

# **Mandela Effect: What Is It and Why Does It Happen?**

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The monkey in the popular animated American series Curious George has been a subject of debate worldwide – many believe the monkey has a tail; however, it actually does not.

Those who believed the monkey had a tail say they saw him with a dangling tail hanging from trees. Tails are distinctive characteristics of monkeys, so it is understandable why many people would have assumed this particular monkey did as well.

This incident is an example of the Mandela Effect and proof that human memory can sometimes be fickle.

According to Medical News Today, “Memories are not always precise recordings of events.” Our memories can be influenced by time, context, and other people’s opinions and memories. According to a study from the journal of Psychological Science, 76% of study participants made at least one error when asked to recall information from their memories.

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