

**Module 2: Biological Basis of Behavior**  
**Topic 3 Content: Evolution of Understanding the Brain**

**Instructions**



Take a journey through the evolution of our understanding of the human brain. You will answer questions people throughout history have posed about the brain. Click the **NEXT** button to begin.

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**Egyptian Brain Philosophy**

*Click true or false.*  
Most ancient philosophers believed the brain was important.

TRUE

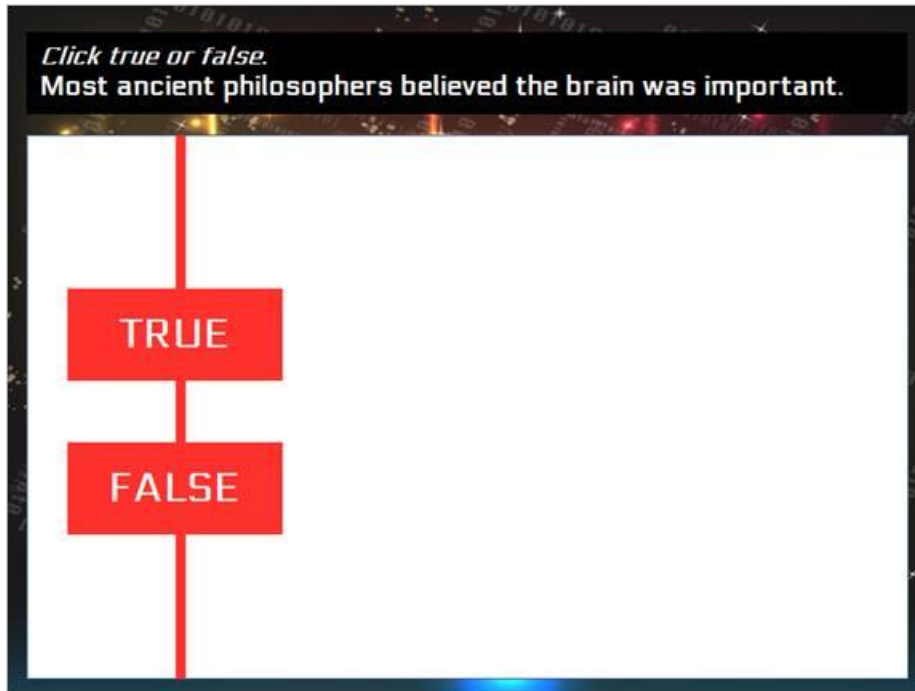
FALSE

A quiz interface with a dark background and a white question box. The question is "Most ancient philosophers believed the brain was important." Below the question are two red buttons with white text: "TRUE" and "FALSE".

All ancient philosophers believed the brain was very important.

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**Egyptian Brain Philosophy Feedback**



For most of human history, there was no way to examine the brain without damaging it. Ancient philosophers and physicians debated whether or not the brain was even that important. For example, the Egyptians removed and discarded the brain matter from mummies, but worked hard to preserve the heart.

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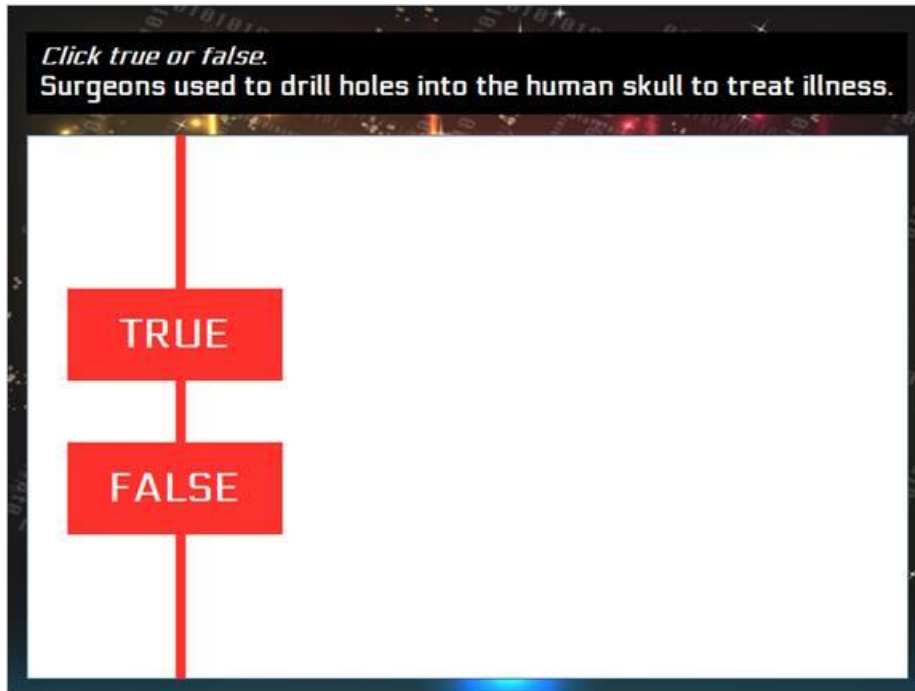
**Trepanning**



