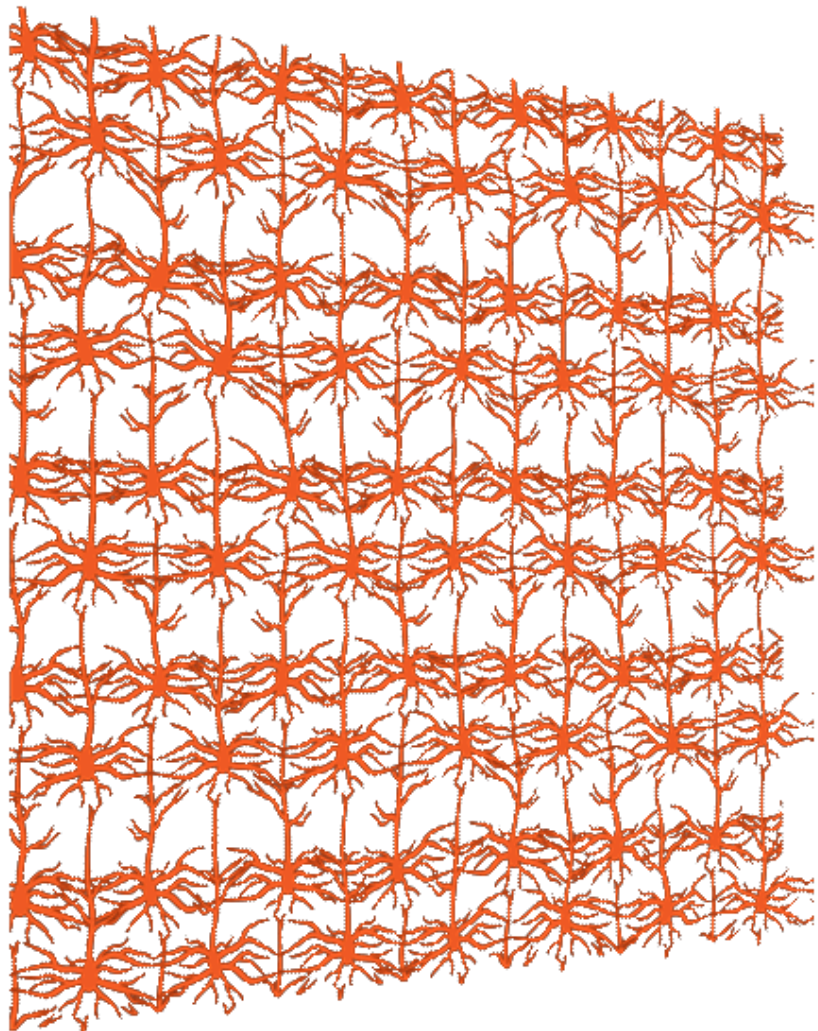


Good visuals are important!





# New learning boosts spirits



www.coursera.org/  
learn/teaching-online



**Browse** > **Social Sciences** > **Education**

This course is part of the **Uncommon Sense Teaching Specialization**

# Uncommon Sense Teaching: Teaching Online



Barbara Oakley +2 more instructors **TOP INSTRUCTORS**

**Go To Course**

Already enrolled

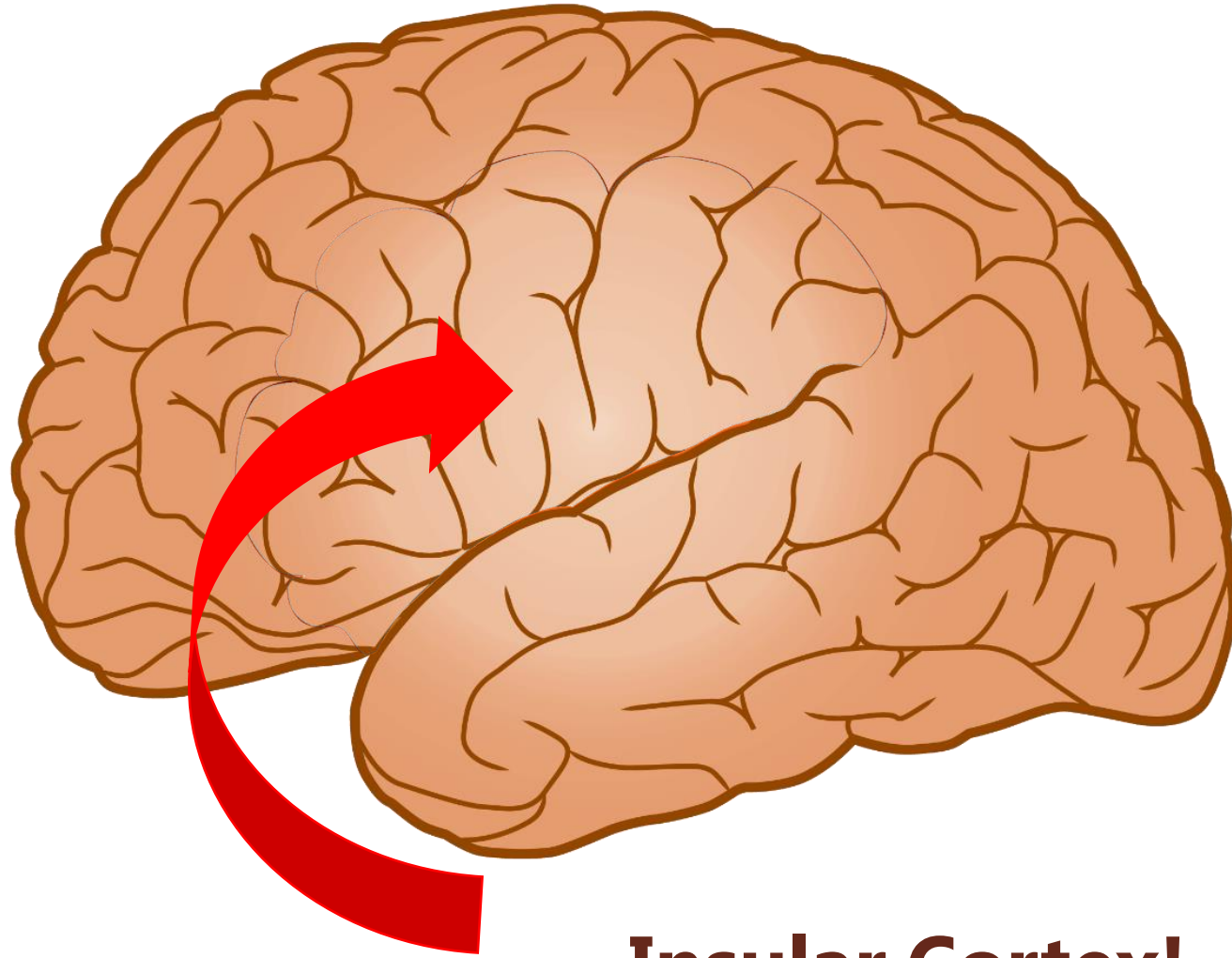


Santiago  
Ramón y Cajal



# Procrastination

# Procrastination



**Insular Cortex!**

3

Feel happy  
(temporarily)

