



Lesson 17: Natural Transfer Theory

Standards:

Health:

1.12.2

1.12.3

2.12.2

2.12.10

3.12.1

3.12.2

5.12.2

5.12.4

Science:

1.2

2.1

2.2

2.4

2.5

8.1

8.2

8.3

Skills Practiced and Gained:

1.1—1.7

Overview

Everyone agrees that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a mutation or adaption of the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV). How the transfer occurred is up for debate. One theory is that SIV was transferred to humans by a hunter getting monkey blood in a cut while butchering a monkey or through other human contact with monkeys. This theory is called the Natural Transfer Theory.

Key Concepts

Transfer of viruses

Scientific Method

Procedure

Part I

View the video module for Natural Transfer Theory. Use the following questions to facilitate group discussion or give the questions as prompts for journal entries.

Discussion/Journal Questions

- 1) What new information did you gather from the video module?
- 2) Do you think "natural transfer" is a possible way in which HIV emerged? What factors of "natural transfer" make you think it is possible? What factors of "natural transfer" make you think it is not possible?
- 3) What other questions or comments do you have?



Procedure

Part II

Use the Scientific Method to examine Natural Transfer Theory. Either have students/clients discuss their examination of the Natural Transfer Theory or assign as a writing exercise.

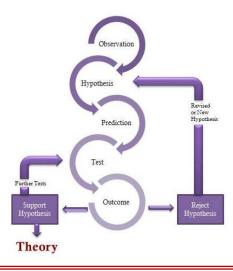
Ask your students/clients:

Do you think "natural transfer" is a theory or a hypothesis?

Questions to Consider:

- Do your students/clients think that they have enough information from the video module to answer the question above?
- Have enough successful tests been conducted to establish "natural transfer" as a theory?
- Will your students/clients have to research "natural transfer" before answering the question?
- Review all parts of the scientific method. How does the information that you have gathered fit into the process steps of the scientific method?

Reminder, the scientific method is:









Continuation Page: Natural Transfer Theory

Reminder, steps in the process of the Scientific Method:

In the Scientific Method,

- ✓ make observations of a phenomenon
- ✓ formulate conjectures about the observations
- ☑ use the conjectures to develop one or more hypotheses to explain the phenomenon
- \square make predictions from your hypotheses
- ☑ you should be able to test your hypotheses and predictions
- ☑ conduct an experiment to test your hypotheses and predictions
 - ☑ an experiment can be more observations (perhaps in a different setting); it can be collecting historical data; it can be a traditional laboratory experiment with treatment and control groups
- ☑ review your findings and outcomes; the results should either support or reject the hypothesis
 - ☑ if the hypothesis is supported, then it's theoretical value increases and is further tested
 - ☑ if the hypothesis is rejected, then it is revised or you abandon it and start all over again

When a hypothesis has sufficient support, meaning many successful tests must occur, only then will the hypothesis possibly be accepted as a theory.