

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN **WEEKLY REVIEW**

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RELATIVE SUCCESS: Scientists find that third and fourth cousins, when they mate, produce more offspring than more closely related couples, as well as distant ones.
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FEATURE

When Incest is Best: Kissing Cousins Have More Kin

It is not quite incest. And though it will increase your chances of birthing a healthy baby, it is a bit unorthodox, to say the least. Still, scientists at Icelandic biotechnology company deCODE genetics say that when third and fourth cousins procreate, they generally have scads of kids and grandkids (relative to everyone else).

It has long been wondered exactly how kinship influences reproductive success. Previous studies have uncovered positive correlations, but the biological data has been clouded by socioeconomic factors (such as average marrying age and family size) in those populations in which consanguineous marriage is commonplace, such as in India, Pakistan and the Middle East. The new study, however, was able to shed light on the biological reason for the earlier findings. ... [\[more \]](#)

VIDEO

'The Monitor' ep. 2 - Free Will, Death, Brains

This week on The Monitor: Inactivity shortens telomeres (and your life), free will is a self-fulfilling prophecy, mapping the brain will take more computers than Google currently owns, and creationism gets its own journal.

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NEWS

Biofuels Are Bad for Feeding People and Combating Climate Change

By displacing agriculture for food-and causing more land clearing-biofuels are bad for hungry people and the environment

NEWS

Fat? No Food for You!

Mississippi lawmakers introduce bill that would ban restaurants from serving portly patrons

NEWS

New Electronics Promise Wireless at Warp Speed

Company uses nanoscale metals to build faster radios to wirelessly process video and other massive data files

60 SECOND SCIENCE

How do you grow a glacier? Make a boy and a girl glacier get it on

60 SECOND SCIENCE

The chupacabra myth: exposed!

60 SECOND SCIENCE

Video: 17-foot long deep-sea shark with meter-wide head waaaay cooler than Cloverfield monster

FACT OR FICTION

Do People Only Use 10 Percent of Their Brains?

What's the matter with only exploiting a portion of our gray matter?

BLOG - MIND MATTERS

How Harvard students perceive rednecks: The neural basis for prejudice

The source of many of the world's woes might be tracked to a specific brain area responsible for identifying people that are not of our ilk.

BLOG - SCIAM OBSERVATIONS

A history of the climate change conspiracy.

Naomi Oreskes has painfully reconstructed the history of the science and the legacy of that manufactured doubt.

PUZZLE

Sci-Doku

Sci-Doku is a sudoku puzzle that uses letters instead of numbers, with an added twist: a science-related clue accompanies each puzzle. This week's clue: Bright streak in the sky, perhaps