Learn by Doing

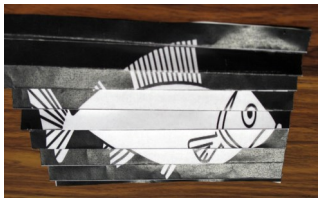
Choice Fish & Birds: Facts & Thoughts

Fish correspond to factual knowledge, while birds correspond to ideas or thoughts. Students discuss these correspondences and create a fun folding project to help them remember the distinction between facts and ideas and how our minds use both.

1. Fish correspond to factual knowledge. Often we are asked to memorize facts—about science or history or even about religious things, such as what happens in stories from the Bible. Brainstorm examples of facts.
2. Birds correspond to ideas. Ideas are thoughts *about* the natural facts we know and also thoughts about spiritual things such as the Lord and heaven. Ideas or thoughts allow us to see connections between facts, to analyze and compare them, and to find solutions to problems.
3. Hand out *Facts and Ideas in Our Minds* (p. 2). Read through the page with the students.
4. Ask students to create a scenario as a group and then identify what is a fact and what is an idea at each step. Start them off with one of the following statements.
5. Hand out Fish/Bird pictures (p. 3).
    - Some of your friends play in a community soccer league. (**fact**)
    - You notice that trash is piling up in your room. (**fact**)
    - Your friend has a new bike. (**fact**)
6. Fold the page along the lines, back and forth like a fan or an accordion. One way to do this is to pinch a line on either side of the page and continue pinching in, moving to the center.
7. Smooth the page out flat and trim off the white edges, then refold.
8. Hold the page in front of you and tilt it back and forth.
9. The picture shifts between the fish and the bird in a way that is similar to how our minds move back and forth between facts and thoughts!

Materials for Each Student

copies of *Facts and Thoughts* p. 2 and Fish/Bird picture p. 3, scissors





New Church Concept Universal Truths

All of the doctrines of the New Jerusalem relate to the teachings about the Lord and the teachings about living according to His commandments because they are its universal tenets on which all of its particular ones depend, and they are the essential elements from which all of its outward expressions originate. Therefore they are, as it were, the soul and life in all of its doctrines (see *Apocalypse Revealed* 903).

© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem

Facts and **Ideas** in Our Minds

Facts and **ideas** both live in our minds. They work together. We need both of them in order to figure out what to actually *do.*

Here's an example:

- You need to write a science paper on an animal.
- You like sea turtles so you choose them. (That's an **idea**.)
- You research sea turtles online or in books. (The things you discover are **facts**.)
- As you discover new facts about sea turtles, you come up with new ideas.
- For example, you might find out that there are sea turtles in an aquarium near where you live. (That's a **fact**.)
    - You think about how much you would like to see them. (That's an **idea**.)
    - You decide to go to the aquarium. You needed both **facts** and **ideas** to make that decision.
- You need both **facts** and **ideas** to write the paper, too. For example, you have to think (**ideas**) about what is the best order to present the things (**facts**) that you learned.

Facts and **Ideas** in Our Minds

Facts and **ideas** both live in our minds. They work together. We need both of them in order to figure out what to actually *do.*

Here's an example:

- You need to write a science paper on an animal.
- You like sea turtles so you choose them. (That's an **idea**.)
- You research sea turtles online or in books. (The things you discover are **facts**.)
- As you discover new facts about sea turtles, you come up with new ideas.
- For example, you might find out that there are sea turtles in an aquarium near where you live. (That's a **fact**.)
    - You think about how much you would like to see them. (That's an **idea**.)
    - You decide to go to the aquarium. You needed both **facts** and **ideas** to make that decision.
- You need both **facts** and **ideas** to write the paper, too. For example, you have to think (**ideas**) about what is the best order to present the things (**facts**) that you learned.

© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem


FACTS
IDEAS