## the nature of science answer key

the nature of science answer key is a vital resource for students, educators, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of scientific principles. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the foundational concepts behind the nature of science, discuss why answer keys are essential for learning, and break down the main characteristics of scientific inquiry. Readers will gain insights into how the scientific method works, why critical thinking is crucial, and how the nature of science influences everyday decision-making. Additionally, we'll examine common misconceptions, the role of evidence and data, and the importance of objectivity in scientific investigations. Whether you are preparing for exams, teaching science, or simply curious about how scientific knowledge is built and validated, this article provides clear, factual explanations and practical examples to enhance your understanding. Dive in to discover the keys to mastering the nature of science and unlock answers to frequently asked questions.

- Understanding the Nature of Science Answer Key
- Main Characteristics of Science
- The Scientific Method: Steps and Applications
- Critical Thinking and Objectivity in Science
- Misconceptions About the Nature of Science
- The Role of Evidence and Data
- How the Nature of Science Shapes Everyday Life
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## **Understanding the Nature of Science Answer Key**

The nature of science answer key serves as a detailed guide to the core principles and processes that define scientific inquiry. This section explains what is meant by the "nature of science" and why answer keys are a valuable tool in educational contexts. The nature of science emphasizes the systematic approach scientists use to investigate natural phenomena, grounded in observation, experimentation, and logical reasoning. An answer key is more than just a collection of correct answers—it provides explanations, clarifies concepts, and helps learners grasp the thinking behind scientific solutions.

Educators use the nature of science answer key to facilitate student understanding, assess comprehension, and encourage active engagement with scientific questions. For students, it offers a framework for evaluating their work, identifying mistakes, and improving problem-solving skills. The answer key also highlights the importance of evidence-based reasoning and the iterative nature of

scientific investigations. By referring to a reliable answer key, learners develop a more authentic appreciation of how scientific knowledge is constructed and validated.

### **Main Characteristics of Science**

## **Empirical Evidence**

Science relies on empirical evidence, meaning observations and data that can be measured and verified. Empirical methods ensure that scientific claims are grounded in objective, repeatable results rather than personal beliefs or opinions.

## **Testability and Falsifiability**

Testability refers to the ability to design experiments or observations that can confirm or refute a scientific hypothesis. Falsifiability is the principle that scientific statements must be capable of being proven false if evidence contradicts them.

## **Objectivity and Skepticism**

Objectivity requires scientists to set aside bias and personal preferences, evaluating evidence impartially. Skepticism encourages questioning and rigorous testing of ideas, ensuring that only well-supported claims are accepted.

## Reproducibility

Reproducibility means that scientific experiments and findings can be repeated by others, producing consistent results. This characteristic builds confidence in scientific conclusions and supports the reliability of research.

- Science is based on empirical evidence.
- Hypotheses must be testable and falsifiable.
- Objectivity and skepticism are essential.
- Scientific findings should be reproducible.

## The Scientific Method: Steps and Applications

## **Observation and Questioning**

Scientific inquiry often begins with careful observation of the natural world, leading to questions about how things work or why events occur. These questions form the foundation for further investigation.

## **Formulating Hypotheses**

A hypothesis is a tentative explanation or prediction that can be tested. Scientists use prior knowledge, research, and creativity to develop hypotheses that address their questions.

## **Experimentation and Data Collection**

To test hypotheses, scientists design experiments or gather data through observations. Controlled experiments are essential for isolating variables and determining cause-effect relationships.

## **Analysis and Interpretation**

Once data is collected, scientists analyze results to determine whether the evidence supports or refutes their hypotheses. Statistical methods are often used to ensure interpretations are robust and objective.

## **Communication and Peer Review**

Scientists share their findings with the broader community through publication and presentations. Peer review helps maintain standards of quality and reliability, ensuring that research is scrutinized by experts.

- 1. Observe and ask questions.
- 2. Formulate a hypothesis.
- 3. Design and conduct experiments.
- 4. Collect and analyze data.
- 5. Draw conclusions and communicate results.