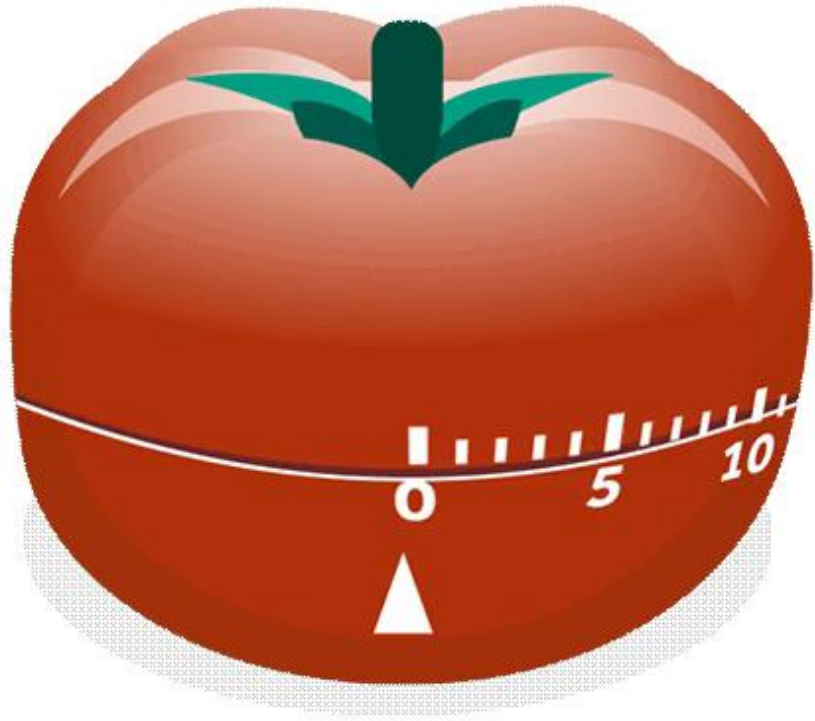
2

Turn your attention to  
something more pleasant

1

Unhappy  
feeling



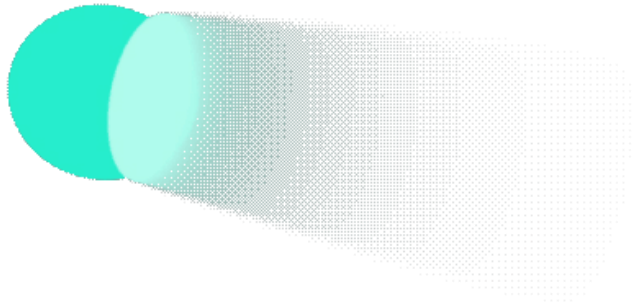


- **Turn off all distractions**
- **Set timer for 25 minutes**
- **Focus**
- ***Reward!***

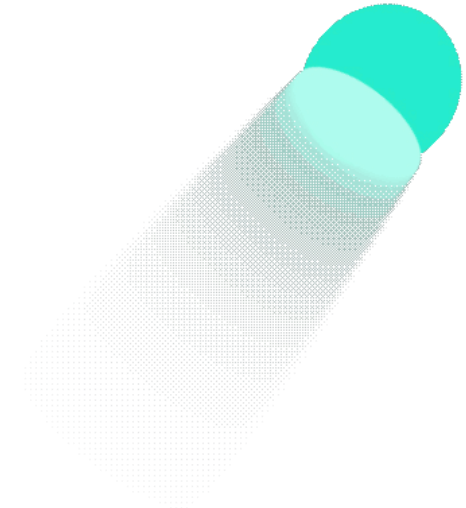
## **Pomodoro Technique**



# Multi-tasking



**Dual tasking**



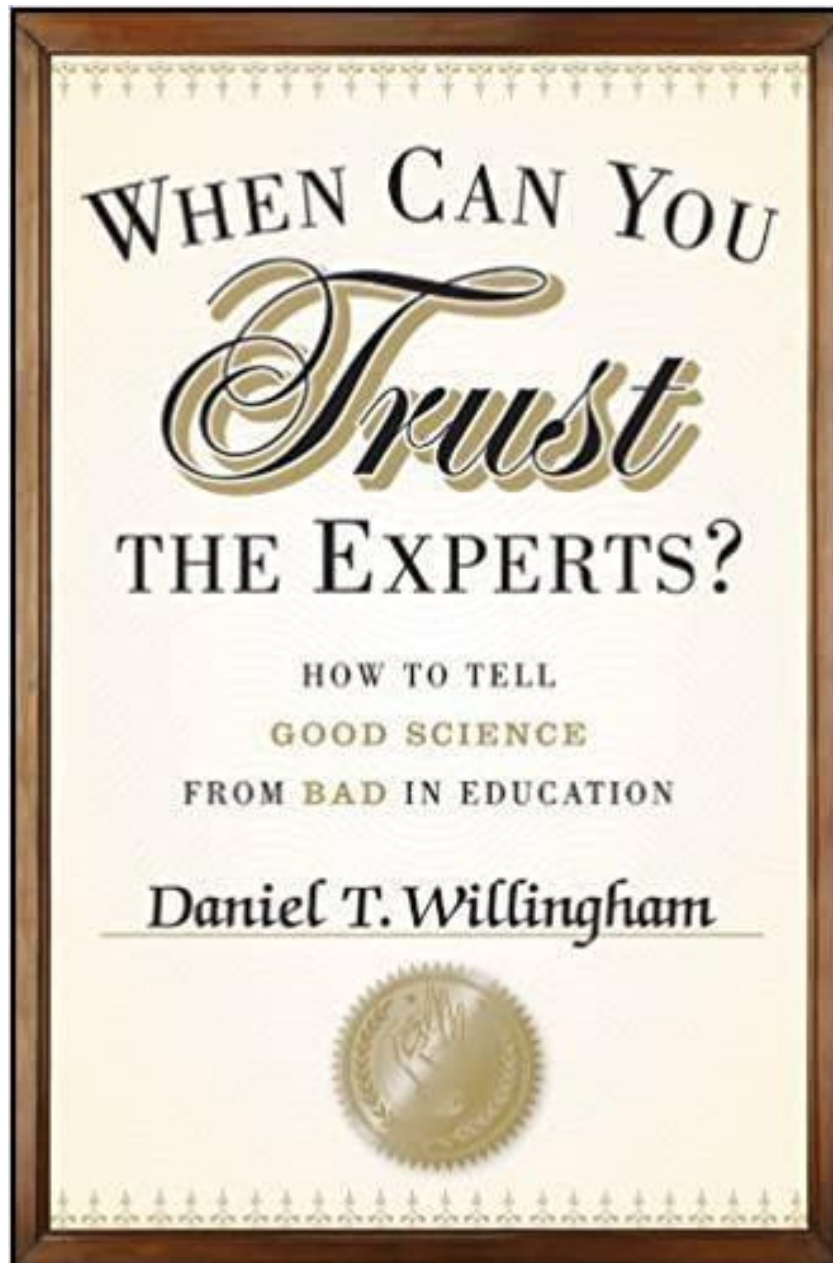
**Task switching**

# Loss of efficiency

# Never multi-task?

## Creativity arises from multi-tasking

- **Kapadia, Chaitali and Shimul Melwani.** "More tasks, more ideas: The positive spillover effects of multitasking on subsequent creativity." *Journal of Applied Psychology*, (2020): Advance publication online.
- **Lu, Jackson G., et al.** "'Switching On' creativity: Task switching can increase creativity by reducing cognitive fixation." *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* 139, (2017): 63-75.

