

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

SLEEP LEARNING

How to improve memories during slumber



PLUS

CAN GEOMETRY SAVE DEMOCRACY?

Mathematicians fight against gerrymandering PAGE 48

TEAM PLAYERS

Microbial partnerships that rule the planet PAGE 32

BACK IN TIME

Searching for the most distant galaxies in the universe PAGE 40

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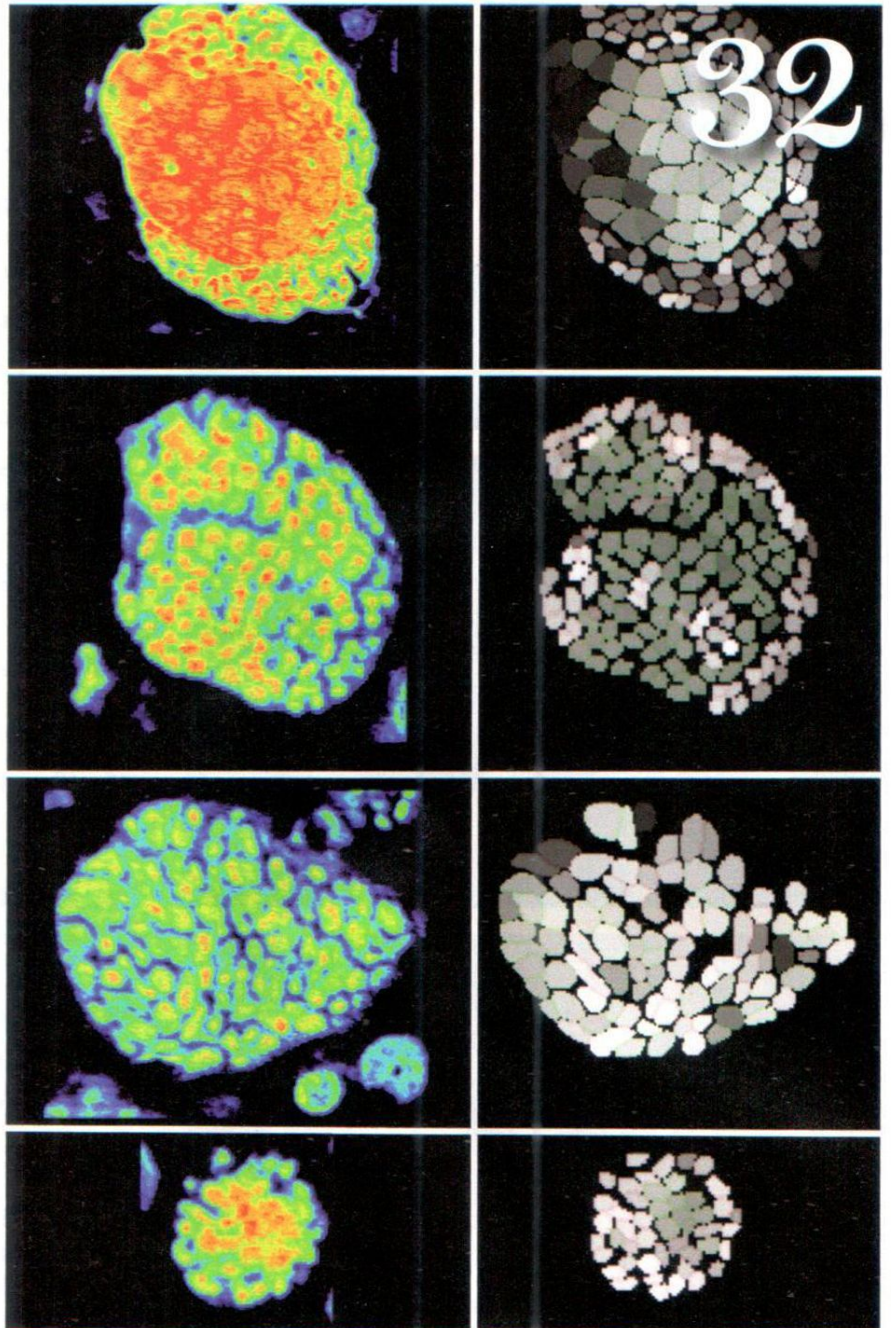
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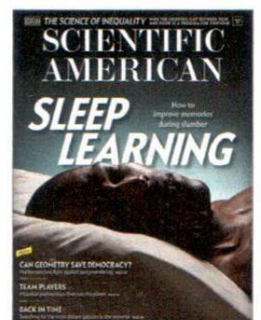
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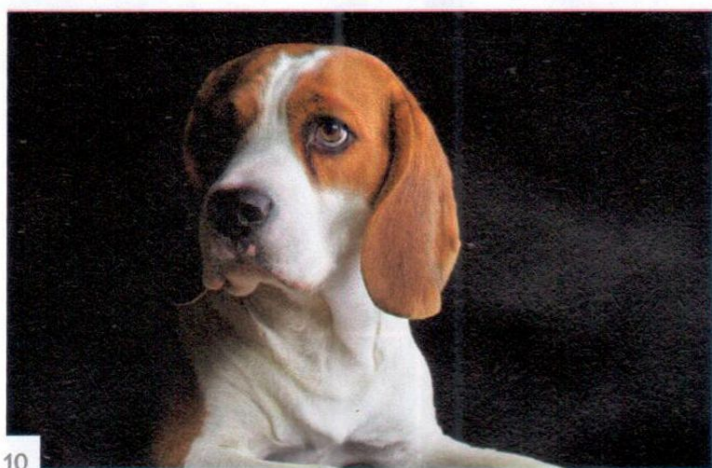
**ON THE COVER**

Learning while asleep turns up as a trope in novels and in popular culture. Now one form of sleep learning is getting a serious hearing in reputable neuroscience labs. The sleeping brain spontaneously reactivates existing memories. Researchers want to understand how these periods of off-line recall serve as de facto study sessions that help us remember what we learned during the day. *Photograph by Hannah Whitaker.*

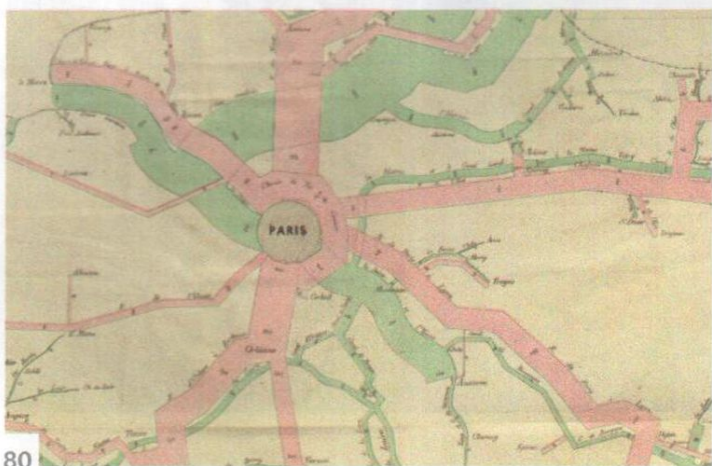




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