



Unit 1

Psychology and Scientific Inquiry

Day 1: What Is Psychology?

*Seriously... what's on
YOUR mind?!*

Objectives

- Understand the 3 elements of Psychology
- Recognize how scientific inquiry relates to psychology
- Identify the 5 steps to Scientific Inquiry
- *Terms:*
 - Psychology
 - Scientific Inquiry
 - Mind
 - Behavior
 - Theory
 - Hypothesis



First... some questions...

- Your first journal question asked you to choose some objects in the classroom.
- *Why did you choose the objects you did?*
- *Did we all have access to the same objects?*
- *Even those with the same objects, like magnetic liquid, or clocks, would likely have different reasons*



WHY is that? AND, if we made a guess as to why, what would that be called?

Psychology

- **Psychology** – The study of the mind and behavior
- *Quite short and simple, but what does that mean?...*

Three Parts

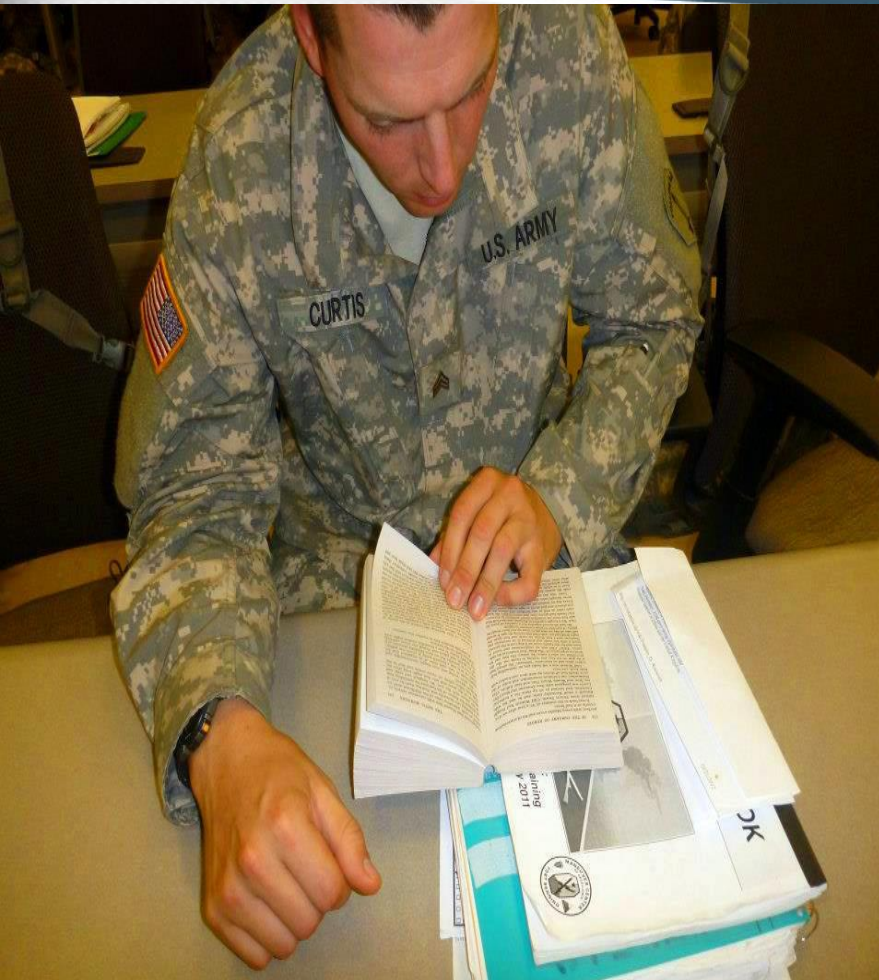
Study

Mind

Behavior



Psychology

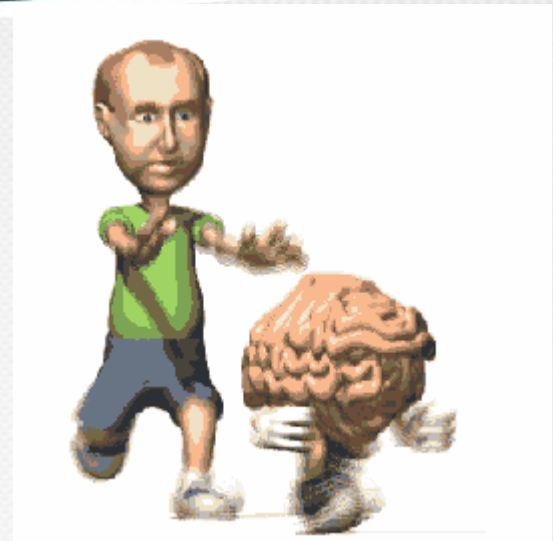


Study

- **Psychology relies on scientific inquiry**
 - The ways scientists study the world, and propose explanations based on their work
 - *More on that later*

Psychology

- **Mind**
- *More than just the grey matter between your ears*
- **The process by which we think, feel, and reason**



Psychology



- **Behavior**
- **Observable actions towards ourselves and others**
- *Like going down an escalator on crutches... because you hate yourself...*



My dream is that one day we will all live in a world where baby pandas are handed out like free candy.



The unintended consequences of this will probably be disastrous.
But I don't care, I just want my free panda.

Meanwhile...

- *Back to that “scientific inquiry” thing...*
- *While it will mirror many things in science class, there are some definite differences between how a Psychologist and a Scientist can test their theories*

Plus there are some laws against it

Thus we have.....



