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Activity: Media

Operant conditioning

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- understand operant conditioning and consider how it might explain criminal behaviour.

A. Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxkaLQwl34c>

1. According to the clip, how does ice cream act as a reward?
 2. Briefly explain Thorndike's 'law of effect'.
 3. What was Skinner trying to discover with his experiments?
 4. What was the goal of the Skinner Box experiment?
 5. What did Skinner call rewards?
 6. How did Skinner reinforce behaviour in the mouse?
 7. What happened to the behaviour of the mouse as a result of the reinforcement?
 8. What did Skinner do to the mouse in the Skinner Box to demonstrate negative reinforcement?
 9. Describe the example of negative reinforcement in our own lives.
 10. Describe how Skinner demonstrated punishment in the Skinner Box.
- B. Explain how Skinner's work on operant conditioning might help us to understand why some people commit crime.