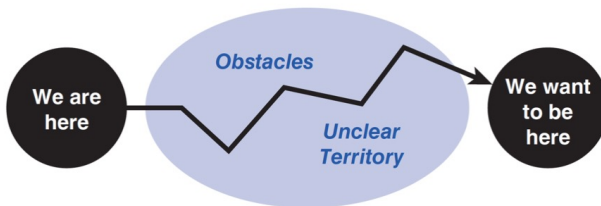


What is Scientific Thinking?



Scientific thinking is a process of deliberately engaging reality with the intent of learning. It's curiosity about a world we will never fully understand, but we want to take the next step to understand a little better. **It is a continuous comparison between what we predict will happen next, seeing what actually happens, and adjusting our understanding and actions based on what we learn from the difference.**

Scientific thinking means acknowledging that our existing comprehension is always incomplete and possibly incorrect. Perhaps the root of scientific thinking is recognizing that any idea you have needs to be tested.



Scientific thinking is not just for professional scientists, but a widely-applicable skill for everyone. Scientific thinking is something you do, such as a team of people relying on scientific thinking in striving for a challenging goal. It's a "meta skill," i.e., a universal way of thinking and working that can be used to counteract your cognitive biases anytime you try to achieve a goal or solve a problem.

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Scientific thinking is not the same as the "scientific method," but rather a mental framework for approaching goals and problems. Whereas the scientific method is a fairly strict routine for studying phenomena, a scientific-thinking approach is a more practical routine for achieving goals and dealing with obstacles in everyday life.

Scientific thinking is not our natural, default way of working, but anyone can learn to think more scientifically by practicing the simple starter routines of the Improvement Kata and Coaching Kata.