## **Critical Thinking and Objectivity in Science**

## Importance of Critical Thinking

Critical thinking enables scientists to evaluate evidence, identify weak arguments, and avoid logical fallacies. It is essential for designing rigorous experiments, interpreting data accurately, and challenging assumptions.

## **Maintaining Objectivity**

Objectivity is achieved by relying on empirical evidence and standardized procedures. Scientists minimize bias through blind studies, independent replication, and adherence to ethical standards.

### **Peer Review and Collaboration**

Collaboration and peer review are cornerstones of scientific progress. By working together and critiquing each other's work, scientists improve the quality and reliability of their findings.

## **Misconceptions About the Nature of Science**

## **Science Is Not Just Facts**

A common misconception is that science is simply a collection of facts. In reality, science is a dynamic process of inquiry, discovery, and revision, where understanding evolves as new evidence emerges.

## Scientific Theories vs. Everyday Theories

In science, a theory is a well-substantiated explanation based on evidence, not just a guess or assumption. Scientific theories undergo rigorous testing and are continually refined.

## Science Is Not Free from Uncertainty

Uncertainty is inherent in scientific investigations. Scientists acknowledge limitations, strive to reduce uncertainty, and communicate probabilistic conclusions rather than absolute certainties.

## The Role of Evidence and Data

## **Collecting Reliable Data**

Reliable data collection underpins trustworthy scientific conclusions. Scientists use systematic methods to ensure accuracy, consistency, and validity in their evidence.

## **Evaluating Evidence**

Evidence is evaluated for quality, relevance, and reliability. Multiple lines of evidence from independent sources strengthen scientific claims and support robust conclusions.

## **Interpreting Data**

Data interpretation requires statistical analysis, recognition of patterns, and understanding of context. Misinterpretation can lead to faulty conclusions, so scientists are careful and transparent in their reasoning.

## **How the Nature of Science Shapes Everyday Life**

## **Scientific Literacy and Decision-Making**

Understanding the nature of science helps individuals make informed decisions about health, technology, and policy. Scientific literacy empowers people to critically evaluate information and claims.

## **Problem-Solving Skills**

The scientific approach fosters problem-solving skills that are applicable beyond the laboratory. Critical thinking, evidence evaluation, and hypothesis testing help address real-world challenges.

## **Promoting Innovation**

Scientific inquiry drives technological innovation and societal progress. The principles outlined in the nature of science answer key are foundational to advances in medicine, engineering, and environmental stewardship.

## Frequently Asked Questions: The Nature of Science Answer Key

## Q: What is the nature of science answer key?

A: The nature of science answer key is a structured guide that explains core scientific concepts, principles, and processes, helping learners understand and apply scientific thinking in various contexts.

## Q: Why is empirical evidence important in science?

A: Empirical evidence ensures that scientific claims are based on observable, measurable data, making conclusions reliable and repeatable.

# Q: How does the scientific method contribute to scientific discoveries?

A: The scientific method provides a systematic approach for testing hypotheses, collecting data, and drawing conclusions, which leads to new discoveries and advances in scientific understanding.

# Q: What is the difference between a scientific theory and a hypothesis?

A: A hypothesis is a testable prediction, while a scientific theory is a comprehensive explanation supported by extensive evidence and repeated validation.

## Q: How does peer review improve scientific research?

A: Peer review allows experts to scrutinize research methods, data, and conclusions, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and integrity in published scientific studies.

# Q: What are some common misconceptions about the nature of science?

A: Common misconceptions include viewing science as a fixed set of facts, misunderstanding scientific theories as mere guesses, and believing science is free from uncertainty.

# Q: How can students use the nature of science answer key to improve learning?

A: Students can use the answer key to check their understanding, clarify complex concepts, and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

## Q: Why is objectivity crucial in scientific investigations?

A: Objectivity helps eliminate bias, ensures impartial analysis of evidence, and supports valid, trustworthy conclusions in scientific research.

