

Philosophical Foundations of Curriculum

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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc within Secwepemcúl'ecw. We are honoured to live on this land and are committed to reconciliation, decolonization and building relationships in our communities and schools. As we share knowledge within this university, we recognize that this territory has always been a place of teaching, learning and research.



What we are going to learn today

Summary of the Chapter

Passages and Words

Connecting the information in a web and through questions

Activity

Conclusion



Summary

This chapter explores two categories of philosophies, traditional and modern. **Major philosophies** include, idealism, realism, pragmatism, and existentialism, and educational philosophies come from those.

Educational philosophies include the *traditional* philosophies of perennialism and essentialism, and *modern* philosophies of progressivism and reconstructionism.

Transmission of culture considers that there are different traditions and values in society. There are many interest groups that influence curriculum and want to see their values included. With this in mind, they should have input but we need to ensure what we are teaching is fair and inclusive.

There are three theories that come from the educational philosophies that guide the what (subjects) and why (purpose) subjects are taught.

- Subject matter should be taught for its own sake.
- Subject matter should be taught for use.
- Subject matter is merely a medium for teaching intellectual processes, skills, attitudes and appreciations.

Summary: Educational Philosophies

Perennialism

- based on idealism and realism
- education should be the same for everyone
- important subjects are taught individually and not combined (geography is geography and not combined to make social studies)

Essentialism

- focuses on traditional subjects, reading, writing, and mathematics
- curriculum provides essential academics and helps to develop character

Progressivism

- democratic schooling as well as social living
- focus is on student's interests, abilities, and needs

Reconstructionism

- based on critical thinking of progressivists when they focused on needs of children which sometimes impacted the needs of society
- curriculum focuses contemporary social problems such as poverty, hunger, health issues etc. and improving society with education for social change and reform

Creative Part of Summary



Passage Picker

- “Philosophy points out to the society what... is to be achieved through education.” –Thomas Ogwara, et. al.

This passage emphasizes the crucial role that philosophy plays in shaping the purpose and direction of education. In the teaching role this is significant as it serves as a reminder that the role extends beyond educating youths and delves into fostering the development of thoughtful, engaged citizens who can contribute positively to society. Thus, as teachers, we must continually reflect on the philosophical underpinnings of our teaching to ensure that teaching models support individual growth and society's collective betterment. We need to take on many roles.

Passage Picker

- “Pragmatists propose a curriculum based on problems that arise out of daily living. School is therefore an extension of home and community.”

This passage encapsulates the common belief that school should prepare you for living and operating in Western society. It emphasizes the importance of experiential learning, which provides a foundation for critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As a future teacher, this prompts me to try my best to design lessons that are relevant and connected to real-world problems to help students see the value of their education. By doing this we can create a dynamic learning experience that prepares students as life long learners and active participants in society

Wordsmith page

1. Perennialism

-Definition: An educational philosophy emphasizing timeless truths and knowledge often derived from classical works and studies

Examples: Teaching students Shakespeare to explore universal themes of love, power, and morality is a prime example of this

2. Reconstructionism

-Definition: A modern view on philosophy that views education as a means for societal improvement and emphasizes addressing social issues like inequality

-Examples: Doing a class food drive to help supply the local foodbank and learning about how they work