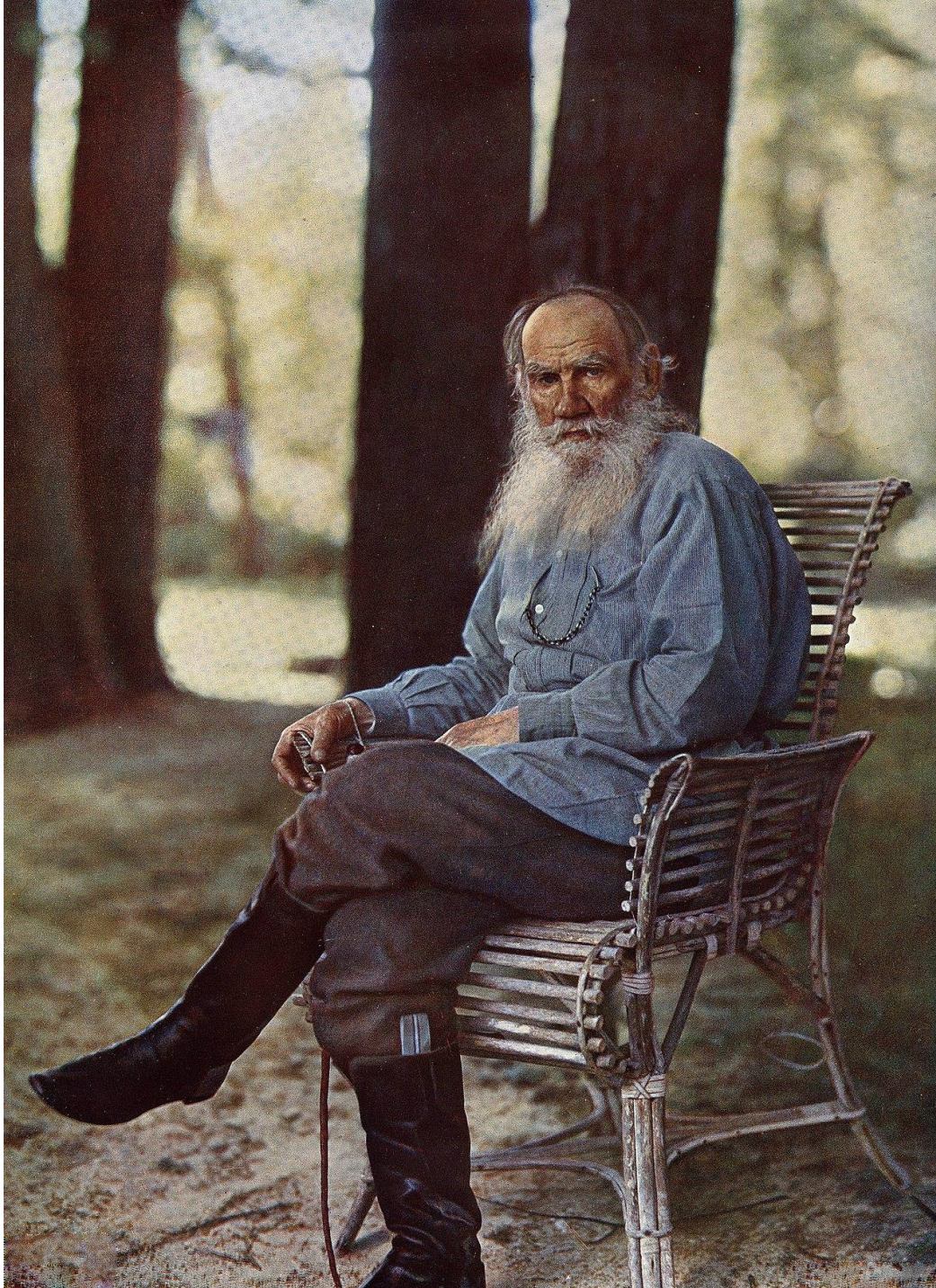


**Educators fall into  
two groups:**

**Understand the world through:**

- **Reason**
- **Experience**





# Leo Tolstoy

“...the simplest thing cannot be made clear to the most intelligent man if he is firmly persuaded that he knows already, without a shadow of doubt, what is laid before him.”

# Biases

## Confirmation bias:

- Raymond S. Nickerson, "Confirmation bias: A ubiquitous phenomenon in many guises," *Review of General Psychology* 2 (1998): 175–220.

## Desirability bias:

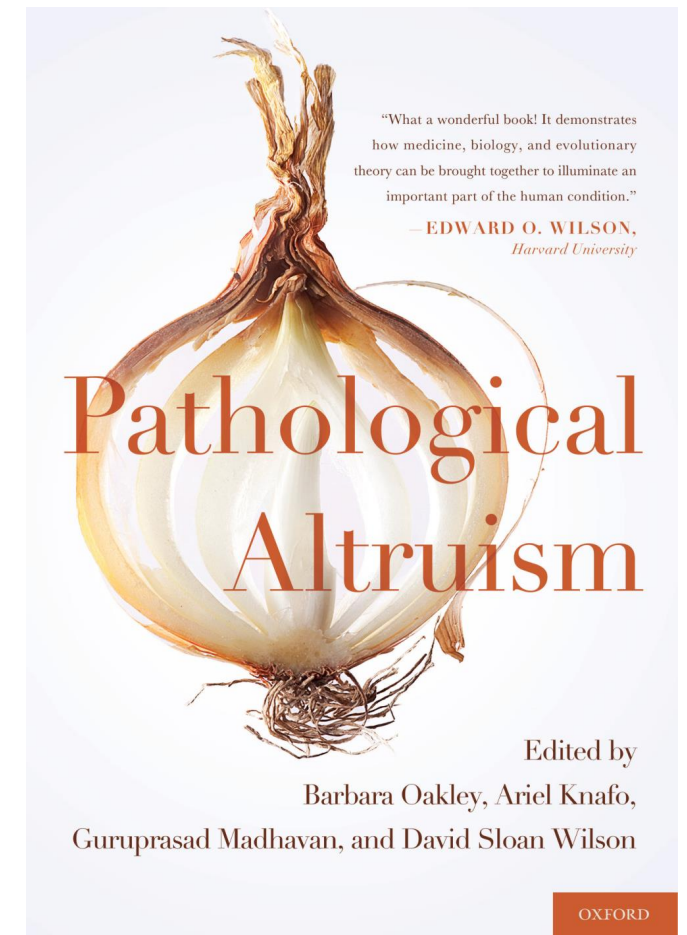
- Ben M. Tappin, Leslie van der Leer, and Ryan T. McKay, "The heart trumps the head: Desirability bias in political belief revision," *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* 146 (2017): 1143–49.
- Ziva Kunda, "The case for motivated reasoning," *Psychological Bulletin* 108 (1990): 480–98.

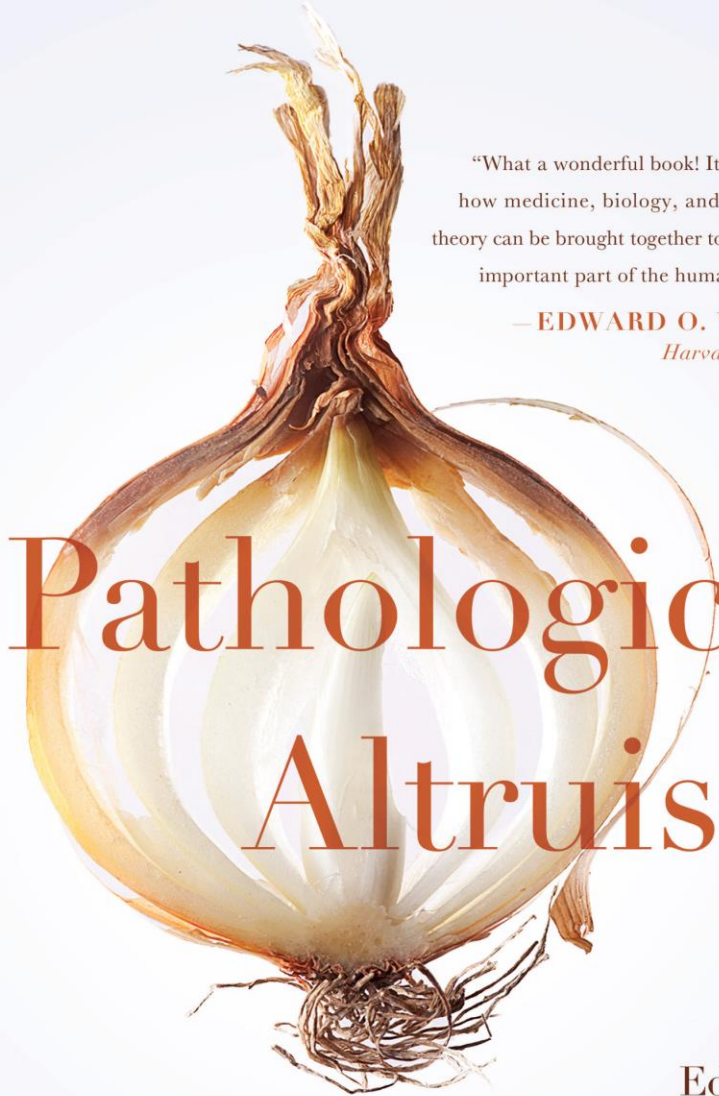
## Altruism bias:

- Oakley, BA. "Concepts and implications of altruism bias and pathological altruism." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110, Supplement 2 (2013): 10408-10415.

