

Review Questions

- 1) If we want to understand what changes over development, what research designs might we use? What are the pros and cons of each of these designs? What research methods allow us to determine what *causes* something to change in development?
- 2) What evidence from developmental psychology indicates that: (a) the environment affects the child's phenotype, (b) the child's phenotype affects the child's environment, and (c) the child's genotype affects the child's phenotype? Which of these influences may best explain why children who have the same parents are so different from one another?
- 3) What is plasticity, and what kind of evidence do we have for it?
- 4) What processes lead to the development of the nervous system?
 - a. What are the cell layers of the blastocyst and how do they contribute to the development of the fetus?
 - b. What is the source of all the cells in the adult nervous system?
 - c. When disrupted, which process leads to anencephaly and spina bifida?
 - d. How does the brain of an embryo differ from a mature brain?
 - e. How do we know that synapses don't make people smart, and what determines which synapses are preserved versus eliminated?
- 5) What kinds of things do fetuses typically experience in the uterus? What kinds of things do they not typically experience? How do we know what they can and can't perceive?
- 6) How does visual perception develop in infants? What visual abilities are and are not present at birth? How do we know? Do babies have perceptual preferences? What are they, and how do we know?
- 7) What are the reflexes that infants develop, and how are they adaptive? Are they all adaptive? What happens to the reflexes?
- 8) How do infants learn to navigate their environments? How do Esther Thelen's and Karen Adolph's research suggest that Gesell's view of motor development is an oversimplification?
- 9) How do visual perception and locomotion interact in children's development?