Scientific Inquiry

- Five Steps to S.I. (in Psychology)
 - 1) Question
 - 2) Observation
 - 3) Hypothesis
 - 4) Experimentation
 - 5) Conclusion



Step 1- Question

- What are you trying to explain or understand?
- *i.e. Why can't 7th Graders stand still in formation?*



Step 2 - Observation

- Watch the thing you want to explain, and note details or possible explanations
- *i.e. See what the 7th Graders are doing during formation, like scratching their legs, talking to each other, or passing out from locking knees*



Step 3 - Hypothesis

- **NOT a theory**
 - Theory = an established explanation
 - Hypothesis = YOUR guess to explain something
- ***i.e. You think that 7th Graders aren't used to standing still, and just need more practice***



Step 4 - Experimentation

- **Test your hypothesis**
 - *Also involves observation, as well as other terms we'll look at later, like control groups, variables, etc.*
- *You have some 7th Graders practice every day for an hour, while others don't, and see if it changes behavior*

What problems might come from this step in Psychology?

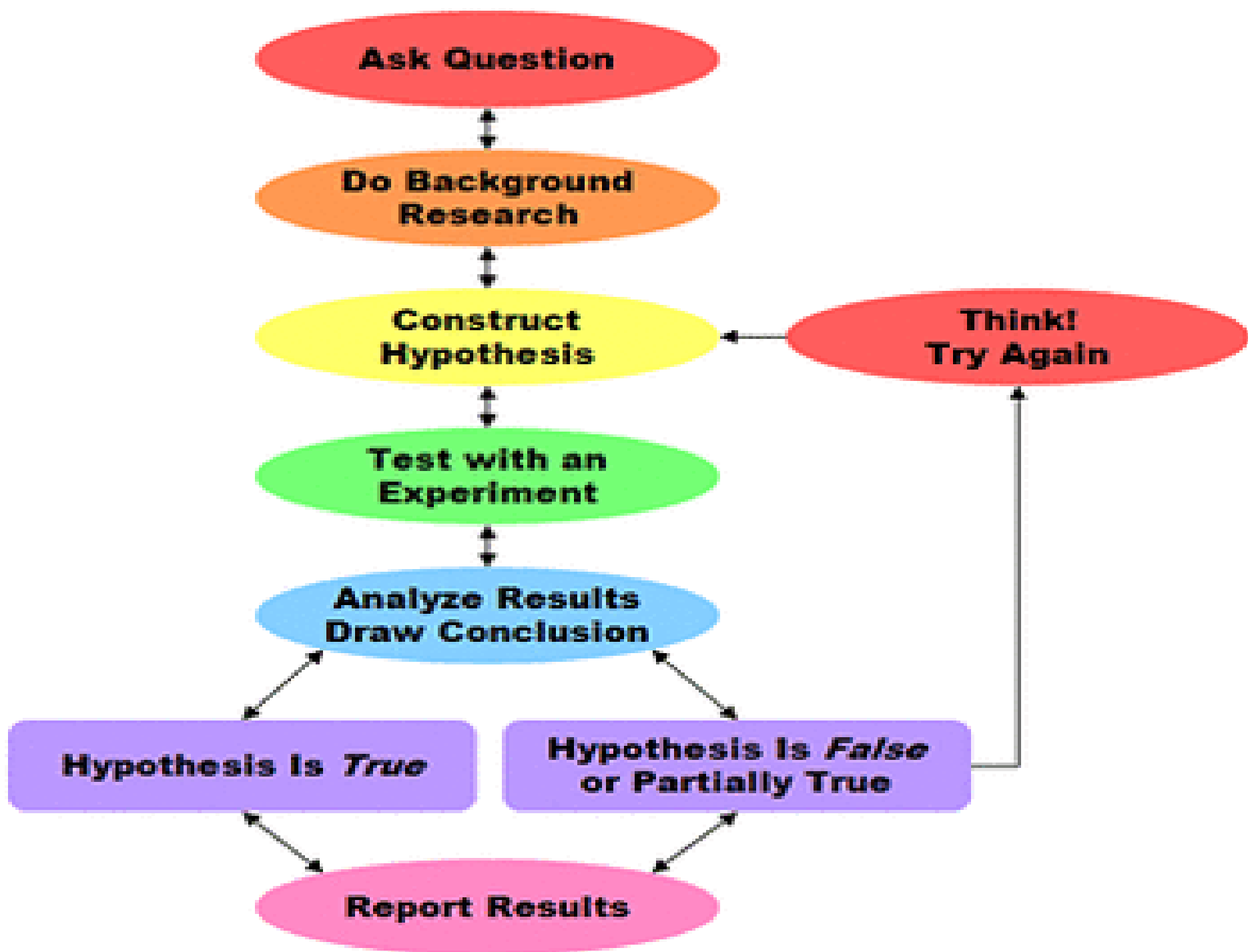


Step 5 - Conclusion

- Interpret your data
 - *It may mean your hypothesis appears to be true*
 - *May also mean it is definitely NOT true*
 - *A conclusion is NOT necessarily the answer*



i.e. Even with practice, the 7th Graders still move around



Next time...

- *Learning about methods and problems in experimentation*
- *Then, next Friday, you will be going into other classes to observe Cadet behaviors and “test” your hypothesis*

*And the Monday after –
Our first quiz!*



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