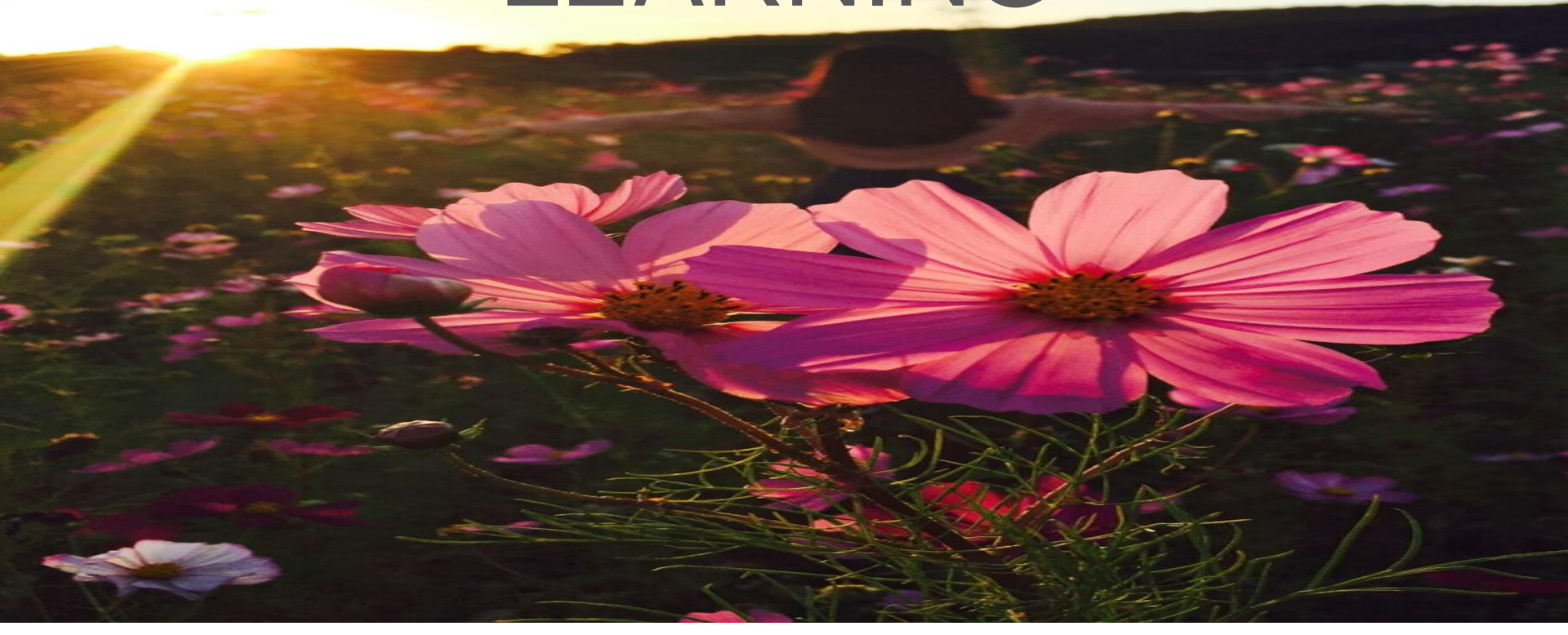


THEORY OF INSIGHTFUL LEARNING



What is Insightful Learning?

- **Insight learning** is a type of learning or problem solving that happens all-of-a-sudden through understanding the relationships of various parts of a problem rather than through trial and error.



❑ The learning theory named as “Learning by Insight” is the contribution of Gestalt Psychologists

❑ Gestalt Psychology began with the work of German Psychologists who were studying the nature of perception.

❑ Wertheimer is generally considered to be the Gestalt Psychology’s founding father.

❑ Wertheimer, Kohler, Koffka and Lewin-all four of these men, originally German, eventually settled in America-are the leaders of what is historically Gestalt Psychology.

- **Max Wertheimer** is the father of Gestalt Theory. Later on, Wertheimer theory was further refined and developed by **Kohler** and **Koffka**.
- The term '**Gestalt**' is a German word which means '**Configuration**' or more simply '**an organised whole in contrast to a collection of parts**'.
- According to this theory, **an individual learns an object as a whole, a single entity, not in parts.**

Experiments by Kohler for Insightful Learning

In one experiment, Kohler put a chimpanzee Sultan inside a cage and a banana was hung from the roof of the cage. A box was placed inside the cage. The chimpanzee tried to reach the banana by jumping but could not succeed. Suddenly, he got an idea and used the stick as a jumping platform by placing it just below the hanging banana.

In other experiment, Kohler made this problem more difficult. Now it required two or three boxes to reach the banana. Moreover, the placing of one box over the other required different specific arrangements.

In a more complicated experiment, banana was placed outside the cage of the chimpanzee. Two sticks, one larger than the other, were placed inside the cage. One was hollow at one end so that the other stick could be thrust into it to form a longer stick. The banana was so kept that it could not be picked up by one of the sticks. The chimpanzee first tried these sticks one after the other but failed. Suddenly, he got a bright idea. The animal joined the two sticks together and reached the banana. In these experiments, Kohler used many different chimpanzees. Sultan, who was the most intelligent of Kohler's chimpanzees, could solve all the problems. Other chimpanzees could solve the problems only when they saw Sultan solving them.

Theory of Insightful learning





Educational Implications of The Theory of Insightful Learning

1. The whole is greater than the parts and, therefore, the situation should be viewed as a whole.
2. The use of blind fumbling and mechanical trial and error should be minimised. The learner should try to see relevant relationships and act intelligently.
3. The purpose or motive plays the central role in the learning process.

References

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