## "I'm not biased" bias:

- Emily Pronin, Daniel Y. Lin, and Lee Ross, "The bias blind spot: Perceptions of bias in self versus others," *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 28 (2002): 369–81.
- West, RF, et al. "Cognitive Sophistication Does Not Attenuate the Bias Blind Spot," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 103 (2012): 506–19.





“What a wonderful book! It demonstrates how medicine, biology, and evolutionary theory can be brought together to illuminate an important part of the human condition.”

— EDWARD O. WILSON,  
*Harvard University*

# Pathological Altruism

Edited by

Barbara Oakley, Ariel Knafo,  
Guruprasad Madhavan, and David Sloan Wilson

OXFORD

Train people to target the easy and obvious “right” thing, and then it’s hard for highly intelligent people to change, because of inflexibility.

# Joan McCord

(1930 – 2004)

- American Professor of Criminology at Temple University
- First female president of the American Society of Criminology
- Longitudinal studies: Cambridge Somerville Youth Study



# “A Thirty-Year Follow-up of Treatment Effects,” Joan McCord, *American Psychologist*, 1978

- Counseling
- Tutoring
- Medical care
- Psychiatric care
- Summer programs
- More likely to commit a crime
- More alcoholism
- More serious mental illness
- More symptoms of stress
- More stress-related disease
- Died younger
- Occupations with lower prestige
- Less likely to find their work satisfying

*2/3<sup>rds</sup> thought the program improved their lives*

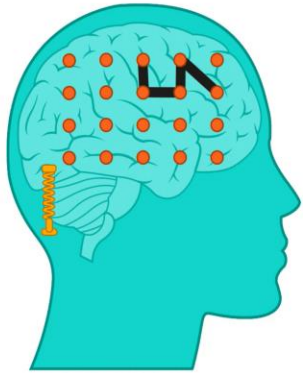
# Agenda

- Introduction
- Direct instruction
- Learning means linking neurons
- Metaphors in learning
- Retrieval practice and spaced repetition
- Focused and diffuse modes of thinking
- Working memory, long-term memory, and illusions of competence in learning
- Mental models and schemas (memory frameworks)
- Identity schemas and motivation
- Mental models contrasted with schemas and events
- Teaching & learning means getting in neural “synchrony”
- A deeper understanding of retrieval practice with regards learning math even at in-depth, post-doctoral levels, including the role of the hippocampus
- Consolidation
- Learning becomes easier as a schema expands
- Greater versus lesser capacity working memory in learning – scaffolding
- Declarative (hippocampal) versus procedural (basal ganglia) learning pathways and their relation to direct instruction
- Interleaving
- Neurodiversity
- Mirroring and motivation
- The value function
- Fast & slow learners
- Dopamine and the importance of "hooking" students
- The impact of teaching for society



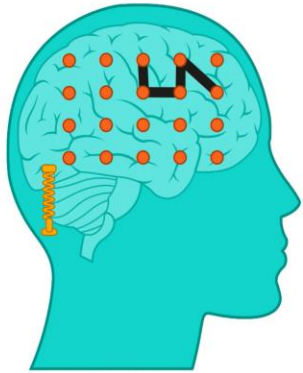
**There are differences between terms!**

**Focused mode**





**Focused mode**



**Diffuse mode**

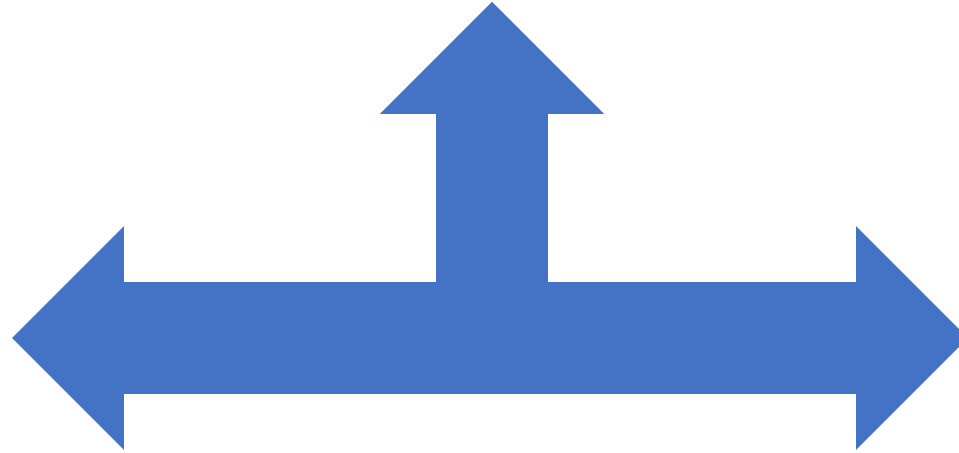
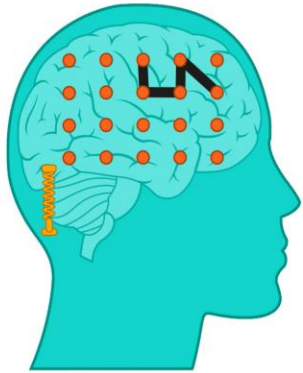