# Q: How does the nature of science influence everyday decision-making?

A: By fostering scientific literacy and critical thinking, the nature of science enables individuals to make informed decisions about health, technology, and environmental issues.

## Q: What role does reproducibility play in science?

A: Reproducibility ensures that scientific results can be consistently obtained by others, strengthening confidence in research findings and supporting scientific progress.

## **The Nature Of Science Answer Key**

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# The Nature of Science Answer Key: Unlocking the Scientific Process

Are you struggling to grasp the core principles of the nature of science? Do you need a comprehensive guide to help you understand and articulate the key concepts? Then you've come to the right place! This in-depth blog post serves as your ultimate "Nature of Science Answer Key," breaking down the complexities of scientific inquiry and providing clear, concise explanations to common questions. We'll delve into the key characteristics of science, explore common misconceptions, and offer practical examples to solidify your understanding. Forget vague textbook definitions; this post provides a practical and readily accessible guide to mastering the nature of science.

### What is the Nature of Science?

The "nature of science" (NOS) isn't simply a list of facts; it's a deep understanding of how science

works, its limitations, and its relationship to the world around us. It encompasses the values, beliefs, and assumptions that underpin scientific investigation. Understanding NOS means recognizing that science is a dynamic process, constantly evolving through observation, experimentation, and critical evaluation. It's about more than just memorizing scientific laws; it's about understanding the process that leads to the development of those laws.

## **Key Characteristics of the Nature of Science**

Several key characteristics define the nature of science. Let's explore some of the most important ones:

#### #### 1. Empirical Evidence:

Science relies heavily on empirical evidence – data gathered through observation and experimentation. This data forms the bedrock of scientific knowledge, and any scientific claim must be supported by verifiable evidence. Theories and hypotheses are tested and refined based on this evidence.

#### #### 2. Tentative Knowledge:

Scientific knowledge is always tentative. This means that scientific understanding is constantly evolving as new evidence emerges. What we consider to be true today might be modified or even replaced tomorrow with better evidence. This doesn't mean science is unreliable; it means it's self-correcting and adaptable.

#### #### 3. Subjectivity and Objectivity:

While science strives for objectivity, the process itself involves subjective elements. Scientists' biases, interpretations, and choices in methodology can influence the results. However, the scientific community's peer-review process and replication of experiments help minimize subjective influences and promote objectivity.

#### #### 4. Creativity and Imagination:

Science is not merely a methodical process; it requires creativity and imagination. Scientists often need to think outside the box to formulate hypotheses, design experiments, and interpret data. Innovative thinking is crucial for breakthroughs in scientific understanding.

#### #### 5. The Role of Theories and Laws:

Scientific theories are well-substantiated explanations of natural phenomena, supported by a wide range of evidence. They aren't merely guesses; they are robust explanations that have been rigorously tested. Scientific laws, on the other hand, describe patterns and relationships in nature. They don't explain why these patterns exist, but rather that they exist.

## **Common Misconceptions about the Nature of Science**

Many misconceptions surround the nature of science. Addressing these is crucial for a true understanding:

Science proves things definitively: Science doesn't offer absolute proof; it provides strong evidence supporting or refuting hypotheses. The possibility of future evidence altering our understanding always exists.

Science is purely objective: As mentioned before, human biases can influence the scientific process, though rigorous methodologies aim to minimize these influences.

Science is a linear process: Scientific investigation is often iterative and non-linear, involving revisiting hypotheses, refining methods, and incorporating new evidence.

Science operates in isolation: Scientific progress is often collaborative, involving communication and interaction within the scientific community.

## **Applying Your Knowledge: Examples and Case Studies**

To solidify your understanding, consider the following examples:

The evolution of our understanding of the atom: The atomic model has changed significantly over time, reflecting the iterative and evolving nature of scientific knowledge.

The discovery of penicillin: This story highlights the role of serendipity and observation in scientific breakthroughs.

Climate change research: This field demonstrates how scientific understanding is developed through the accumulation of evidence from various sources and disciplines.

By studying these examples, you can gain a deeper appreciation for the dynamic and evolving nature of science.

