

AP PSYCHOLOGY



An abandoned ham sandwich? Or Psychology Department experiment? There was no way Fred could tell for sure.

Unit 1:

Psychology's History and Approaches





What is Psychology?

Psychology

What is it?

▪ Definition of Psychology

- *The science of behavior (what we do) and mental processes (sensations, perceptions, dreams, thoughts, beliefs, and feelings)*

Do our feelings always match our behaviors?



If you call me dumb,
I may feel sad inside.

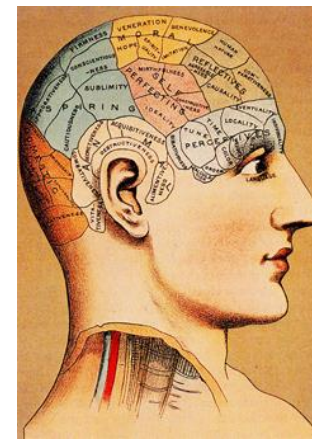


But I will
still act
tough.

What is Psychology?



- z Historical Bases: Biology and Philosophy
- z One of the first psychological ideas was **phrenology** – bumps in the head reveal mental abilities and character traits (not true, obviously)



History of Psychology

- ▶ Although the science of psychology started in the late 1800's, the concept has been around a lot longer.
- ▶ There was evidence of **trephination** (cutting holes into a skull to let evil spirits out) back in the stone age.

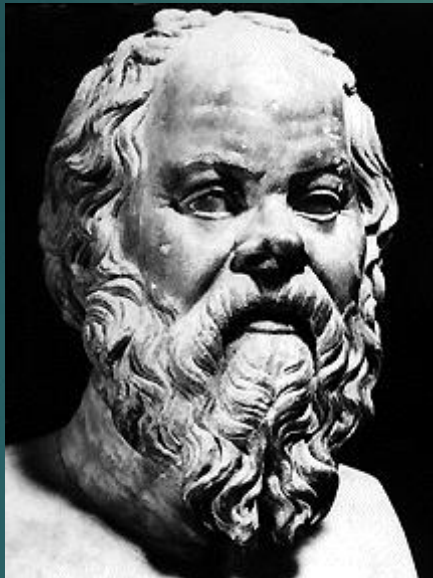


Prescientific Psychology

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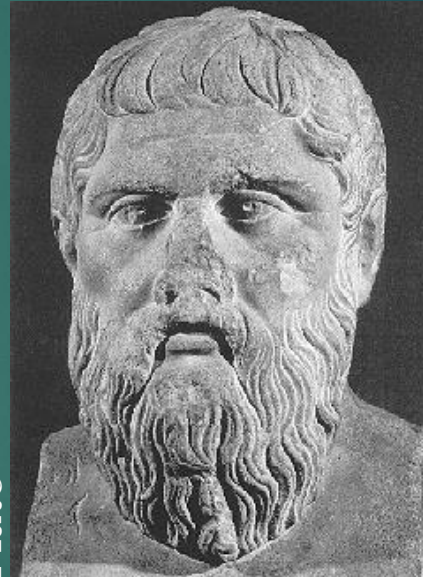
Socrates (469-399 B.C.) and Plato (428-348 B.C.)

Socrates



<http://www.law.umkc.edu>

Plato



<http://www.law.umkc.edu>

Socrates and his student Plato believed the mind was separate from the body, the mind continued to exist after death, and ideas were innate.

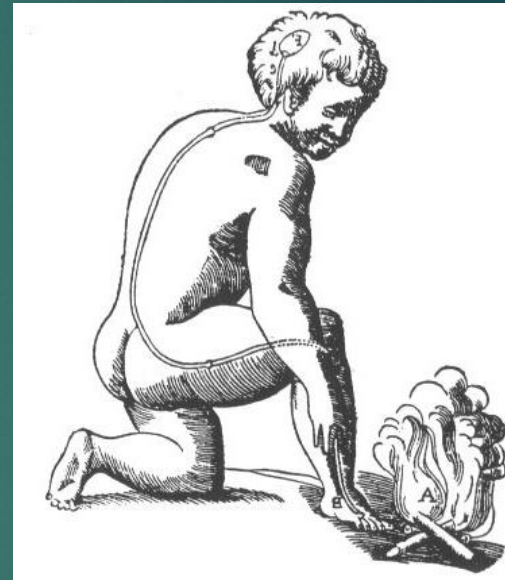
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Rene Descartes (1596-1650)



<http://www.spacerad.com>



<http://ocw.mit.edu>

Descartes, like Plato, believed in soul (mind)-body separation, but wondered how the immaterial mind and physical body communicated.

Psychology's Roots

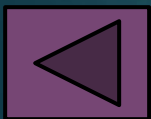
Prescientific Psychology

- Rene Descartes
- Francis Bacon
- John Locke
 - Tabula Rasa
(blank slate)
- Empiricism



Empiricism

» the view that knowledge originates in experience and that science should, therefore, rely on observation and experimentation.



Prescientific Psychology

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What is the relation of mind to the body?

**Mind and body are
connected**

The Hebrews

Aristotle

Augustine

**Mind and body are
distinct**

Socrates

Plato

Descartes

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How are ideas formed?

Some ideas are inborn

The mind is a blank
slate

Socrates

Aristotle

Plato

Locke