Hip

# Hippocampal learning pathway (declarative)

Focused mode



Diffuse mode

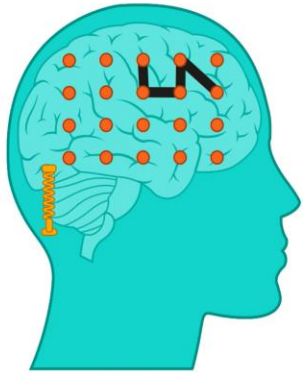




Hip

**Hippocampal learning pathway (declarative)**

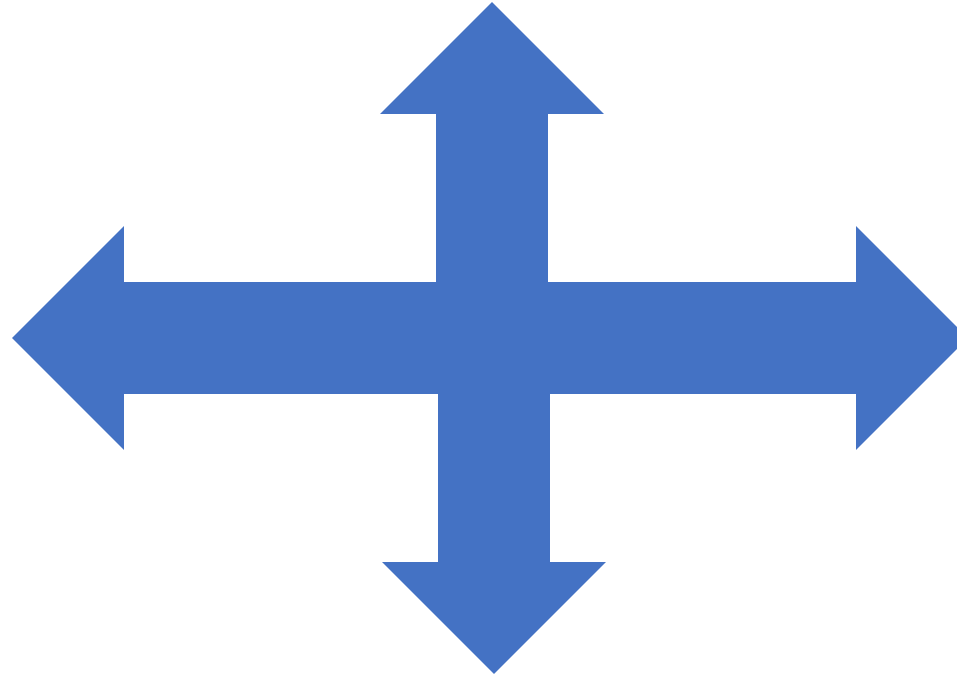
**Focused mode**

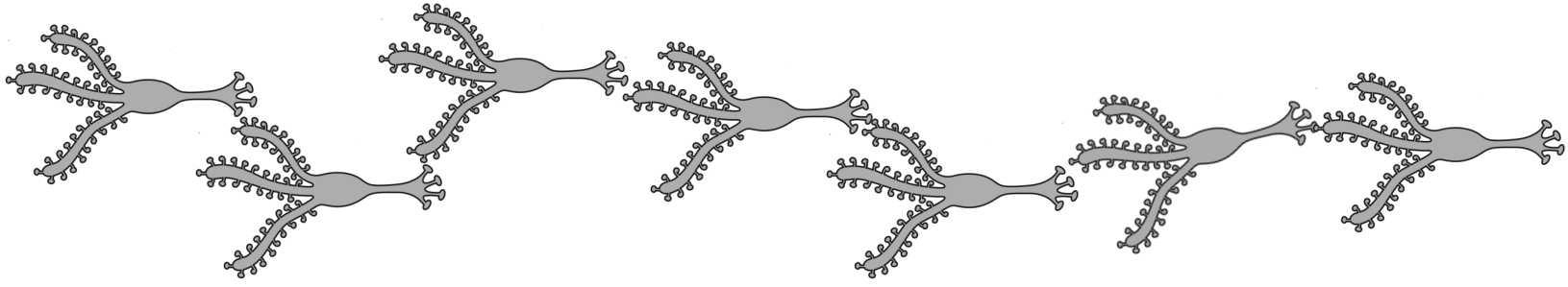


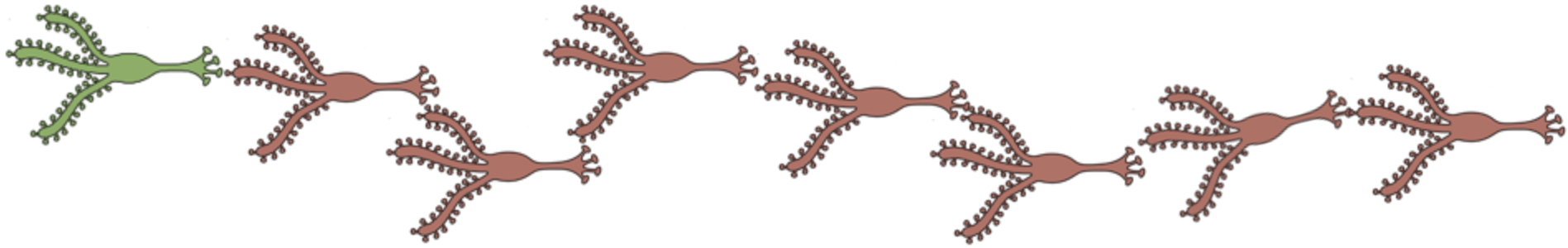
**Diffuse mode**

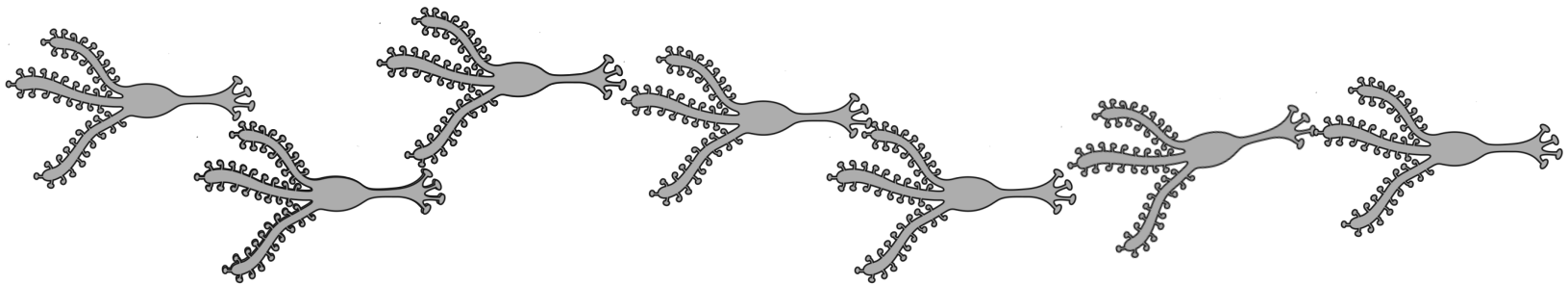
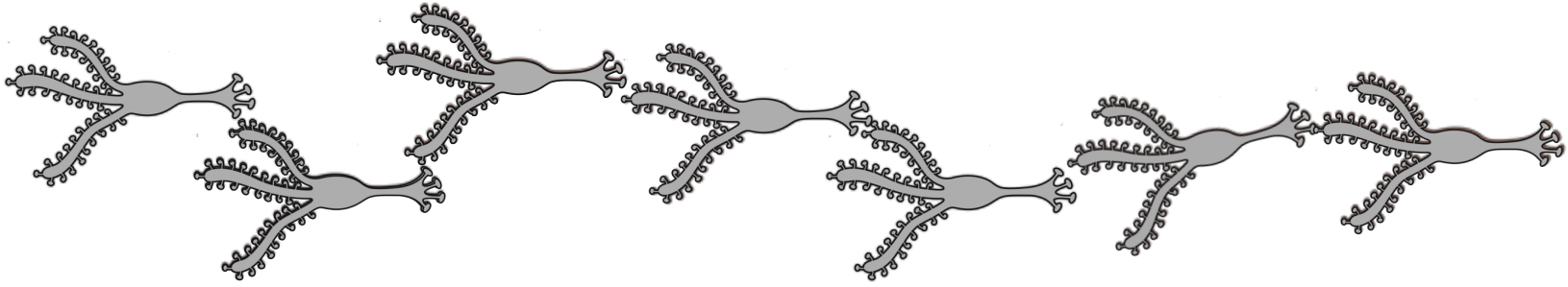


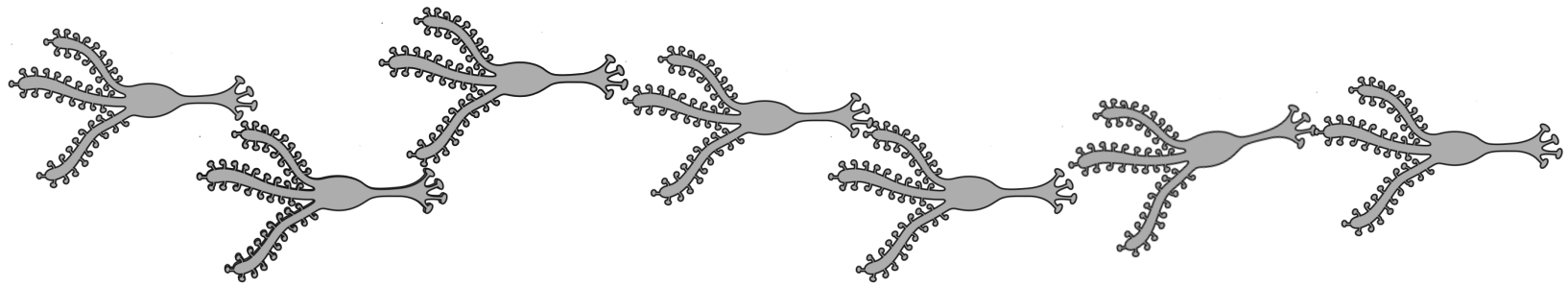
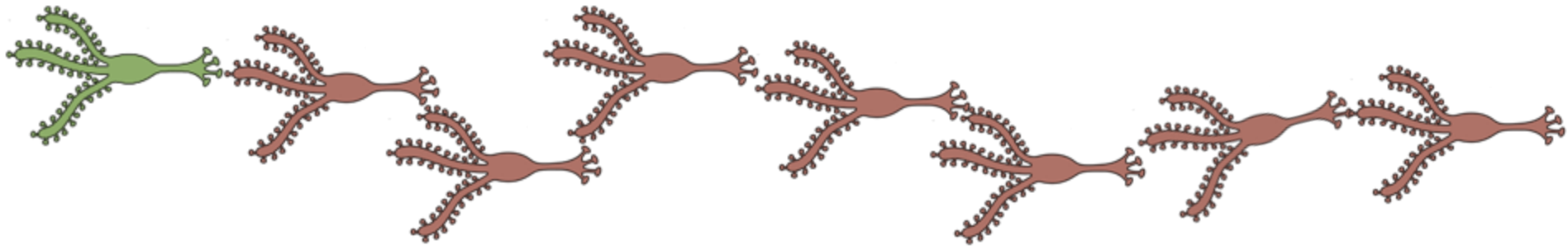
**Basal ganglia learning pathway (procedural)**

