

Thinking outside of the box:

Explore your worldview to move beyond it!



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Worldview
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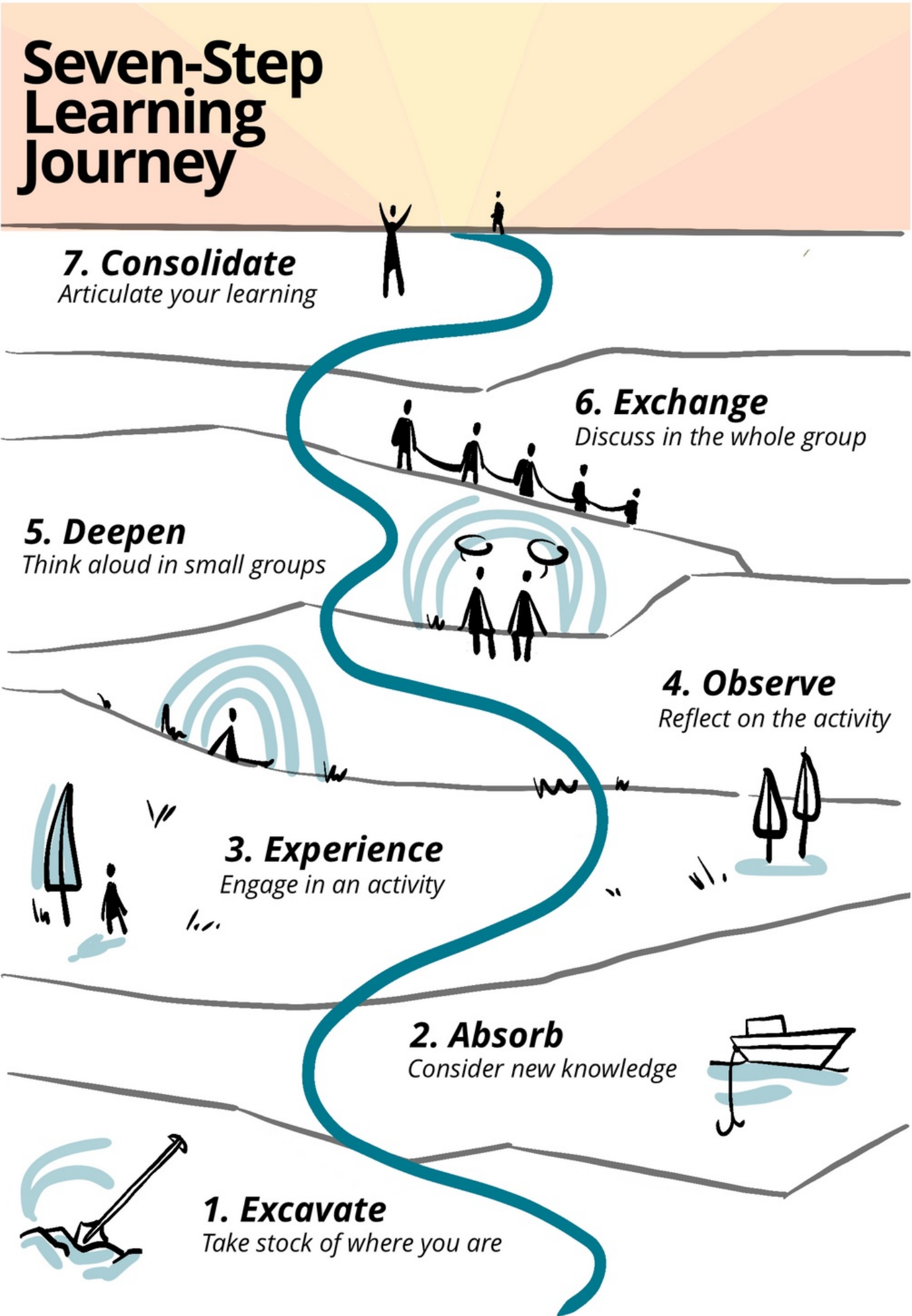
Purpose of this workshop

- Become more aware of your *worldview* and how it shapes your interactions with others;
- Experience a different kind of dialogue:
- Experience the seven-step learning journey.



We'll travel through this learning cycle by following these 7 steps...