Surgeons used to drill holes into the human skull to treat illness.

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**Trepanning Feedback**



Many ancient people performed trepanning to demonstrate that the head and brain were connected to core functions and disorders. This surgical procedure involved drilling a round hole into the human skull to treat brain related issues. This method most likely did more harm than good.

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**Phrenology**

*Click true or false.*  
Studying bumps on the skull can teach about one's personality.

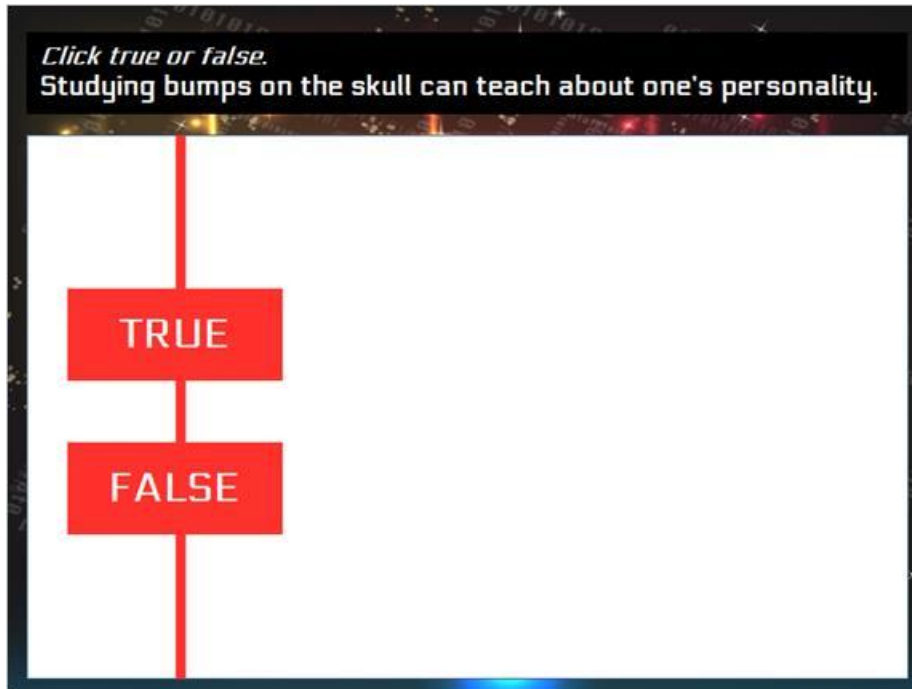
TRUE

FALSE

Studying bumps on the skull can help you learn about an individual's personality.

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**Phrenology Feedback**



In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the pseudoscience of phrenology arose. Phrenologists thought that bumps on the skull corresponded to different character traits. Phrenologists placed the brain at the center of thoughts and behaviors, and contended it could be divided into separate parts, responsible for a specific aspect of behavior. Modern research on the brain has proved phrenology to be incorrect.

