

Name(s): _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Poop Stinks!

...and Other Human Instincts

Background: Instincts are innate behaviors or responses that have been encoded in our DNA over the course of millions of years. They are therefore automatic and do not need to be learned. In fact, most instincts require little to no thought whatsoever.

Directions: *Read each question below, and think about which ones involve human instincts that have occurred as a result of evolution. Place a checkmark next to each question that you think would qualify as a human instinct or reflex. Then try to answer as many as you can, focusing on the adaptive advantage for each behavior.*

_____ 1) Why does poop stink?

_____ 2) Why is a crying baby so irritating?

_____ 3) Why do we get hungry or thirsty?

_____ 4) Why are little children scared of monsters?

_____ 5) Why do we love our family more than we care about strangers?

_____ 6) Why do we tend to think babies are cute?

_____ 7) Why do we sometimes see or hear things that aren't really there?

_____ 8) Why is sugar sweet?

_____ 9) Why do we sometimes experience a falling sensation as we fall asleep?

_____ 10) Why are some physical characteristics "attractive" to us?

_____ 11) Why does our heart race when we experience a stressful or traumatic event?

_____ 12) Why do we smile when we're happy?

_____ 13) Why do we experience physical pain?

_____ 14) Why do we get grossed out by blood and guts?

_____ 15) Why do little children tend to believe everything they hear?