

Psychology and Its History

Before You Read

Module Summary

Module 1 introduces the foundations of thought that influenced and directed the growth of psychology. From the earliest philosophers debating the duality of mind and body to the more recent scientific methods of inquiry, psychology has grappled with the question of being, doing and thinking. This module discusses the key contributions of scholars, philosophers and scientists across the ages and sets the stage for the remainder of the course.

Before beginning the module, take a moment to read each of the following terms and names you will encounter. You may wish to make vocabulary cards for each.

Key Terms

critical thinking
empiricism
structuralism
introspection
functionalism
behaviorism
humanistic psychology

Key Names

Wilhelm Wundt
G. Stanley Hall
Edward Titchener
William James
Charles Darwin
Mary Whiton Calkins
Margaret Floy Washburn
John B. Watson
B. F. Skinner
Sigmund Freud
Carl Rogers
Abraham Maslow

While You Read

1-2

Explain the three elements of the scientific attitude.

1-3

Explain how critical thinking has helped you examine an issue in your life.

1-4

Complete the following chart with details to support each early theorist's beliefs about the nature of mind, body, and innate and acquired knowledge. One has been filled in to get you started.

| Theorist/Philosopher | Viewpoint |
|----------------------|---|
| Socrates | |
| Plato | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge is innate—born within us</i> • <i>Mind is separable from body and continues after the body dies</i> |
| Aristotle | |
| René Descartes | |
| Francis Bacon | |
| John Locke | |

1-5

Complete the following chart detailing the contributions and important milestones each of the early psychologists made to the field.

| Psychologist | Contribution or Milestone |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wilhelm Wundt | |
| G. Stanley Hall | |
| Edward Titchener | |
| Charles Darwin | |
| William James | |
| Mary Whiton Calkins | |
| Margaret Floy Washburn | |

1-6

Complete the following chart with information about the developments in psychology from 1920 to the present.

| Psychologist | Psychological Approach to Explaining Behavior and Mental Processes | Key Terms |
|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| John B. Watson | | |
| B. F. Skinner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="407 506 971 569">• <i>You should observe and record people's behavior to understand them</i> | |
| Sigmund Freud | | |
| Carl Rogers | | <i>Growth potential</i> |
| Abraham Maslow | | |

2. According to your text, what is the definition of psychology?