De Witt, A., Bootsma, M. C., Dermody, B., & Rebel, K. (2023). *The Seven-Step Learning Journey. A Learning cycle supporting design, facilitation, and assessment of transformative learning.* Journal of Transformative Education.



Step 1: Excavate

- What do you think of when you hear the term worldview? What is a worldview? Can you give examples?
- Why do you think we want to examine our worldviews? Why would this be useful or important?
- Do you think you can describe your own worldview?



Step 2: Absorb

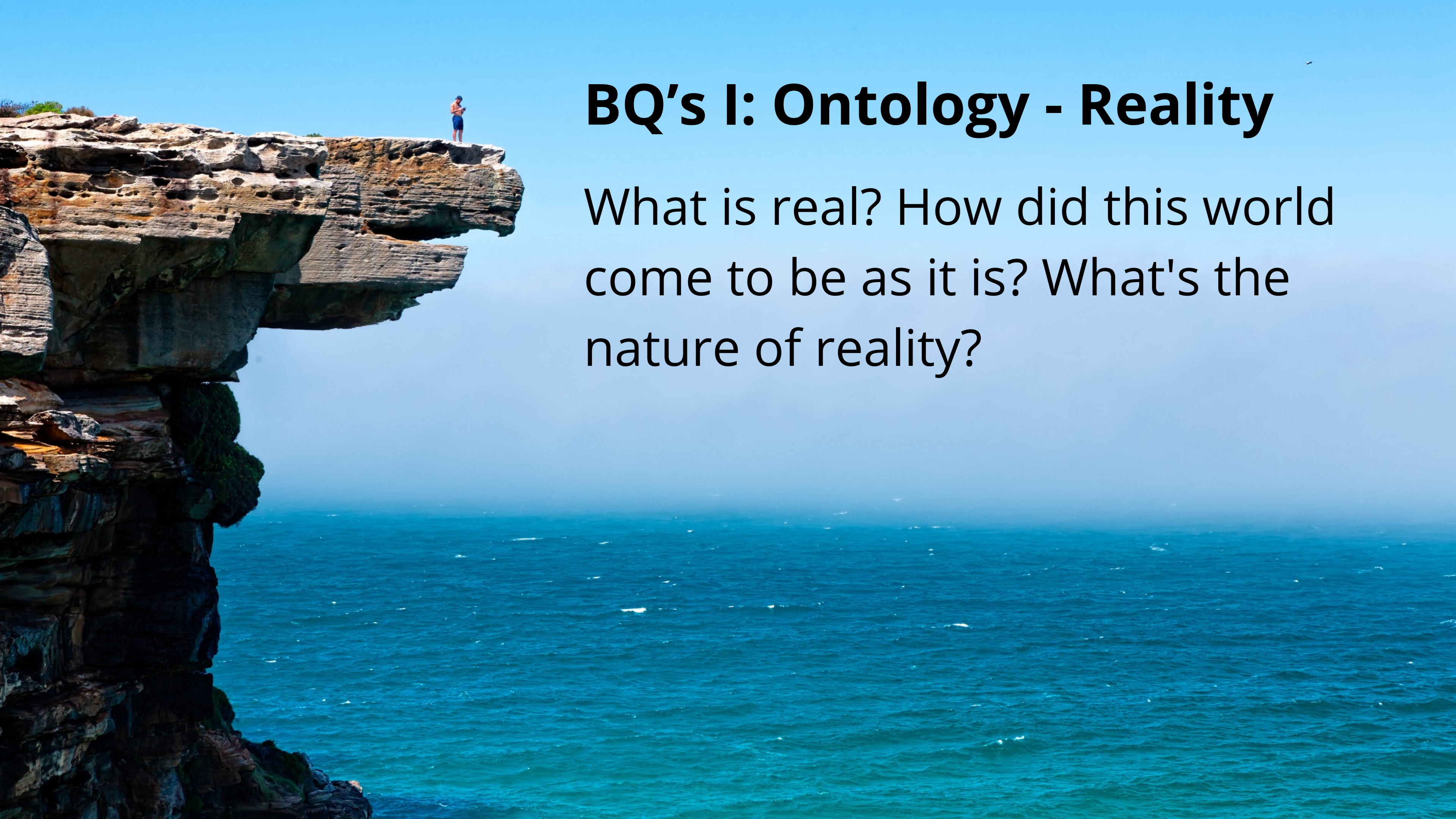
- What are worldviews?
- Why are they significant?



