

Emotions & Memory

SINAPSE Scottish Imaging Network - A Platform for Scientific Excellence

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What emotions do we have?

People can have many different emotions or feelings.

Here are some of them. Can you match them to the pictures of Spongebob?



Surprised

Sad



Disgusted

Angry Scared

Happy







Why do we have emotions?

Some **emotions** are important because they can keep us safe.



Being scared of big animals keeps us from getting to close and getting hurt

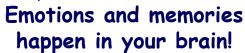
Being disgusted by rotten food keeps us from eating it and getting sick



Emotions help us to remember things better

What can you remember about your last birthday?

You probably remember your birthday better than other days. This is because you were very happy and excited that day.



You probably know that memories are stored in your brain. But did you know that the brain makes emotions too?

To look at your brain and what it is doing, scientists can take pictures of look inside your head using a special brain scan called "fMRI". And it doesn't hurt one bit!

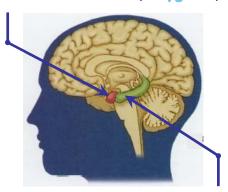
This is what your brain looks like!



What do our brains do when we remember happy or sad things?

When we remember happy or sad things, two bits of our brains are working together:

Emotion Centre (Amygdala)



Memory Centre (Hippocampus)

By working together, they can make especially strong memories. This is why we remember things better if they make us feel happy or sad

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