

# Psychoanalytic Theory

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*Sigmund Freud*





# Freud (1856-1939)

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- Psychoanalytic theory
  - Biological emphasis (drives)
  - Libido (sex instinct)
  - Psychic energy (id, ego, superego)
  - Unconscious



# Key developmental ideas

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- ❑ pessimistic view of human nature
- ❑ emphasis on nature, biological forces
- ❑ early experiences shape personality (age 5)
- ❑ universal developmental stages



# Freud's stage theory

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- Infancy to adolescence
- Oral, anal, phallic, latency period, genital



# Weaknesses

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- ❑ Based on limited “sample”
- ❑ Little empirical support



# Freud's impact

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- ❑ Sets the agenda
- ❑ New emphasis on children's needs
- ❑ Talking cure (psychoanalysis)
- ❑ It gets cool to be neurotic!



# Cultural Icon

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*Major impact in United States*

*(Inspires a lot of other work!)*

