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Birds and sea turtles can migrate thousands of miles , by reading the Earth ' s magnetic cues. But we too might have magnetic sensing abilities in our eyes. So says a study in the journal Nature Communications. [Lauren Foley , Robert Gegear and Steven Reppert , “ Human Cryptochrome Exhibits Light-Dependent Magnetosensitivity ”] Previous studies suggest long-distance migrators and even fruit flies pick up magnetic fields with the help of a light-sensitive protein called “ cryptochrome. ” We produce cryptochrome too without it , our circadian clocks would break. Human cryptochrome doesn ' t require light to function , though and it doesn ' t seem to give us a phenomenal sensitivity to magnetic fields. But can it do more than keep the circadian clock ticking ? 来源 : 百考试题百考试题成就你的梦想 To find out , researchers took out fruit flies ' usual cryptochrome gene and inserted the human version. And the transgenic flies had no problem navigating a magnetic maze when exposed to light indicating the human protein can still serve as a light-sensitive magnetic sensor. We happen to have a lot of cryptochrome in our retina ideally situated to receive light. Which suggests we might be able to see magnetic fields in some way. On the other hand , evolution might have just given cryptochrome a new job in new organisms. So don ' t throw away your GPS. 相关推荐 : #0000ff>2011年英语六级阅读的方法和技

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