

The Flamboni Way



Unique in all the world in the act of parturition is the Flamboni tribe of northernmost South Africa. The women eschew anything to do with fallopian tubes or Braxton Hicks contractions and instead bear their young out of the crowns of their heads. They claim that this direct brain-to-birth path gives their offspring a head start in developing vital cognitive abilities. Maybe so, but by bypassing the more traditional uterine preparation chamber, the newborns are more likely to greet the world with anatomical anomalies – extra legs, say, or an abundance of bee hair over their feet and mandibles. Bee hair, of course, is prized among the Flambonis, so it's not likely they'll opt to change their means of crumbsnatcher expulsion any time soon.