

THE ZOMBIE AUTOPSIES

FOR EDUCATORS

The Brain of a ZOMBIE



Let's start by identifying some behavioral characteristics of Zombies

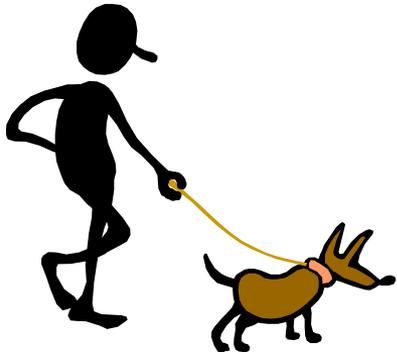


Zombie Traits

1. Zombie Stagger
2. Zombie Appetite
3. Zombie Rage
4. Zombie Stupidity

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T_v2LDXCM

The Zombie Stagger



Normal people can walk around with good coordination between their body and brain.



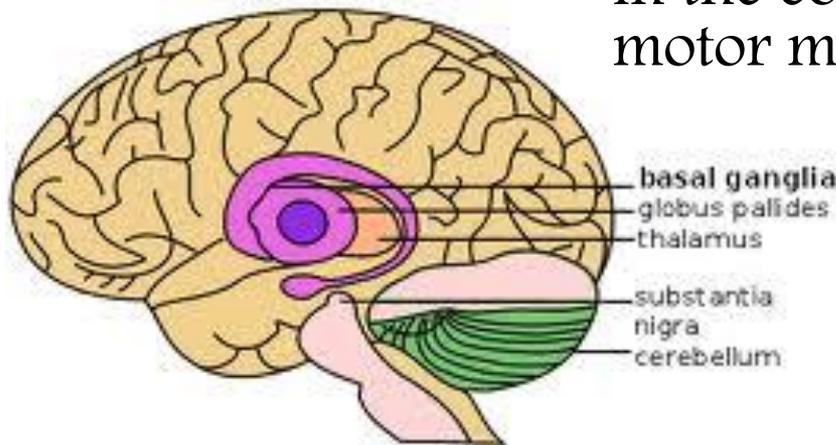
Zombies stagger around and seem clumsy.

They bump into things, and often hold their arms out for balance.

Coordinated Movement in the Brain

Man it sure is hard to walk. I have to put my hands out to balance!

Basal Ganglia and Related Structures of the Brain



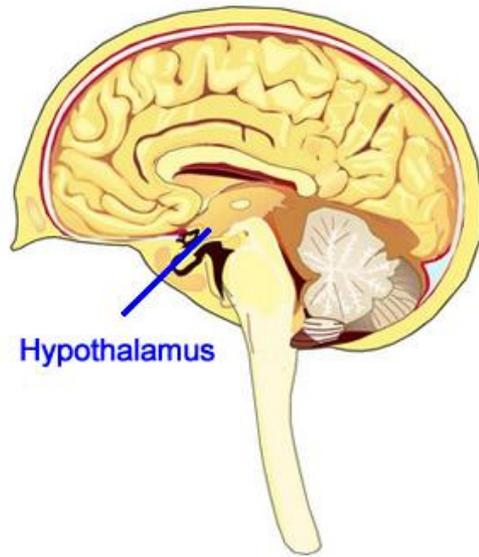
- The **cerebellum** is involved in the coordination of motor movements
- The **basal ganglia** works with the frontal lobe and brain stem to coordinate movement and behavior

The Zombie Appetite



- Typically after we eat we get full. We have a varied diet, but do not eat humans.
- Zombies are *always* hungry, even after a huge meal. And they like eating humans—which is problem.

Regulating Hunger in the Brain



The **hypothalamus** connects with many other regions of the brain and is responsible for *controlling hunger*, thirst, emotions, body temperature regulation, and circadian rhythms.



FEEED MEEEEE!!!!!!

The Zombie Rage

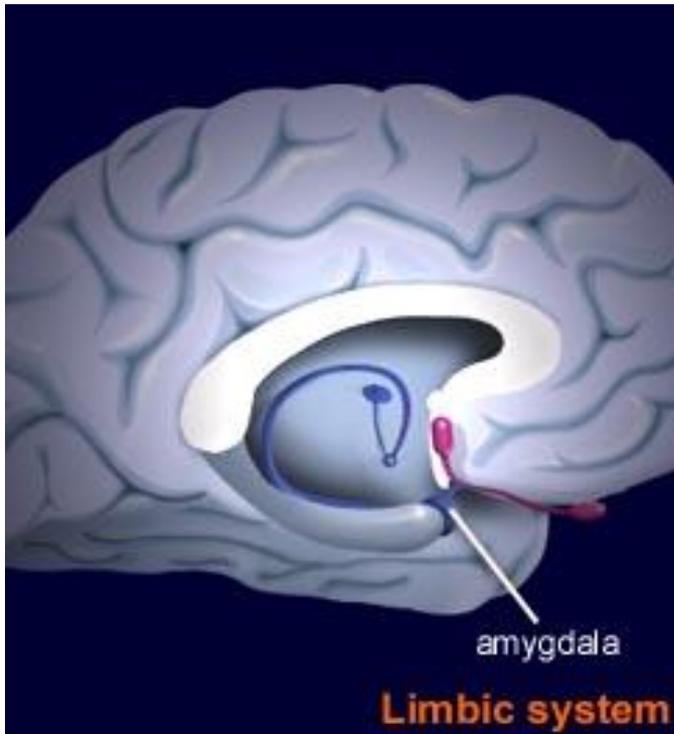


Regular people get angry, and there are some situations where they may even feel rage. However people typically feel anger and then return to their normal emotional state.