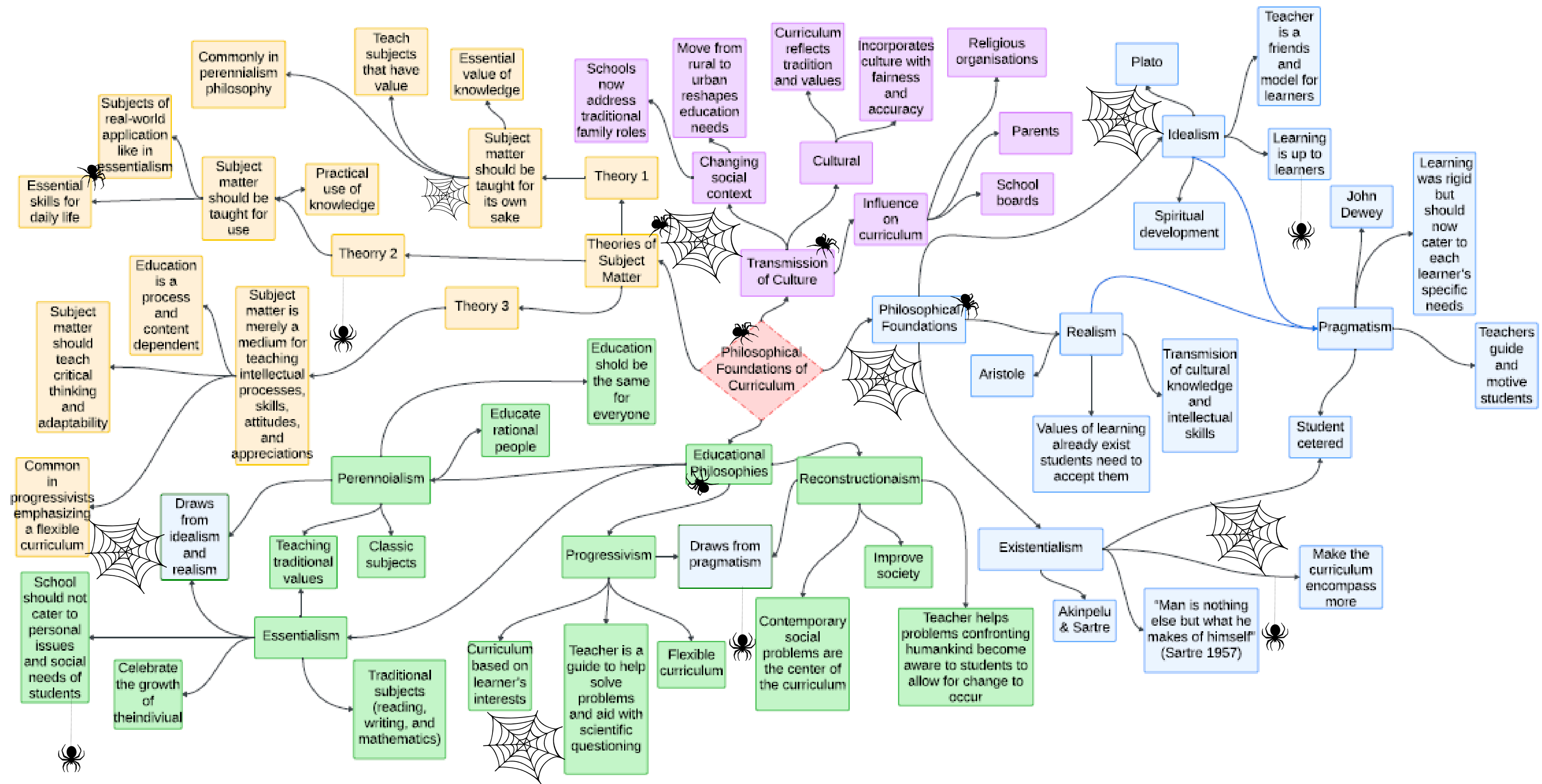
3. Existentialism

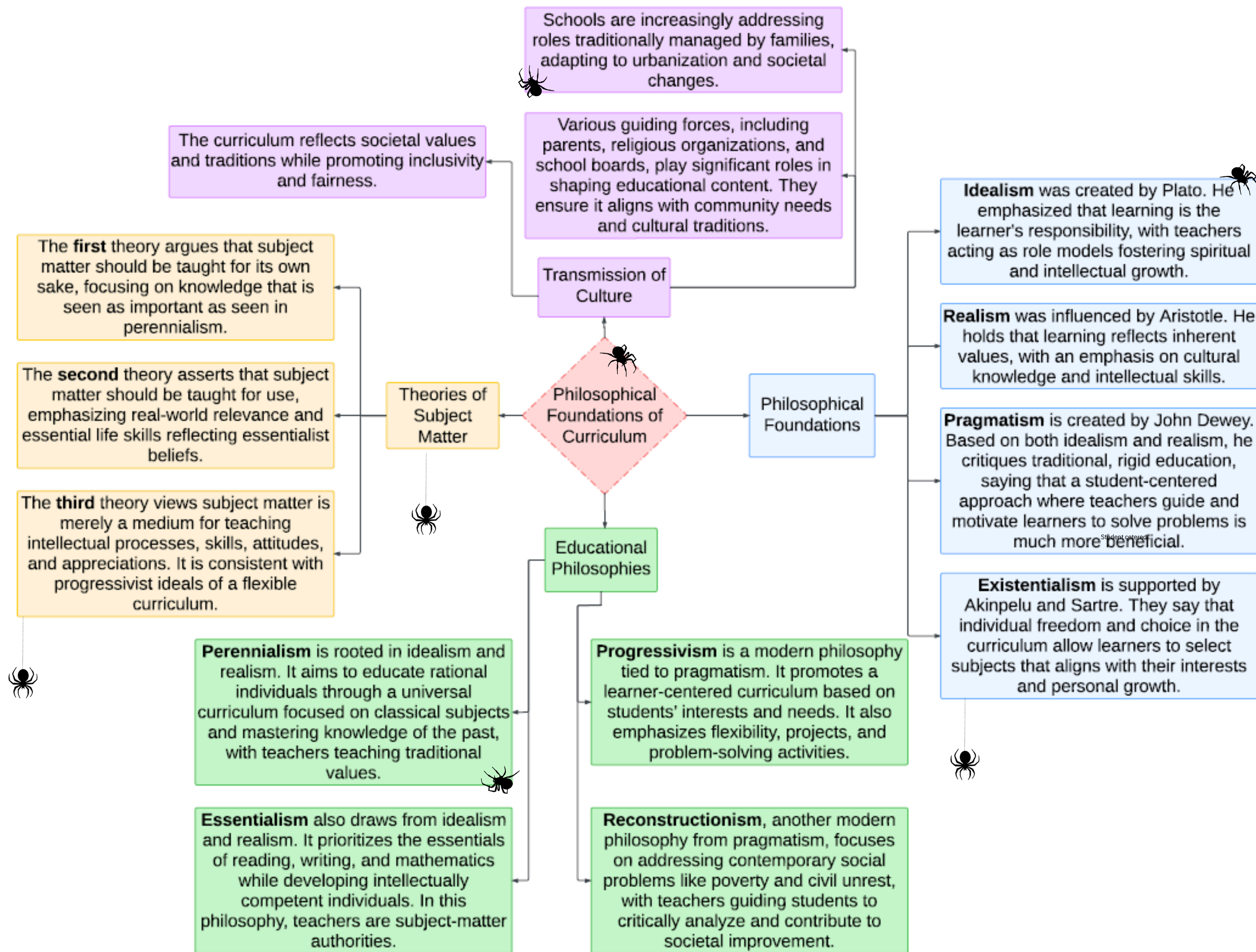
Definition: This philosophy is based on individual choice, freedom, and responsibility in shaping one's life and values.

