

MI Theory Summary Chart

Intelligence	Core Components	Symbol Systems	High End-States	Neurological Systems (Primary Areas)	Developmental Factors	Ways that Cultures Value	Evolutionary Origins	Presence in Other Species	Historical Factors (Relative to Current U.S. Status)
Linguistic	Sensitivity to the sounds, structure, meanings, and functions of words and language	Phonetic languages (e.g., English)	Writer, orator (e.g., Virginia Woolf, Martin Luther King Jr.)	Left temporal and frontal lobes (e.g., Broca's/Wernicke's areas)	"Explodes" in early childhood; remains robust until old age	Oral histories, storytelling, literature	Written notations found dating to 30,000 years ago	Apes' ability to name	Oral transmission more important before printing press
Logical-Mathematical	Sensitivity to, and capacity to discern, logical or numerical patterns; ability to handle long chains of reasoning	Computer languages (e.g., Basic)	Scientist, mathematician (e.g., Madame Curie, Blaise Pascal)	Left frontal and right parietal lobes	Peaks in adolescence and early adulthood; higher math insights decline after age 40	Scientific discoveries, mathematical theories, counting and classification systems	Early number systems and calendars found	Bees calculate distances through their dances	More important with influence of computers
Spatial	Capacity to perceive the visual-spatial world accurately and to perform transformations on one's initial perceptions	Ideographic languages (e.g., Chinese)	Artist, architect (e.g., Frida Kahlo, I. M. Pei)	Posterior regions of right hemisphere	Topological thinking in early childhood gives way to Euclidean paradigm around age 9-10; artistic eye stays robust into old age	Artistic works, navigational systems, architectural designs, inventions	Cave drawings	Territorial instinct of several species	More important with advent of video and other visual technologies
Bodily-Kinesthetic	Ability to control one's body movements and to handle objects skillfully	Sign languages, Braille*	Athlete, dancer, sculptor (e.g., Martha Graham, Auguste Rodin)	Cerebellum, basal ganglia, motor cortex	Varies depending upon component (strength, flexibility) or domain (gymnastics, baseball, mime)	Crafts, athletic performances, dramatic works, dance forms, sculpture	Evidence of early tool use	Tool use of primates, anteaters, and other species	Was more important in agrarian period

Musical	Ability to produce and appreciate rhythm, pitch, and timbre; appreciation of the forms of musical expressiveness	Musical notational systems, Morse Code	Composer, performer (e.g., Stevie Wonder, Midori)	Right temporal lobe	Earliest intelligence to develop; prodigies often go through developmental crisis	Musical compositions, performances, recordings	Evidence of musical instruments back to Stone Age	Bird song	Was more important during oral culture, when communication was musical in nature
Interpersonal	Capacity to discern and respond appropriately to the moods, temperaments, motivations, and desires of other people	Social cues (e.g., gestures and facial expressions)	Counselor, political leader (e.g., Carl Rogers, Nelson Mandela)	Frontal lobes, temporal lobe (especially right hemisphere), limbic system	Attachment/bonding during first 3 years critical	Political documents, social institutions	Communal living groups required for hunting/gathering	Maternal bonding observed in primates and other species	More important with increase in service economy
Intrapersonal	Access to one's own "feeling" life and the ability to discriminate among one's emotions; knowledge of one's own strengths and weaknesses	Symbols of the self (e.g., in dreams* and artwork)	Psychotherapist, religious leader (e.g., Sigmund Freud, the Buddha)	Frontal lobes, parietal lobes, limbic system	Formation of boundary between "self" and "other" during first 3 years critical	Religious systems, psychological theories, rites of passage	Early evidence of religious life	Chimpanzees can locate self in mirror; apes experience fear	Continues to be important with increasingly complex society requiring choice-making
Naturalist	Expertise in distinguishing among members of a species; recognizing the existence of other neighboring species; and charting out the relations, formally or informally,	Species classification systems (e.g., Linnaeus), habitat maps	Naturalist, biologist, animal activist (e.g., Charles Darwin, E. O. Wilson, Jane Goodall)	Areas of left parietal lobe important for discriminating "living" from "nonliving" things	Shows up dramatically in some young children; schooling or experience increases formal or informal expertise	Folk taxonomies, herbal lore, hunting rituals, animal spirit mythologies	Early hunting tools reveal understanding of other species	Hunting instinct in innumerable species to discriminate between prey and nonprey	Was more important during agrarian period; then fell out of favor during industrial expansion; now "earth-smarts" are more important than ever to preserve endangered