What are worldviews?

Worldviews are the 'big stories' through which humans make sense of their experience and world.

They answer the 'Big Questions'...



BQ's I: Ontology - Reality

What is real? How did this world come to be as it is? What's the nature of reality?

BQ's II: Epistemology - Knowledge

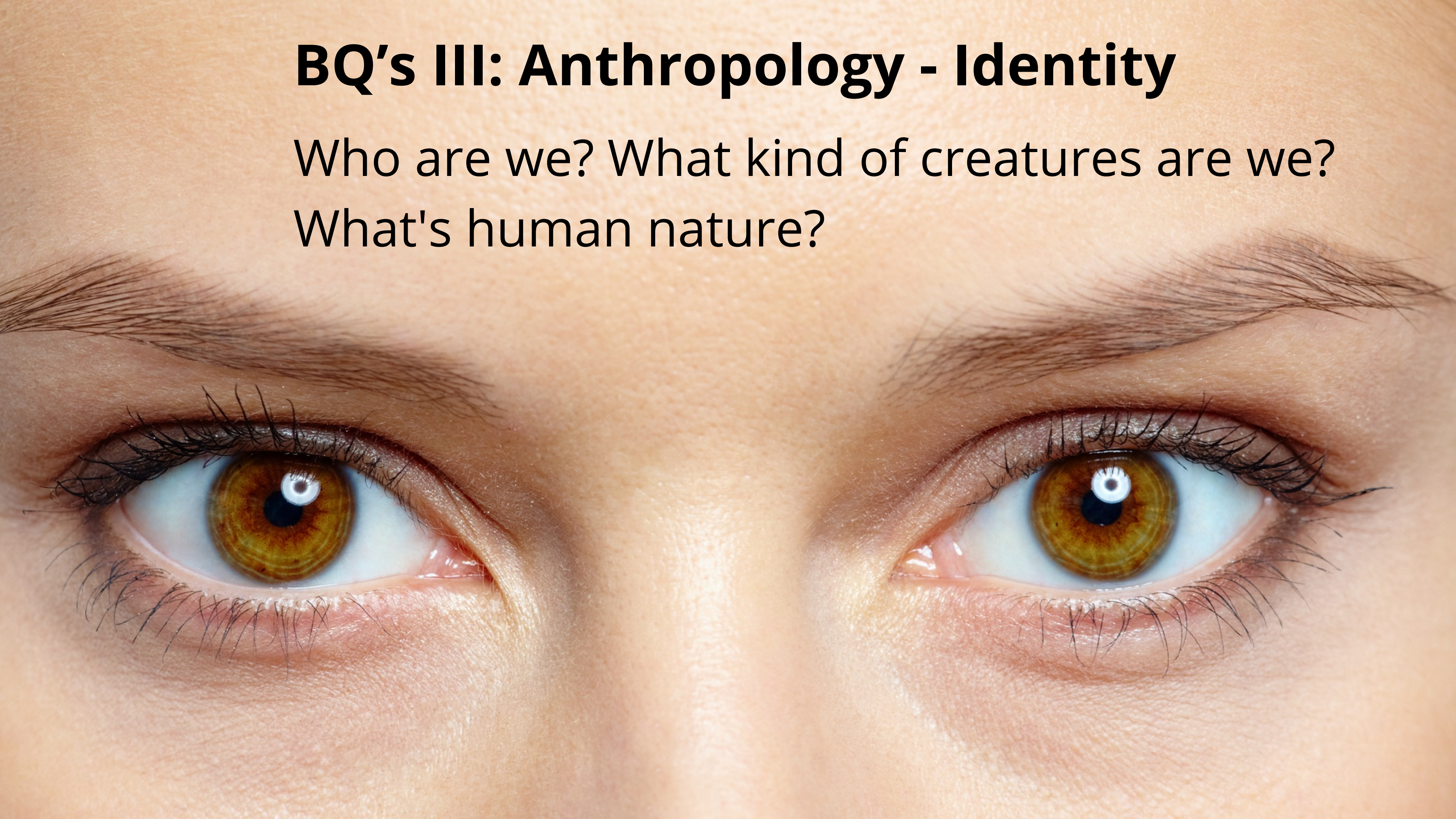
How do we gain valid knowledge? How do we know what we believe is true? Who or what are we to trust?