Examples: Allow students to pick independent study topics

Webbber's Web







Question 1

How do I determine which educational philosophy best aligns with my teaching style and beliefs?

The only way to determine which educational philosophy best aligns with your own personal teaching style is to use the knowledge from this chapter and explore deeper into what each of these philosophies entail. There is a lot that can still be learned outside of this chapter. Compare the philosophies to your person beliefs and find one that matches it the closest.

Question 2



Can elements from multiple philosophies be successfully integrated into a single teaching philosophy, or are they too conflicting?

Most philosophies are already multiple ideas put together to make one single philosophy. However, there are some conflicting features of philosophies that make it difficult to combine and pull from each other. There is also the curriculum to keep in mind too. In the areas that are not conflicting it is very simple to just pull ideas that you like and leave the ones that you don't. This idea is essentially our own personal teaching philosophy that we have been exploring and building on in this class.

Activity

Rules:

- As a team you will work to answer questions
- The team that answers correctly receives 2 points
- After you get a chance to shoot the ball into the bucket to receive an extra point
- Every team starts at 4 points



Points

Option 1:

Give all points to your own team

Option 2:

Take all points away from another team

Option 3:

Keep some and take some away



How To Play

- Pick one person to be a leader, leader needs a phone or computer
 - Leader logs into Crowd Buzzer
 - Code: GY5J
- While leader is logging in, group needs to come up a team name
- When team knows the answer, they can buzz in
- First to buzz gets the first chance to answer
- Once a team runs out of points they get to continue playing but can only take away from others teams

Question #1

_____ emphasizes that learning is the learner's responsibility, with teachers acting as role models.

A. Idealism

B. Realism

C. Pragmatism

D. Existentialism

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Question #3

What philosophy argues that school is an extension of home and community.

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Question #4

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Question #5

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Question #6

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Question #7

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Question #8

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B. Realism

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Question #9

The ____ exists to develop character, increase knowledge, and cultivate aesthetic taste.

A. Teacher

B. School

C. Park

D. Education

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Question #10

The ____ is expected to be a model, friend, and guide to the learners.

A. Teacher

B. Principal

C. Secretary

D. Students

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Question #11

_____ guides the work of educators and teachers.

A. Teachers

B. Curriculum

C. Students

D. Assessment

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Question #12

What philosophy presupposes that there are studies and knowledge available, particularly from books, which should be taught to all students.

A. Essentialism

B. Progressivism

C. Reconstructionism

D. Perennialism

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Question #13

What philosophy aims to instill students with the “essentials” of academic knowledge and character development.

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Question #14

What philosophy seeks to promote democratic schooling as well as social living.

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Question #15

What educational philosophy's aims are to improve and reconstruct society as need be, as well as education for change and social reform.

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Question #16

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Question #17

What philosophy states schools should not be side-tracked into catering to the personal problems and social needs of students.

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B. Progressivism

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Question #18

What educational philosophy emphasizes a child-centered curriculum, tailored to the learners' interests, needs, abilities, and aspirations, among other characteristics.

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B. Progressivism

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Question #19

What educational philosophy states that the teacher serves as an agent of change and reform and helps students become aware of problems confronting humankind.

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B. Progressivism

C. Reconstructionism

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Question #20

What educational philosophy suggests that selecting study materials based on a learner's interests and concerns, such as physical activity and non-formal curriculum activities, can benefit the learner.

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B. Progressivism

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Bonus Question

_____ is at the heart of curriculum development.

A. Learning

B. Education

C. Teaching

D. Philosophy

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C. Teaching

D. Philosophy

Conclusion

Education is influenced and guided by philosophy. It has helped to guide what subject should be taught to students, how students are taught and what methods should be used.

The philosophies are like lego building blocks as they build off other philosophies and you can remove or add parts. As educators, we need to critically reflect that what we are teaching is fair and offers different viewpoints.

Conclusion of the Conclusion

The Earth is flat.



References

Button, L. (n.d.). Philosophical Foundations of Curriculum.
Curriculum Essentials A Journey.

<https://oer.pressbooks.pub/curriculumessentials/chapter/philosophical-foundations-of-curriculum/>



ANY QUESTIONS?

**THANK YOU FOR
PARTICIPATING!**