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Activity: Media

Brain injury

Learning objective

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

- understand how damage to the brain may affect a person's personality and so their likelihood of criminality.

Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvplRN9D4D4>

1. According to the clip, what was Phineas Gage like before the accident?
2. What did Phineas Gage's accident mean for understanding the brain?
3. Briefly outline what happened to Phineas Gage.
4. How long did it take for Gage's wound to heal?
5. What could Gage do normally after the accident?
6. What aspects of Gage's personality changed after the accident?
7. Why was Gage fired from his job?
8. Why was Gage kept away from women and children?
9. What was the 'vital force' theory and how does Gage's case support this theory?
10. What did the 'localisers' think about the brain and how does Gage's case support their theory?
11. Briefly explain why both theories about the brain are partly true.
12. From recent studies, what is the impact of frontal lobe damage?
13. How does this case help us to understand how brain damage might affect criminality?