## **Conclusion**

Understanding the nature of science is crucial for anyone interested in scientific literacy. This "answer key" provides a foundational understanding of the core principles, highlighting both its strengths and limitations. Remember, science is a process of inquiry, constantly evolving and refining our understanding of the world. By appreciating its tentative nature, its reliance on empirical evidence, and its inherently human aspects, you can develop a more informed and nuanced perspective on the scientific enterprise.

## **FAQs**

- 1. What is the difference between a scientific law and a scientific theory? A scientific law describes what happens under certain conditions, while a scientific theory explains why it happens. Laws describe patterns; theories explain mechanisms.
- 2. How does peer review contribute to the nature of science? Peer review ensures that scientific findings are rigorously evaluated by other experts before publication, improving the quality and reliability of scientific knowledge.
- 3. Can scientific knowledge be influenced by societal values? Yes, societal values can influence the direction of scientific research and the interpretation of results, though this influence should be minimized through ethical practices.
- 4. What is the role of skepticism in science? Skepticism is essential in science. Scientists critically evaluate evidence and challenge existing theories, fostering rigorous testing and improved understanding.
- 5. How can I improve my understanding of the nature of science? Engage with scientific literature, participate in discussions about scientific issues, and actively seek out diverse perspectives on scientific topics.

the nature of science answer key: Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science National Academy of Sciences, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Science Education, Working Group on Teaching Evolution, 1998-04-06 Today many school students are shielded from one of the most important concepts in modern science: evolution. In engaging and conversational style, Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science provides a well-structured framework for understanding and teaching evolution. Written for teachers, parents, and community officials as well as scientists and educators, this book describes how evolution reveals both the great diversity and similarity among the Earth's organisms; it explores how scientists approach the question of evolution; and it illustrates the nature of science as a way of knowing about the natural world. In addition, the book provides answers to frequently asked questions to help readers understand many of the issues and misconceptions about evolution. The book includes sample activities for teaching about evolution and the nature of science. For example, the book includes activities that investigate fossil footprints and population growth that teachers of science can use to introduce principles of evolution. Background information, materials, and step-by-step presentations are provided for each activity. In addition, this volume: Presents the evidence for evolution, including how evolution can be observed today. Explains the nature of science through a variety of examples. Describes how science differs from other human endeavors and why evolution is one of the best avenues for helping students understand this distinction. Answers frequently asked questions about evolution. Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science builds on the 1996 National Science Education Standards released by the National Research Councilâ€and offers detailed guidance on how to evaluate and choose instructional materials that support the standards. Comprehensive and practical, this book brings one of today's educational challenges into focus in a balanced and reasoned discussion. It will be of special interest to teachers of science, school administrators, and interested members of the community.

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Science Education, Working Group on Teaching Evolution, 1998-05-06 Today many school students are shielded from one of the most important concepts in modern science: evolution. In engaging and conversational style, Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science provides a well-structured framework for understanding and teaching evolution. Written for teachers, parents, and community officials as well as scientists and educators, this book describes how evolution reveals both the great diversity and similarity among the Earth's organisms; it explores how scientists approach the question of evolution; and it illustrates the nature of science as a way of knowing about the natural world. In addition, the book provides answers to frequently asked questions to help readers understand many of the issues and misconceptions about evolution. The book includes sample activities for teaching about evolution and the nature of science. For example, the book includes activities that investigate fossil footprints and population growth that teachers of science can use to introduce principles of evolution. Background information, materials, and step-by-step presentations are provided for each activity. In addition, this volume: Presents the evidence for evolution, including how evolution can be observed today. Explains the nature of science through a variety of examples. Describes how science differs from other human endeavors and why evolution is one of the best avenues for helping students understand this distinction. Answers frequently asked guestions about evolution. Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science builds on the 1996 National Science Education Standards released by the National Research Councilâ€and offers detailed guidance on how to evaluate and choose instructional materials that support the standards. Comprehensive and practical, this book brings one of today's educational challenges into focus in a balanced and reasoned discussion. It will be of special interest to teachers of science, school administrators, and interested members of the community.

