

Three Epistemological Questions

1. Is it possible to have knowledge at all?
2. Does reason provide us with knowledge of the world independently of experience?
3. Does our knowledge represent reality as it really is?

How Knowledge Is Typically Defined?

- Justification

- Truth

- Belief

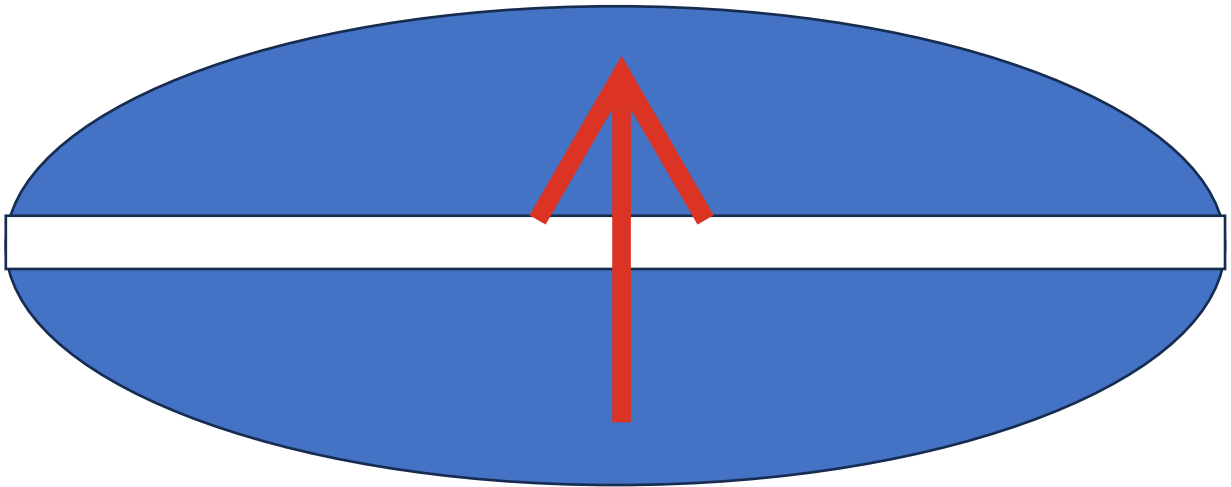
How Does Reason Give Us Knowledge?

- Rationalism

- Rationalism enjoys a long and robust history in philosophy. In the ancient world, thinkers like Plato and the Stoics stand out as good examples. In modern history, thinkers like Descartes, Leibniz, and Spinoza are also part of the story. To help us understand how reason has been used as a source of knowledge, let us consider two examples: Plato and Descartes.
- Plato—429-347 BC

- Plato believed that ultimate reality was

Plato's Two Realms Of Reality



- Rene Descartes—1596-1650
- Considered the _____ of modern philosophy
- He shifted it to the issue of epistemology

Descartes Central Questions

1. How do
2. Can we

Descartes Famous Quote

What Did Plato And Descartes Rely On?

- _____ and _____ to
establish their ideas and make knowledge claims.

How Does Experience Give Us Reason?

- Empiricism

- Epicureanism based on the teachings of Epicurus
- Epicureans view all of reality is physical and composed of tiny particles called atoms
- This has implications also in _____
- They claim that pleasure is the purpose of life
- Hedonism

- John Lock suggested that the ideas are the mental objects of the mind that represent the external world
- He said at birth our minds are the *tabula rasa*—_____
- We are not born with any natural ideas already present in the mind
- All ideas and knowledge come to us through our senses and experience