BQ's III: Anthropology - Identity

Who are we? What kind of creatures are we?

What's human nature?





BQ's IV: Axiology - Values

How should we live?

What's a good life (both aesthetically and ethically)?

BQ's V: Social imaginary - Society

How should we live with one another?

How should we organize society?



Worldviews fulfil universal, human needs

- Sense of meaning and significance
- Orientation and direction
- Boundaries and filters



Worldviews tend to be unconscious



What's the origin of our worldviews?

- Childhood imprinting
- Schooling and education
- Peers and role models
- Culture and media



There's great creative power to our worldviews

How we understand and interpret the world directly shapes how we engage and act on it

Worldview is primarily a collective phenomenon

- Shared meanings and myths, stories and narratives
- Makes communication and collaboration possible



Worldview is primarily an interior phenomenon

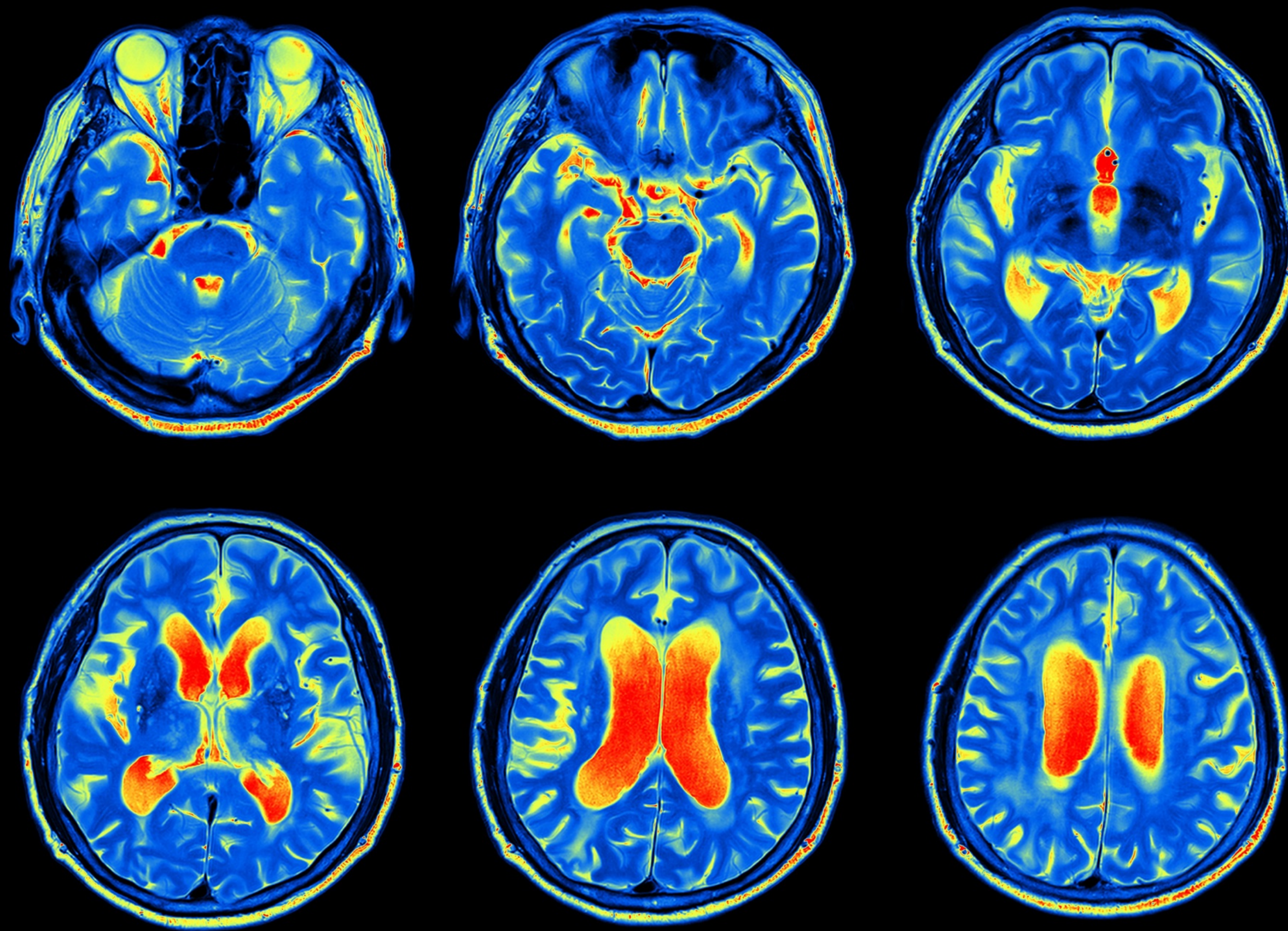
*"Our world view is not simply the way we look at our world. It reaches **inward** to constitute our innermost being, and **outward** to constitute the world. ... It deeply configures our psychic and somatic experience, the patterns of our sensing, knowing and interacting with the world. No less potently, our world view ... constellates our outer reality, shaping and working the world's malleable potentials in a thousand ways of subtly reciprocal interaction. **World views create worlds.**"*