Zombies are aggressive at all times. They are extremely violent and tend to attack humans in an enraged state. They are dangerous and cannot be reasoned with.

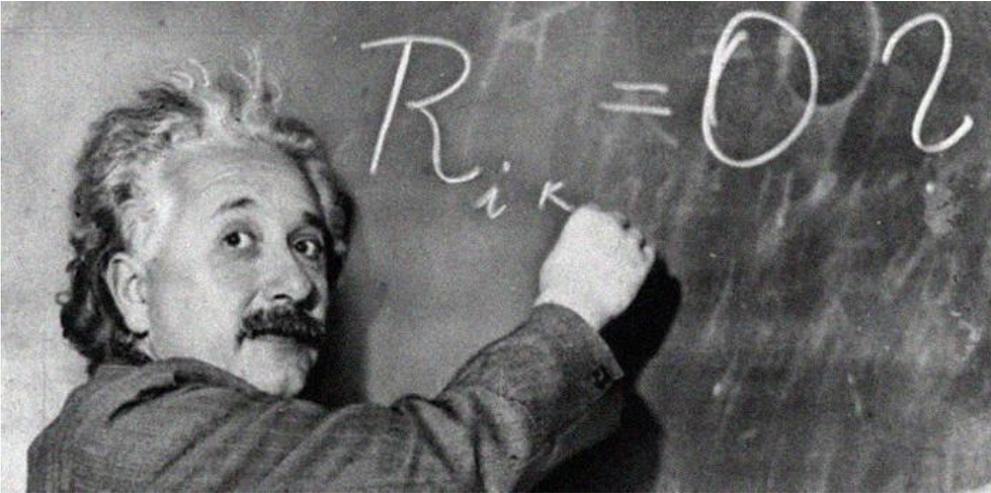
Aggression in the Brain



The **amygdala** is the brain's primal emotional center. It is implicated in the experience of negative emotions like fear and rage.



The Zombie Stupidity



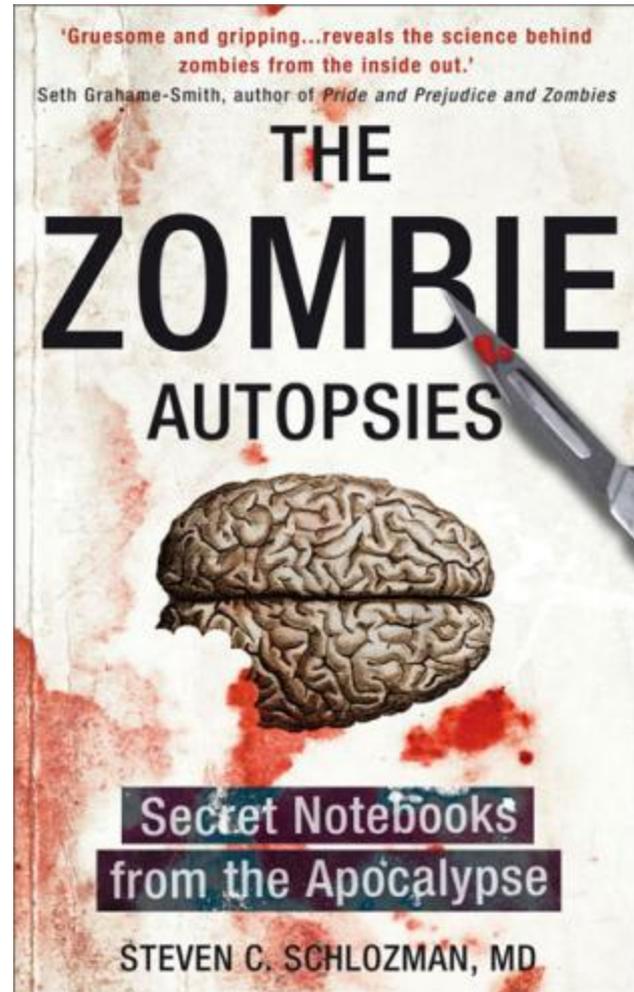
Humans are able to problem solve, communicate with each other through language, and can make complex decisions. This ability makes them unique and has contributed to their success as a species.



Zombies are known for their stupidity. They often can't figure out how to open doors and rarely, if ever, plan ahead. They are terrible problem solvers, and seem to lack any ability to communicate except through indistinguishable grunts.



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<http://vimeo.com/21310345>