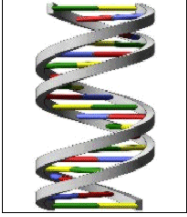


Sexual Infidelity & Parental Investment



This activity will help you to:

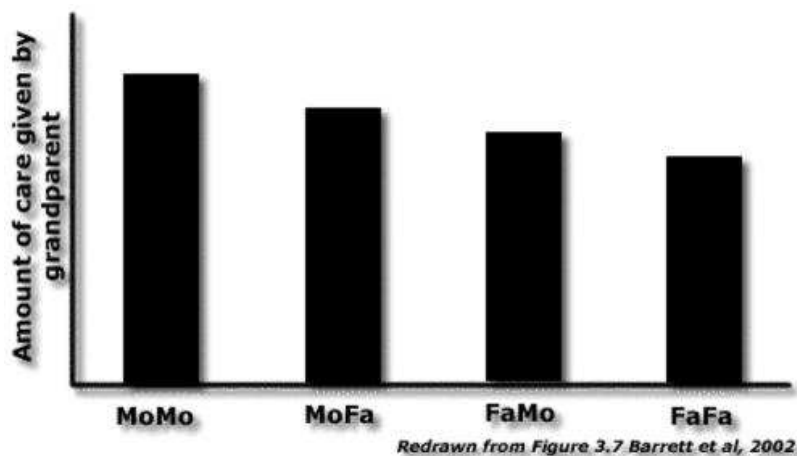
- Consider how sexual infidelity might be a useful strategy in evolutionary terms
- Consider how sexual infidelity might have different functions in men and women
- Think about the relationship between sexual infidelity and parental investment

Why would it make evolutionary sense for a man to have sex with women other than his partner? (Clue: anisogamy)

Why would it make evolutionary sense for a woman to have sex with men other than her partner? (Clue: which two things does a woman want from a man, in evolutionary terms? Is she guaranteed to get both from the same man?)

A woman can always be certain that any offspring she gives birth to carries her genes. However, a man cannot. What implication might this have for the amount that mothers and fathers are prepared to invest in their offspring? Explain your answer.

The graph below shows the average amount of resources invested by grandparents in their grandchildren. There are four types of grandparent: MoMo = mother's mother; MoFa = mother's father etc.



Using ideas from evolutionary psychology, explain the differences between grandparents in their level of investment in their grandchildren.