~ Richard Tarnas, author of 'The Passion of the Western Mind. Understanding the Ideas that have Shaped our World View'.

Why do we want to examine our worldviews?

- Our worldviews shape our important life-choices
- Through perceiving the world in a certain way, we “call that world into being”.

The power of imagination



Research demonstrating the power of expectations



Rats handled by lab personal believing these rats to be "very smart" scored *almost twice as good* (!) on performance tests as rats who were believed to be "very dumb". In reality, the rats were all equally smart.




**Awareness of how we “co-create” our
experience can empower and liberate us**

*"When you change the way you look at things,
the things you look at change."*

~ Wayne w. Dyer





Exploring worldviews
is a way to support
people to grow, by
helping them *take
perspective on their
perspective.*

Exploring worldviews is a way to enhance social relations,
by supporting people to communicate across differences.

“The survival of mankind will depend to a large extent on the ability of people who think differently to act together. International collaboration presupposes some understanding of where others’ thinking differs from ours”

~ Geert Hofstede





Exploring worldviews is a way to support systemic change efforts, by engaging with the heart of the systems we're trying to change ~ their paradigms and purposes.

Step 3: Experience

Take the Worldview Test!

- Go to wvtest.com
- Enter this code: **ck652m**

- Or use this link:
<https://wvtest.com/ck652m>



Step 4: Observe

- Do you think your worldview-result is correct for you? Why or why not?
- Do you recognize these four worldviews in our contemporary society?



How to hold these worldviews?

The invitation

Use worldviews to explore rather than to label or judge! Invoke a spirit of curiosity and kindness!





The invitation

Hold the worldviews as
each holding a different
piece of the puzzle!

Each is worthy and valuable in its own right.
Each adds enduring and irreducible insights
and qualities to the whole.

The invitation

Hold these worldviews
as big, overarching
patterns that help us see
'the forest for the trees',
rather than creating a
rigid categorization.

TRADITIONAL

MODERN

INTEGRATIVE

POSTMODERN



An overview of the four worldviews

www.worldviewjourneys.com/four-worldviews



Traditional worldview

Theistic, dualistic,
transcendent view of reality

Knowledge through tradition,
convention, scripture



Modern worldview

Objectified, materialistic,
mechanistic view of reality

Knowledge through empirical
science, rationality, logic



Postmodern worldview

Pluralistic, fragmented,
relativistic view of reality

Knowledge through
qualitative modes of knowing



Integrative worldview

Holistic/unified, spiritual-
evolutionary view of reality

Knowledge through
integration, mixed methods

religion
group
transcendence
tradition
discipline
loyalty
family

dedication
ritual
ideology
conventions
conformity
service
sacrifice
creator
past
divine
scriptures
solidarity
doctrines
modesty
self-restraint

decency
productivity
roles
rules
revelations
collective
enclosed
higher purpose
social self
law and order
community
stewardship
cosmology
honesty
soul

rationality
independence
science
objectivity
progress

future
money
empirical
logic
hedonism
status
competitive
evolution
prestige
power
critical thinking
freedom
disenchanted universe
linear thinking
materialism