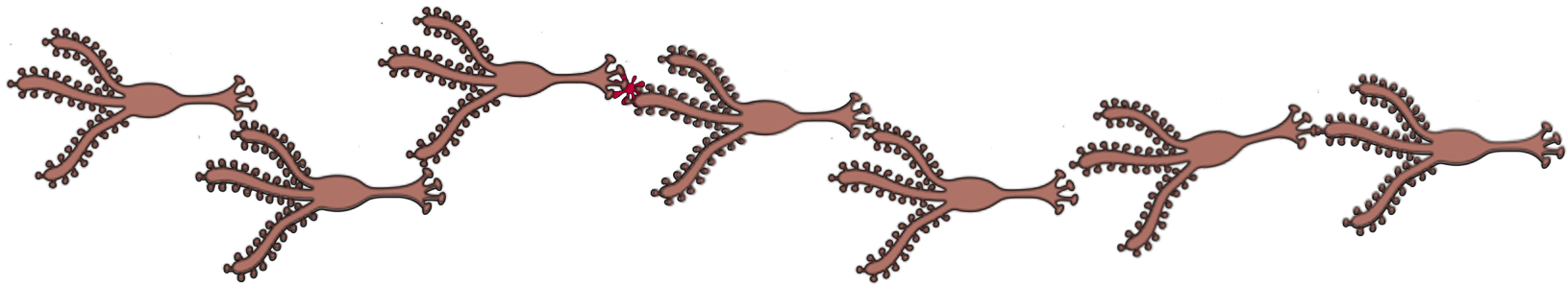




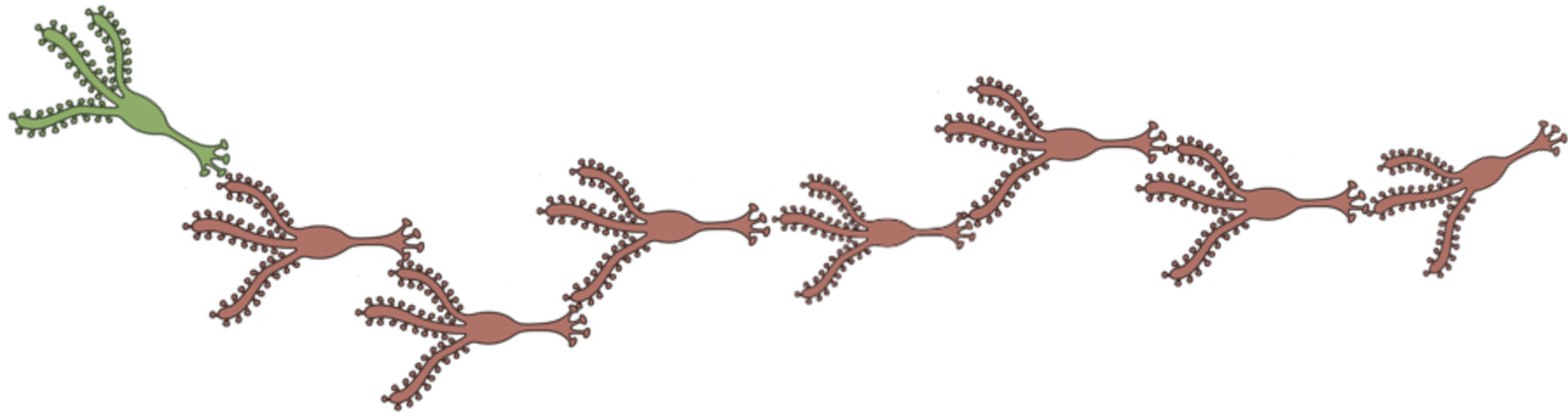




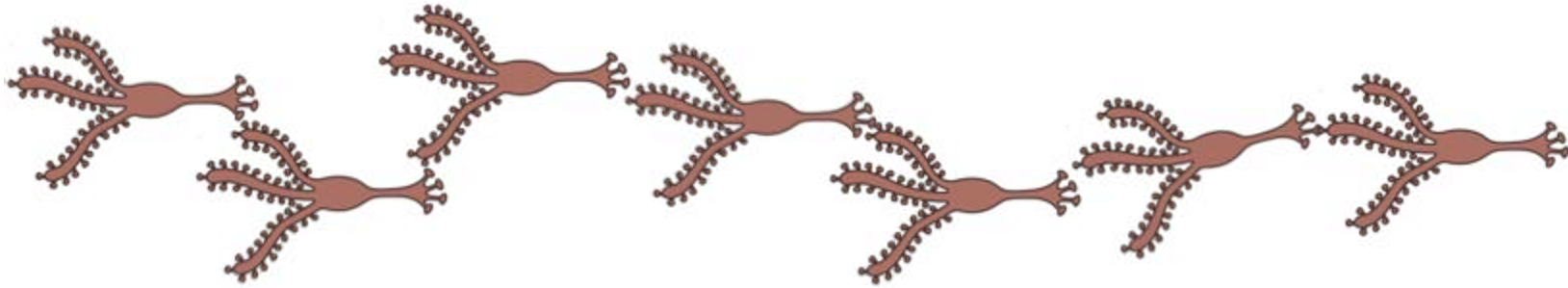








# Why interleaving is important

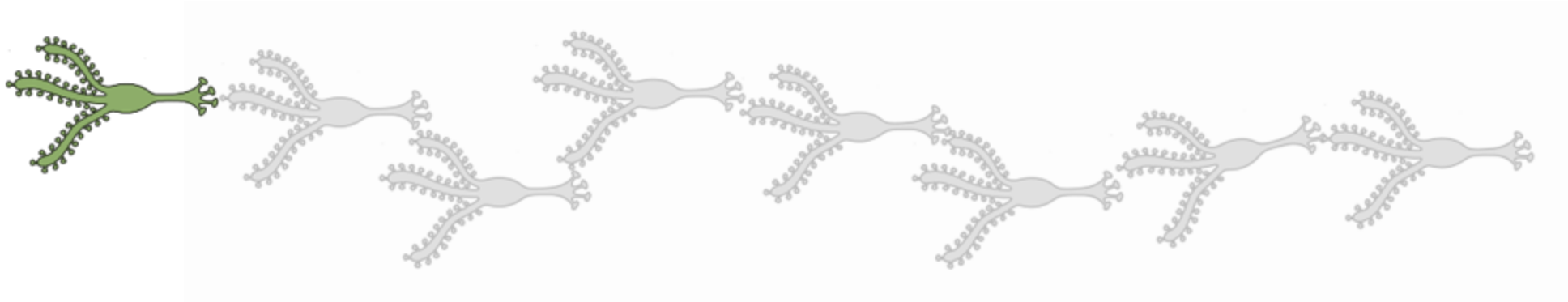


**“erizo”**

**“hedgehog”**

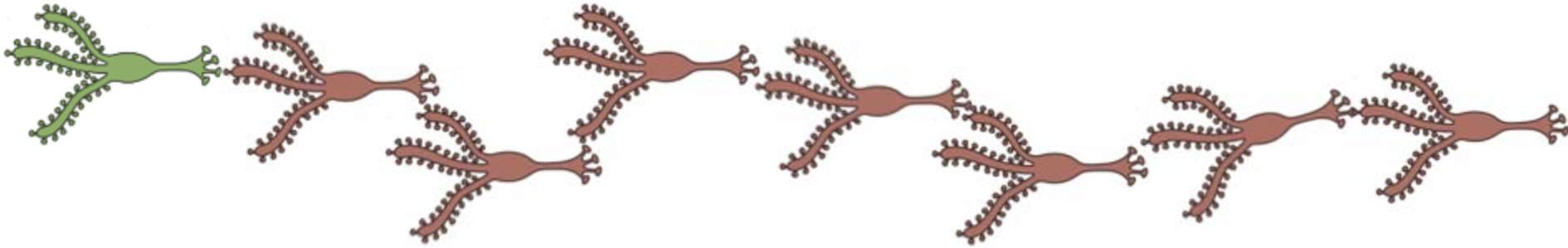


