

Gestalt Insight Theory – Short Notes

Proponents:

Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, Kurt Koffka

Main Idea:

Learning occurs when a person understands the whole situation and suddenly sees the relationship between different parts of a problem. This sudden realization is called Insight.

Experiment:

Köhler's experiment on chimpanzee "Sultan" – the chimp suddenly realized that he could use a stick to pull a banana placed outside the cage. This showed learning by insight, not by trial and error.

Characteristics:

1. Learning takes place suddenly.
2. It involves understanding relationships among parts.
3. No trial and error is used.
4. The problem is seen as a whole.
5. Insight once gained can be transferred to new situations.

Educational Implications:

- Emphasize understanding, not rote learning.
- Encourage problem-solving and discovery methods.
- Provide opportunities for independent thinking.
- Help students see relationships among ideas.

Conclusion:

According to the Gestalt Theory, true learning is insight-based, not mechanical repetition. It promotes meaningful, creative, and permanent learning.