



EduTrend Contents

P4C · SCIENCE AND WONDER · HIGH SCHOOL

Will the Sun Rise Tomorrow?

The problem of induction

Ages 15–18

Level: Advanced

60 minutes

Circle and pairs · up to
30

Activity 05

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 05 · AT A GLANCE

Will the Sun Rise Tomorrow?

Students discuss why they expect the sun to rise tomorrow. David Hume argued that we cannot prove the future will be like the past without assuming it. Bertrand Russell illustrated the problem in *The Problems of Philosophy* (1912) with a chicken that is fed every day until the day it is not. Students test replies to the problem and enquire into whether science can rely on induction.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- explain the problem of induction;
- analyse Russell's example;
- evaluate replies;
- construct a reasoned position.

KEY WORDS

induction · Hume · Russell ·
prediction · experience · uniformity

CURRICULUM LINKS

Philosophy: epistemology and
philosophy of science. Science:
patterns and prediction. Maths:
probability.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Hume summary card
- Russell's chicken card
- Reply cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people,
and use the story or invented examples rather
than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 05 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Stimulus	Ask the sunrise question and share Russell's chicken.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
10–22 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
22–52 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"How do we know the sun will rise tomorrow?"</i>
52–60 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Defend a view on whether science can rely on induction.

ACTIVITY 05 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Hume set out the problem of induction in the eighteenth century, in *A Treatise of Human Nature* and *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.

Replies include appeals to probability, to Popper's falsificationism and to the practical success of science.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Induction is just guessing." It is reasoning from patterns.
- "Hume thought we should stop expecting the sun to rise." He said we cannot prove it by reason alone.
- "Science has no answer." There are many replies.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use the chicken example.

Stretch

Write a reply to Hume and a counter-reply.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Replies to Hume

Evaluate.

Replies to Hume

Reply	How it works	Weakness

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can science rely on past experience? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Will the Sun Rise Tomorrow? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Science and Wonder programme (high school, level: advanced). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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