

FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION

1. What are the major theories and principles in the foundation of education and why are these important in the study of education.

THEORIES AND PRINCIPLE IN THE FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION

Theories in education didn't begin in earnest until the early 20th century, but curiosity about how humans learn dates back to the ancient Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. They explored whether knowledge and truth could be found within oneself (rationalism) or through external observation (empiricism).

By the 19th century, psychologists began to answer this question with scientific studies. The goal was to understand objectively how people learn and then develop teaching approaches accordingly.

In the 20th century, the debate among educational theorists centered on behaviorist theory versus cognitive psychology. Or, in other words, do people learn by responding to external stimuli or by using their brains to construct knowledge from external data?

Today, much research, study, and debate have given rise to the following five learning theories:

THEORY	EXPLANATION	APPLICATION
Behaviorism	As Simply Psychology puts it: "Behaviorism is only concerned with <u>observable stimulus-response behaviors</u> , as they can be studied in a systematic and observable manner."	Learning is based on a system of routines that "drill" information into a student's memory bank, as well as positive feedback from teachers and an educational institution itself. If students do an excellent job, they receive positive reinforcement and are signaled out for recognition.
Cognitivism	Learning relies on both external factors (like information or data) and the internal thought process.	Developed in the 1950s, this theory moves away from behaviorism to focus on the mind's role in learning. According to the <u>International Bureau of Education</u> : "In cognitive psychology, learning is understood as the acquisition of knowledge: the learner is an information-processor who absorbs information, undertakes cognitive operations on it and stocks it in memory."
Constructivism	The learner builds upon his or her previous experience and understanding to "construct" a new understanding.	"The passive view of teaching views the learner as 'an empty vessel' to be filled with knowledge," explains Simply Psychology. "whereas <u>constructivism states that learners construct meaning</u> only through

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RD Boyd



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