

Do Now

**List words/ideas/ that come to mind when you think of the word
“individual”**

**Make another list of words/ideas that come to mind when you think
of the word “social”**

Agenda

- 1. Do Now**
- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Case Study**
- 4. Nature vs. Nurture**
- 5. Affect of Birth Order on Personality**
- 6. The Social Cultural Environment (Isolation)**
 - Anna, Isabelle, Geni**

Objectives

Content:

- SWBAT
 - 1. **Explain** the characteristics of nature and nurture
 - 2. **Explain** how both influence personality development
 - 3. **List** and **Explain** the 4 main factors in personality development
 - 4. **Explain** the affect of birth order on personality development
 - 5. **Explain** how heredity, birth order, parental characteristics, and cultural environment influence personality
 - 6. **Explain** how the social environment of isolated and feral children affect their personality development

Language:

- BY:
 - **Note taking** in class
 - **Discussing** concepts in class

Chapter 4: Socializing the Individual

Case Study: [Identical Strangers](#) (Tuesday)

Section 1: [Personality Development](#) (Tuesday)

Section 2: [The Social Self](#) (Wednesday)

Section 3: [Agents of Socialization](#) (Thursday)

Simulation: [Applying What You've Learned](#) (Friday?)

Case Study: Identical Strangers

To understand the effects of “nature and nurture” on human development, some scholars have studied identical twins separated at birth and adopted by different families. One important study by Peter Neubauer used adopted twins without their knowledge. These studies revealed that even twins separated at birth share some characteristics with their siblings years later. This proves that while some traits are genetically inherited, others are learned from the environment in which a child is raised.



Bernstein, left, and Schein after their reunion



These photos show Paula Bernstein, left, and Elyse Schein, not long after they were adopted.

Section 1 at a Glance

Personality Development

- People develop their personalities over the course of their lives.
- Nature vs. Nurture has been an ongoing debate
 - Most social scientists today believe that a blend of the two influence personality
- According to social scientists, the main factors that influence personality and behavior are:
 - Heredity (genetics), birth order, parental characteristics, and cultural environment.
- Studies of isolated children suggest the importance of environment in personality development.

Personality Development

Main Idea

- Although the nature versus nurture debate has raged for decades, most social scientists believe a blend of the two influences personality.

Reading Focus

- What is the history behind the nature versus nurture debate?
- What are the main factors that affect personality development?
- How does social environment influence personality?

**SOCIOLOGY
CLOSE UP**

Pieces of the Personality Puzzle

**What makes you the
person that you are?**



Characteristics of Nature Versus Nurture

A **personality**: is the sum total of behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, and values that are characteristic of an individual.

Nature: (Your genetic code)

- **Heredity**: genetic transfer of characteristics from parents to children
 - Ex: skin color, height etc.
- **Instinct**: a biologically inherited behavior
 - Ex: eating when hungry
- **Sociobiology**: the search for the biological basis of all social behavior

Nurture: (Your upbringing/ experience)

- Pavlov's dog's suggested all behaviors can be taught
- **Social environment**: (contact w/ other people) can imprint characteristics on a child

- Most social scientists believe personality arises from a mixture of both nature and nurture

Nature Versus Nurture

Which of your behaviors or traits do you think are the result of nature or nurture?

Nature (Genetics)

- Ex:

Nurture (Interactions/ Upbringing)

- Ex:



Based on your own experience, which has been more important in shaping your personality?

4 Main Factors in Personality Development

- These factors interact with each other to form your whole personality.
- Heredity establishes tendencies (things you are likely to do), the others influence how you act out those tendencies.*

1. Heredity (genetics)

- Characteristics present at birth include hair type, eye color, and certain **aptitudes**: (natural abilities).

2. The Cultural/Social Environment

- Each culture has set **model personalities**: (personality traits that are typical of that culture)
 - Ex: in the U.S. some model personality traits are _____

4 Main Factors in Personality Development

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3. Parental Characteristics

- Age, level of education, religious orientation, economic status, cultural heritage, and occupation of parents can shape personalities of children.

4. Birth Order

- Personalities are influenced by brothers and sisters.
- Early-born siblings have different traits than later-born siblings.

Affect of Birth order on Personality Development

Birth Order

Common Characteristics of Only/Firstborn Children

- confident
- perfectionistic
- organized
- scholarly
- conservative

Famous Examples Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, J. K. Rowling, Tiger Woods

Common Characteristics of Middle Children

- flexible
- diplomatic
- independent
- balanced
- generous

Famous Examples John F. Kennedy, Bill Gates, Donald Trump, Princess Diana

Common Characteristics of Last-Born Children

- willing to take risks
- outgoing
- creative
- rebellious
- persistent

Famous Examples Ronald Reagan, Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz, Stephen Colbert

In your notebook list some of your own personality traits that have developed as a result of these factors.

A **personality**: is the sum total of behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, and values that are characteristic of an individual.

Heredity (genetics)

Birth Order

Parental Characteristics

The Cultural/Social Environment

Reading Check

Find the Main Idea

How do heredity, birth order, parental characteristics, and cultural environment influence personality?

Answer: *All four factors intermingle to develop a person's unique personality; heredity establishes tendencies, and the other factors influence how those tendencies develop*

Quick Lab

Are You a Product of Your Cultural Environment?

This simple experiment should shed some light on how much your cultural environment influences you.



PROCEDURE

- 1 Answer the questions below on a blank sheet of paper. This is a test, so do not look up any of the answers.
 - a. Is yak butter an important part of people's diets in India, Russia, or Tibet?
 - b. Do you think the word *Chomolungma*, which means "Goddess Mother of the World" in English, describes a spiritual leader, an Eastern religion, or a mountain?
 - c. If someone gave you Lapsang Souchong, would you eat it, drink it, or wear it?
- 2 Ask your teacher for the answers, to see how you did.

ANALYSIS

1. How many questions did you answer correctly? Chances are that you did not know most of the answers. The test focused on aspects of Tibetan culture. If you had grown up in Tibet, the answers would have seemed obvious.
2. Relate the test to American culture. For example, what if, in the first question, "peanut butter" replaced "yak butter" and "United States" replaced "Tibet"? Or suppose the second question asked you to identify an American icon instead. You might take it for granted that everyone would know the answers then.
3. As a class, discuss the influence of your cultural environment.

The Social/Cultural Environment Plays a Big Role: Isolation

- **Feral children**: those with very little contact with a social environment
 - do not develop skills such as walking or language.
 - Rarely, remedial therapy can allow isolated children to develop language and social skills..
- 
- Children who have been **institutionalized**: (put in orphanages, hospitals) may share some characteristics of those who have been isolated.
- 
- Studies show that a lack of human contact can result in developmental abnormalities as well as death.

How did Anna's, Isabelle's and Geni's social environment influence their personalities? (read p. 93-94)

Anna

Social/Cultural Environment:

Personality Traits:

Isabelle

Social/Cultural Environment:

Personality Traits:



Geni

Social/Cultural Environment:

Personality Traits:

Reading Check

Identify Cause and Effect

How did isolation affect
Anna, Isabelle, and Genie?

Answer: *Anna, Isabelle, and Genie were not able to be socialized due to their lack of contact with the outside world. Since children learn their culture from their parents and others in their environment, these girls missed out on a major part of personality development, causing them to be profoundly affected and delayed.*