***“hedgehog”***



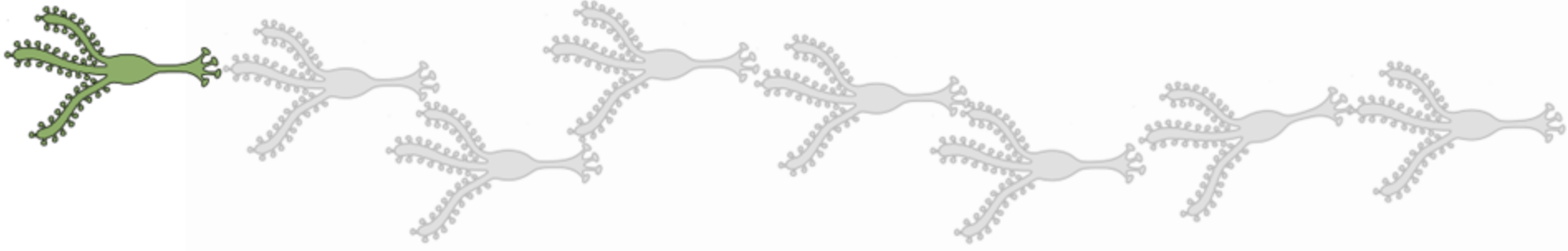
***“erizo”***

***“hedgehog”***



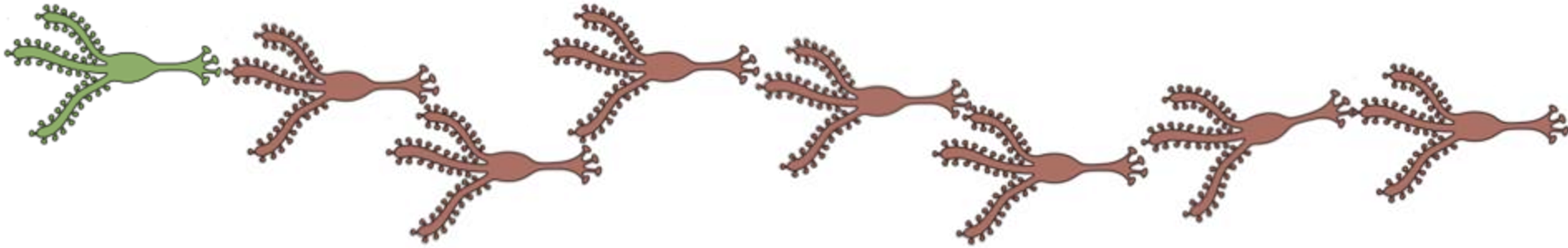
***“erizo”***

***“hedgehog”***



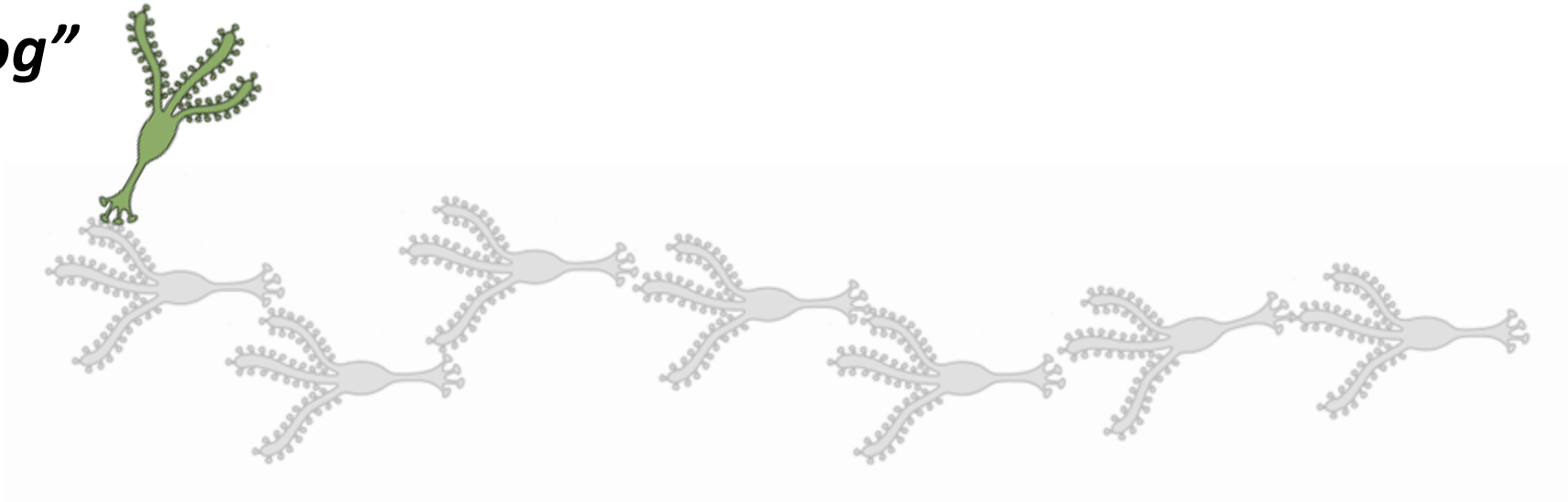
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***“hedgehog”***



