

How smart was *Velociraptor*?

Nowhere near as smart as a chimpanzee, no matter what you might have read in Jurassic Park!

Of course, we can't make *Velociraptor* run through a maze like a white rat, so we have to infer its intelligence from the size of its brain. To compare the brain sizes of different birds and dinosaurs, we calculate their EQ, or **encephalization quotient**, which is:

$$\text{Brain weight} / [0.12(\text{body weight})^{0.66}]$$

The exponent compensates for the fact that large animals tend to have proportionately smaller brains than small animals, regardless of intelligence. *Velociraptor* had an EQ of less than 0.20, which is at the low end of the range of large, modern, ground-running birds. It's a reasonable guess that *Velociraptor* was roughly comparable in intelligence to an ostrich.

At Right: Tyrannoraptor brain, showing lobes.

