

Activity 4: Match Wits with the Great Apes

In the film, you meet lumbu, a chimpanzee at the Primate Research Center at a Japanese university. This chimpanzee is the star pupil in a memory test developed by Professor Matsuzawa. In this test, lumbu sees a set of numbers displayed for only half a second on a computer screen. Then lumbu sorts the numbers in order from least to greatest. Holly Carroll is surprised when she tries the same test, because she can't even see the numbers in half a second!



Try it with a partner. Cut out the numbers below and place them in a row in random order. Have a sheet of paper ready to cover the row when the time is up. Let your partner look at the numbers for 10 seconds, then cover them over.

With your partner looking away, turn the slips of paper number side down and then challenge your partner to turn the numbers over in order from 1 to 9. Record how many your partner can turn over correctly in the first chart below. Repeat the experiment, letting your partner look at the numbers for 5 seconds and then 1 second. Now switch roles, and have your partner record your results in the second chart below.



Data Collection Chart

Partner #1 Name _____

	10 seconds	5 seconds	1 second
Number Correct			

Partner #2 Name _____

	10 seconds	5 seconds	1 second
Number Correct			