

Constructivism

Education

Understanding is built out of what a learner already holds, not handed over.

Constructivism is a theory of how knowledge is formed: learners actively assemble meaning by fitting new material to existing structures. It is a claim about learning, not a prescription for teaching.

- New knowledge is interpreted through old knowledge.
- Misconceptions are constructions, not blank spots.
- Piaget stressed the individual building schemes.
- Vygotsky stressed the social and cultural route in.
- Bruner argued structure can be taught at any age.
- Active construction does not require unguided discovery.

LOOK FOR IT

A pupil told that heavy objects fall faster has built a model. Telling them otherwise rarely dislodges it; confronting it with a result does.

Educational reference. The common slide from constructivist learning to minimally guided teaching does not follow, and the evidence favours