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Teaching the Nature of Science through Process Skills, author and science educator Randy Bell uses process skills you'll recognize, such as inference and observation, to promote an understanding of the characteristics of science knowledge. His personal stories, taken from years of teaching, set the stage for a friendly narrative that illuminates these characteristics of scientific knowledge and provides step-by-step guidance for implementing inquiry activities that help children understand such important, yet abstract, concepts. With Randy as your guide, you can better adhere to current science education standards that urge teachers to go beyond teaching science content to teach children about the practice and the nature of science in a way that engages all learners in grades three through eight. Investigate further... More than 50 ideas and activities for teaching the nature of science to help you meet content standards. A comprehensive framework to guide you in integrating the approach across the science curriculum, throughout the school year, and across the grade levels. A goldmine of reproducible resources, such as work sheets, notebook assignments, and more. Assessment guidance that helps you measure your students' nature of science understanding.

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the nature of science answer key: Reproducibility and Replicability in Science National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Policy and Global Affairs, Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Public Policy, Board on Research Data and Information, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, Division on Earth and Life Studies, Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on National Statistics, Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science, 2019-10-20 One of the pathways by which the scientific community confirms the validity of a new scientific discovery is by repeating the research that produced it. When a scientific effort fails to independently confirm the computations or results of a previous study, some fear that it may be a symptom of a lack of rigor in science, while others argue that such an observed inconsistency can be an important precursor to new discovery. Concerns about reproducibility and replicability have been expressed in both scientific and popular media. As these concerns came to light, Congress requested that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine conduct a study to assess the extent of issues related to reproducibility and replicability and to offer recommendations for improving rigor and transparency in scientific research. Reproducibility and Replicability in Science defines reproducibility and replicability and examines the factors that may lead to non-reproducibility and non-replicability in research. Unlike the typical expectation of reproducibility between two computations, expectations about replicability are more nuanced, and in some cases a lack of replicability can aid the process of scientific discovery. This report provides

recommendations to researchers, academic institutions, journals, and funders on steps they can take to improve reproducibility and replicability in science.

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test that would-be elementary school teachers must pass in order to be teacher-certified in Florida.

the nature of science answer key: Advances in Nature of Science Research Myint Swe Khine, 2011-09-18 This book consolidates contemporary thinking and research efforts in teaching and learning about the nature of science in science education. The term 'Nature of Science' (NoS) has appeared in the science education literature for many decades. While there is still a controversy among science educators about what constitutes NoS, educators are unanimous in acknowledging the importance of this topic as well as the need to make it explicit in teaching science. The general consensus is that the nature of science is an intricate and multifaceted theme that requires continued scholarship. Recent analysis of research trends in science education indicates that investigation of the nature of science continues to be one of the most prevalent topics in academic publications. Advances in Nature of Science Research explores teaching and assessing the nature of science as a means of addressing and solving problems in conceptual change, developing positive attitudes toward science, promoting thinking habits, advancing inquiry skills and preparing citizens literate in science and technology. The book brings together prominent scholars in the field to share their cutting-edge knowledge about the place of the nature of science in science teaching and learning contexts. The chapters explore theoretical frameworks, new directions and changing practices from intervention studies, discourse analyses, classroom-based investigations, anthropological observations, and design-based research.

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to communicate effectively about science, focusing in particular on issues that are contentious in the public sphere. To inform this research agenda, this publication identifies important influences  $\hat{a} \in \text{psychological}$ , economic, political, social, cultural, and media-related  $\hat{a} \in \text{on how science related to}$  such issues is understood, perceived, and used.