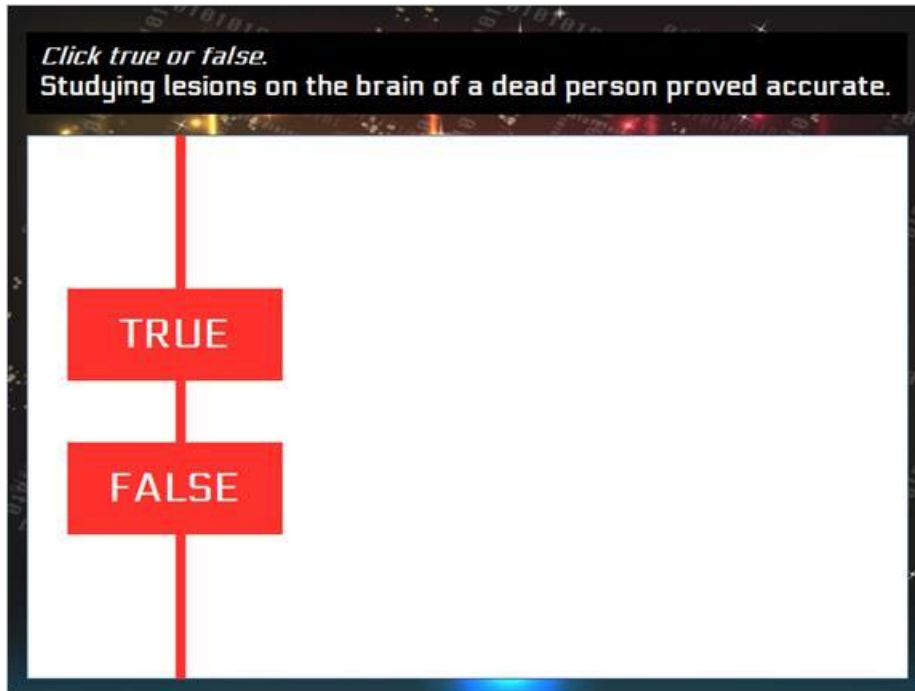
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**Post Mortem Examination**

*Click true or false.*  
Studying lesions on the brain of a dead person proved accurate.

TRUE

FALSE

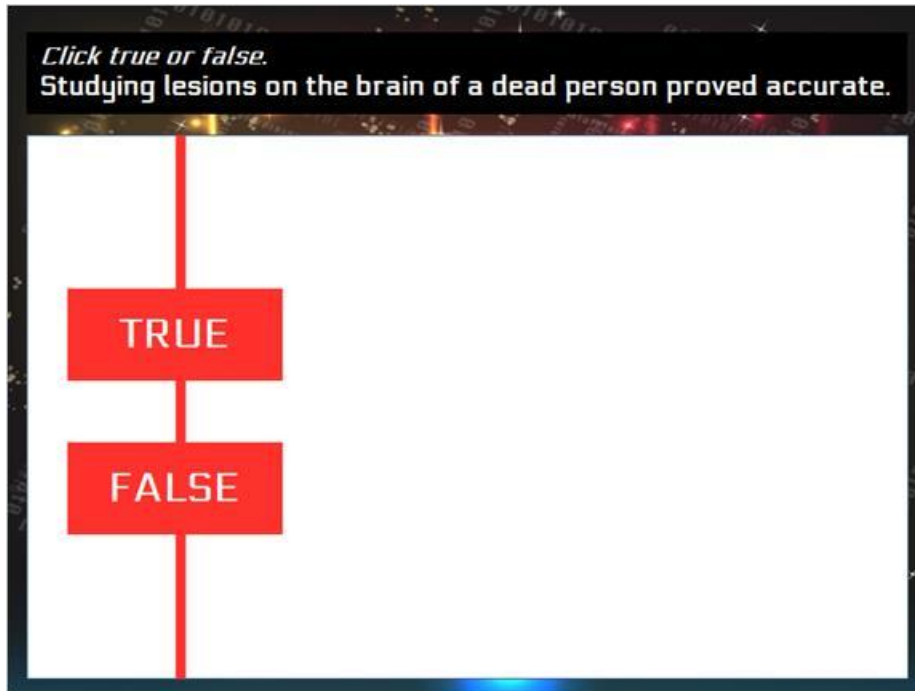
A quiz interface with a dark background and a white text box. The text box contains the question "Studying lesions on the brain of a dead person proved accurate." and the instruction "Click true or false." Below the text box are two red buttons with white text: "TRUE" and "FALSE".

Studying lesions on the brain of a dead person was an effective way to learn about the brain.



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**Post Mortem Examination Feedback**



Studying lesions in injured brains was one of the few accurate ways to learn about the organ prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Doctors could examine a person who had suffered a stroke, to determine which part of the brain was injured and how that brain lesion affected him or her. Typically, scientists waited until the person died to examine the brain.