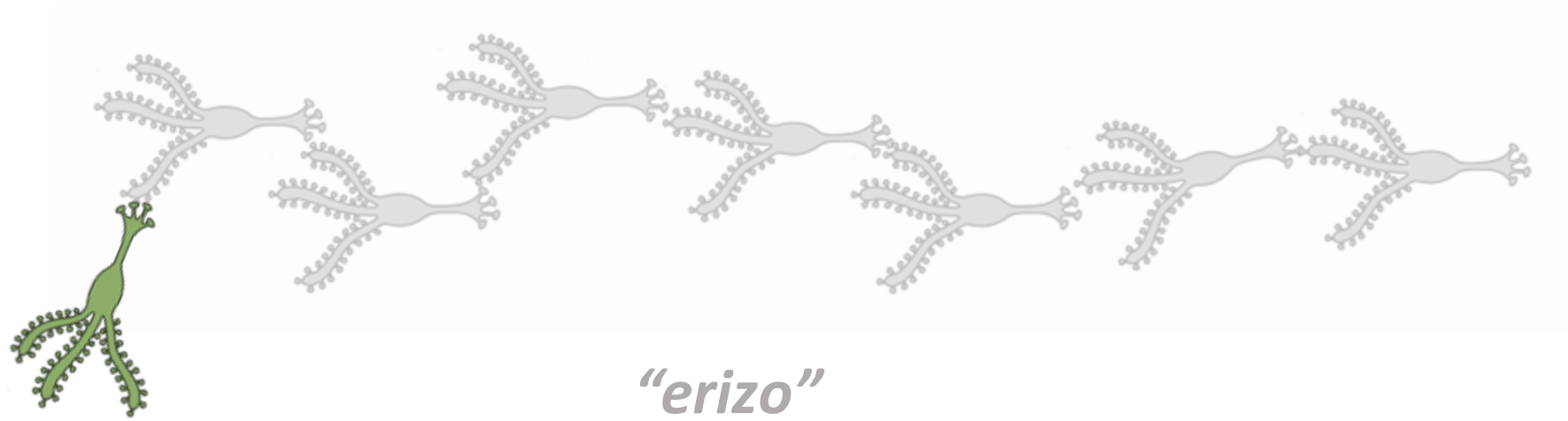
***“erizo”***

***“hedgehog”***



***“erizo”***

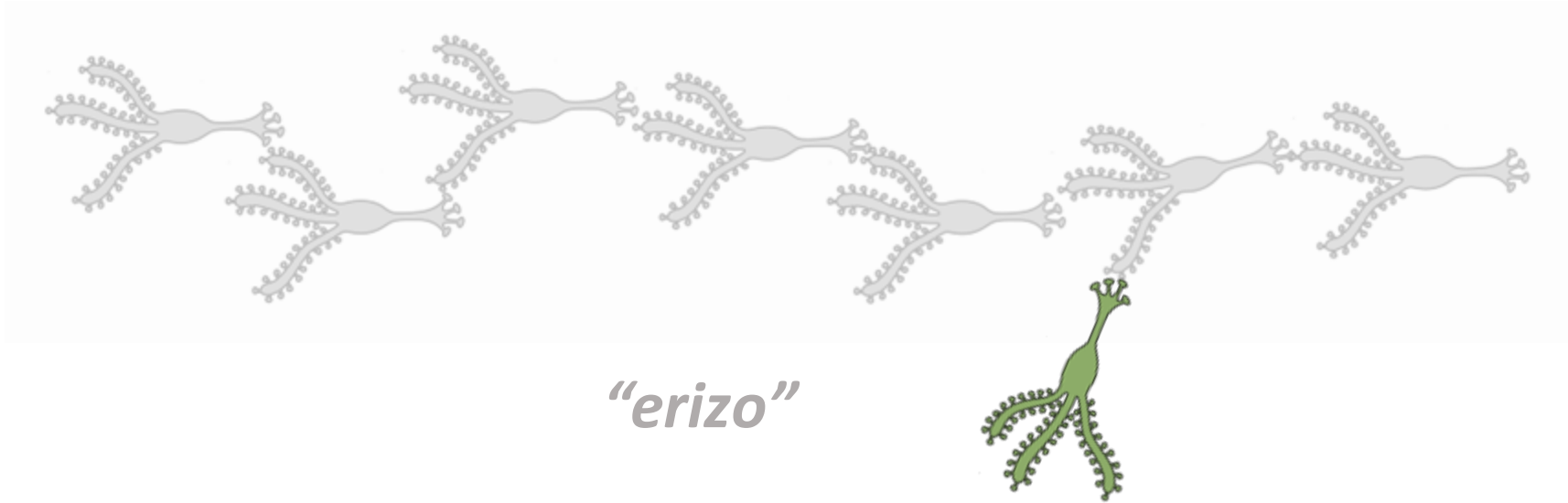
***“hedgehog”***



***“erizo”***

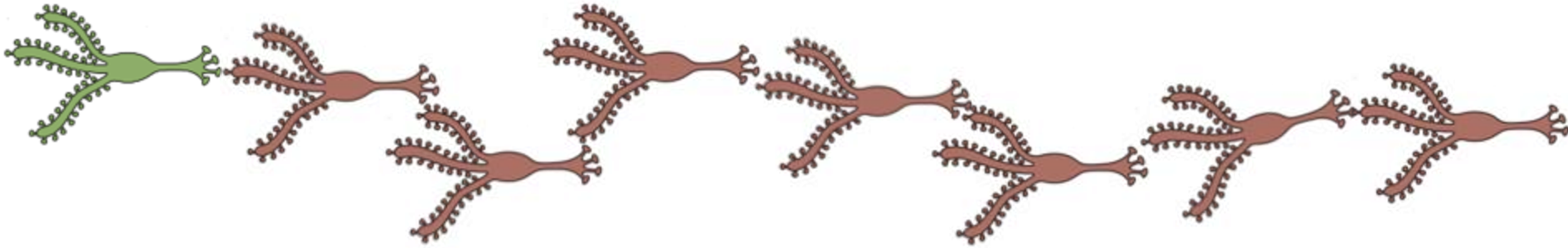


***“hedgehog”***



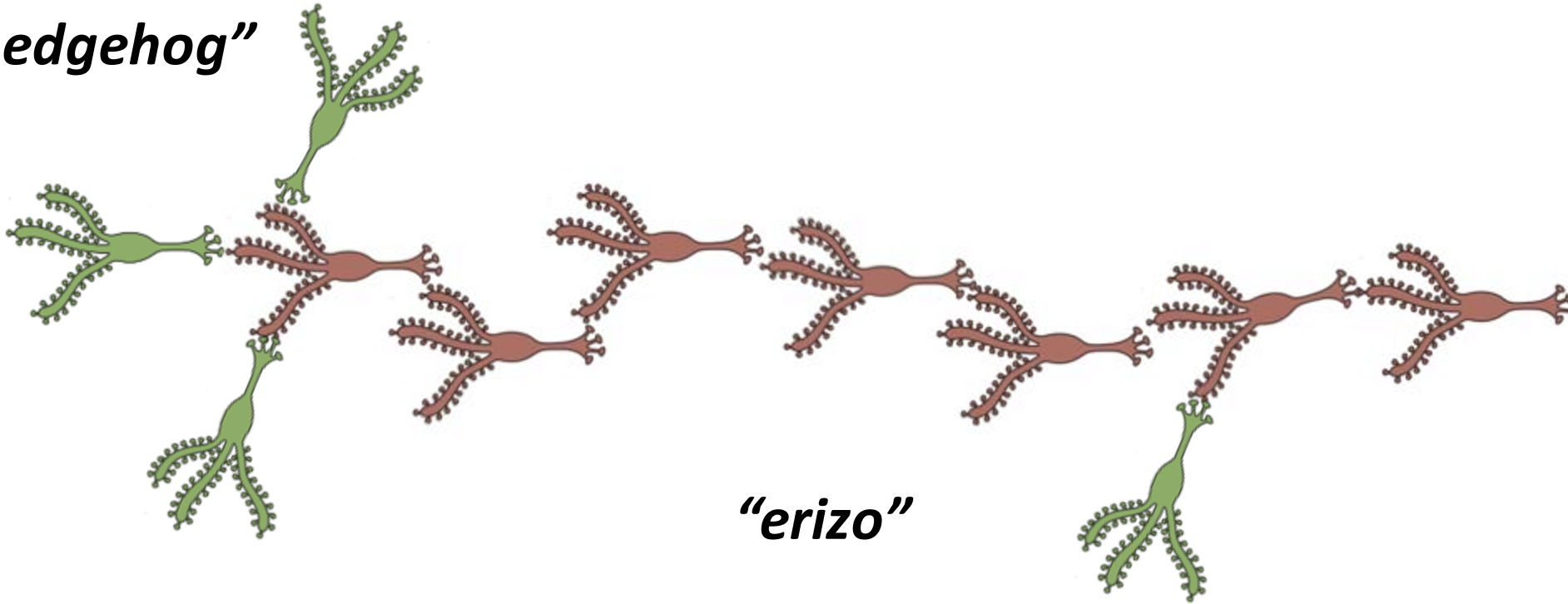
***“erizo”***

***“hedgehog”***



***“erizo”***

*“hedgehog”*



*“erizo”*

**Interleaving provides  
practice with different  
contexts and approaches!**