individualistic
spatial
success
human rights
quantitative
capitalism
technology
democracy
secular
measurement

emotion
emancipation
participation
systems thinking
context
uniqueness
social justice
imagination
equality
environment
social movements
self-expression
relativism
nihilism
deconstruction
post-truth
diversity
sensitivity
ambiguity
inner authority
post-material
uncertainty
subjectivity
pluralism
perspective
self-authoring

creative
interconnectedness
nature
worldview
wisdom
existential
harmony
interdependence
divine
ecology
both-and
concerns
holistic
collaboration
intuition
integration
inner awareness
self-actualization
reflection
ideals
spiritual-evolutionary
complexity thinking
earthly
universal values
global
consciousness
mystery
growth
spirituality
humanity

Step 5: Deepen

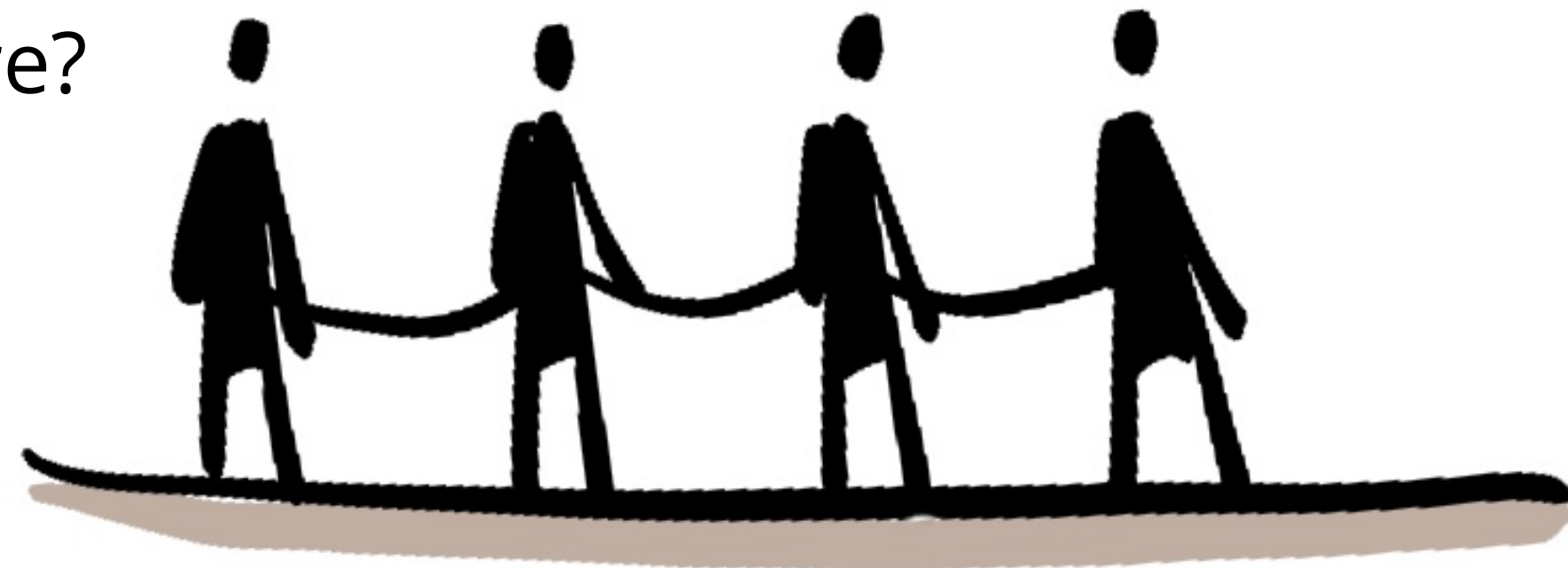


- I'll give a prompt
- Speaker follows the stream of consciousness
- Listener listens deeply, w/full attention, without interruption
- We keep shifting roles
- Your conversation is confidential!

Step 6: Exchange

Open group discussion

- How was this exercise for you?
- What have you learned about worldviews, yourself, dialogue, 'thinking outside of the box'?
- Something else you want to ask or share?



Step 7: Consolidate

think back of where you started...

- What have you learned, what has changed in your understanding or appreciation?
- What was of value to you?
- Anything you're taking with you, want to translate into action...?