the nature of science answer key: Science for All Americans F. James Rutherford, Andrew Ahlgren, 1991-02-14 In order to compete in the modern world, any society today must rank education in science, mathematics, and technology as one of its highest priorities. It's a sad but true fact, however, that most Americans are not scientifically literate. International studies of educational performance reveal that U.S. students consistently rank near the bottom in science and mathematics. The latest study of the National Assessment of Educational Progress has found that despite some small gains recently, the average performance of seventeen-year-olds in 1986 remained substantially lower than it had been in 1969. As the world approaches the twenty-first century, American schools-- when it comes to the advancement of scientific knowledge-- seem to be stuck in the Victorian age. In Science for All Americans, F. James Rutherford and Andrew Ahlgren brilliantly tackle this devastating problem. Based on Project 2061, a scientific literacy initiative sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, this wide-ranging, important volume explores what constitutes scientific literacy in a modern society; the knowledge, skills, and attitudes all students should acquire from their total school experience from kindergarten through high school; and what steps this country must take to begin reforming its system of education in science, mathematics, and technology. Science for All Americans describes the scientifically literate person as one who knows that science, mathematics, and technology are interdependent enterprises with strengths and limitations; who understands key concepts and principles of science; who recognizes both the diversity and unity of the natural world; and who uses scientific knowledge and scientific ways of thinking for personal and social purposes. Its recommendations for educational reform downplay traditional subject categories and instead highlight the connections between them. It also emphasizes ideas and thinking skills over the memorization of specialized vocabulary. For instance, basic scientific literacy means knowing that the chief function of living cells is assembling protein molecules according to the instructions coded in DNA molecules, but does not mean necessarily knowing the terms ribosome or deoxyribonucleic acid. Science, mathematics, and technology will be at the center of the radical changes in the nature of human existence that will occur during the next life span; therefore, preparing today's children for tomorrow's world must entail a solid education in these areas. Science for All Americans will help pave the way for the necessary reforms in America's schools.

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Standards National Research Council, Center for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
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Standards on Scientific Inquiry, 2000-05-03 Humans, especially children, are naturally curious. Yet, people often balk at the thought of learning scienceêthe eyes glazed over syndrome. Teachers may find teaching science a major challenge in an era when science ranges from the hardly imaginable quark to the distant, blazing quasar. Inquiry and the National Science Education Standards is the book that educators have been waiting forâ€a practical guide to teaching inquiry and teaching through inquiry, as recommended by the National Science Education Standards. This will be an important resource for educators who must help school boards, parents, and teachers understand why we can't teach the way we used to. Inquiry refers to the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and in which students grasp science knowledge and the methods by which that knowledge is produced. This book explains and illustrates how inquiry helps students learn science content, master how to do science, and understand the nature of science. This book explores the

dimensions of teaching and learning science as inquiry for K-12 students across a range of science topics. Detailed examples help clarify when teachers should use the inquiry-based approach and how much structure, guidance, and coaching they should provide. The book dispels myths that may have discouraged educators from the inquiry-based approach and illuminates the subtle interplay between concepts, processes, and science as it is experienced in the classroom. Inquiry and the National Science Education Standards shows how to bring the standards to life, with features such as classroom vignettes exploring different kinds of inquiries for elementary, middle, and high school and Frequently Asked Questions for teachers, responding to common concerns such as obtaining teaching supplies. Turning to assessment, the committee discusses why assessment is important, looks at existing schemes and formats, and addresses how to involve students in assessing their own learning achievements. In addition, this book discusses administrative assistance, communication with parents, appropriate teacher evaluation, and other avenues to promoting and supporting this new teaching paradigm.

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Classroom P.V. Kokkotas, K.S Malamitsa, A.A. Rizaki, 2011-10-18 The aims of this book are: • to contribute to professional development of those directly involved in science education (science teachers, elementary and secondary science teacher advisors, researchers in science education, etc), • to contribute to the improvement of the quality of science education at all levels of education with the exploitation of elements from History of Science incorporated in science teaching –it is argued that through such approaches the students' motivation can be raised, their romantic understanding can be developed and consequently their conceptual understanding of science concepts can be improved since these approaches make science more attractive to them– and • to contribute to the debate about science education at the international level in order to find new ways for further inquiry on the issues that the book is dealing with. The book is divided in two parts: The first expounds its philosophical and epistemological framework and the second combines theory and praxis, the theoretical insights with their practical applications.

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