

Teaching Unit: *Introduction & Careers*

Essential Understandings

Psychology is comprised of several sub-fields and career opportunities.

Psychology has developed as an empirical science.

Psychologists use many different perspectives to understand behavior and mental processes.

Heredity and environment interact to influence behavior.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the important elements of the definitions of Psychology.

Discuss the work of clinical psychologists.

Name the types of academic psychologists, and explain the basic research each might do.

Name types of applied psychologists and explain how they do research.

Describe the first psychologists and the origins of psychology as a science.

Explain how 20th century psychologists changed the way psychology was studied.

Explain the six contemporary perspectives.

Discuss three recent areas of psychological study.

Define the nature - nurture issue and explain the key issues in the field of behavior genetics.

Describe the research findings related to the environmental influences of early brain development, parents, peers, and culture.

Teaching Unit: ***Nature v. Nurture***

Essential Understandings

- How does heredity interact with environment to influence behavior?
- How are the effects of heredity and environment on behavior assessed?
- How are psychological mechanisms explained by evolution?
- How do evolved tendencies interact with the present environment and culture to determine behavior?

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

- Define the nature v. nurture issue and explain the key issues of the field of behavior genetics
- Name & describe the elements of the genetic code
- Discuss how twin studies and adoption studies are used to learn about the influences of nature & nurture
- Describe the research findings related to the environmental influences of early brain development, parents, peers, and our culture

Teaching Unit: ***Learning***

Essential Understandings

- Our current concept of learning is based on the early work of several scientists
- Classical Conditioning is the acquisition of a new response through learned through association
- Cognition has a role in classical conditioning
- Learning is constrained by biological predispositions

Sub Topic: ***Classical Conditioning***

Knowledge and Skills

- Define Classical Conditioning
 - Describe Pavlov's role in the study of CC
 - Describe how Watson & Rayner demonstrated that emotions can be classically conditioned
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of cognition & biological predisposition can be classically conditioned
 - Describe the difference between positive and negative reinforcement and how each process works
 - Analyze how punishment influences behavior and why it tends to be ineffective
 - Explain how you can use operant conditioning to teach a new behavior
 - Describe how Bandura demonstrated the principles of observational learning
-

Teaching Unit: ***Personality***

Essential Understandings

Freud believed that an individual's personality emerges from tensions generated by unconscious motives and unresolved childhood conflicts.

To Freud, personality results from the interaction of three forces: the id, ego, and superego.

Humanistic psychology focuses on conscious experiences, the individual's freedom to choose, and the individual's capacity for growth.

Abraham Maslow constructed a hierarchy of needs to explain personality and personal growth of psychologically healthy people.

Trait theorists use descriptive techniques to classify personality, identifying characteristic and consistent patterns of behavior.

Trait theorists assess personalities through objective personality inventories.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Describe Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic perspective on personality.

Explain how later theorists assessed personality and the new concepts added to psychodynamic theory by the neo-Freudians.

Evaluate the validity of Freud's theory using contemporary research.

Describe the Humanistic perspective on personality.

Evaluate the validity of the humanistic perspective on personality using contemporary research.