

Inquiry-Based Skepticism for the Classroom

MATTHEW LOWRY – “THE SKEPTICAL TEACHER”

Yet MORE Inquiry Methods? Sheesh!

- It's more than just a buzzword, it's a critical part of the scientific process
- Inquiry isn't always the best method...
- ... but it's pretty damned good! ☺
- Use a variety of methodologies that compliment inquiry
- Inquiry is amazing when done right, but it takes WORK (and lots of it) – so have fun with it!
- Combine wonder with inquiry and skepticism
- Don't expect educational “miracles” – Take what you can get

Inquiry Methods – “Educational Empiricism”



- Francis Bacon, the father of empiricism
- In contrast to Descartes' rationalist method
- Incorporated more than deduction into reasoning
- Responsible for popularizing inductive reasoning into what we call “science”
- **THIS MEANS EXPERIMENTS!!!** ☺

Science As Investigative Inquiry

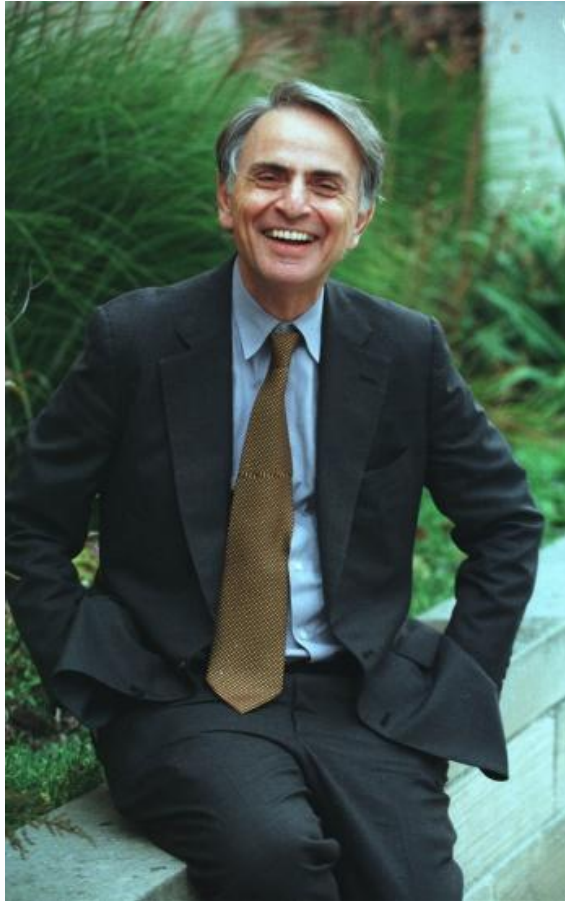


“Is THIS your card?!”

Slicing Away the BS – Occam's Razor



There's a Dragon in My Garage!



‘Effing Magnets: How Do They Work?



Ouija Boards: How Do They Work?

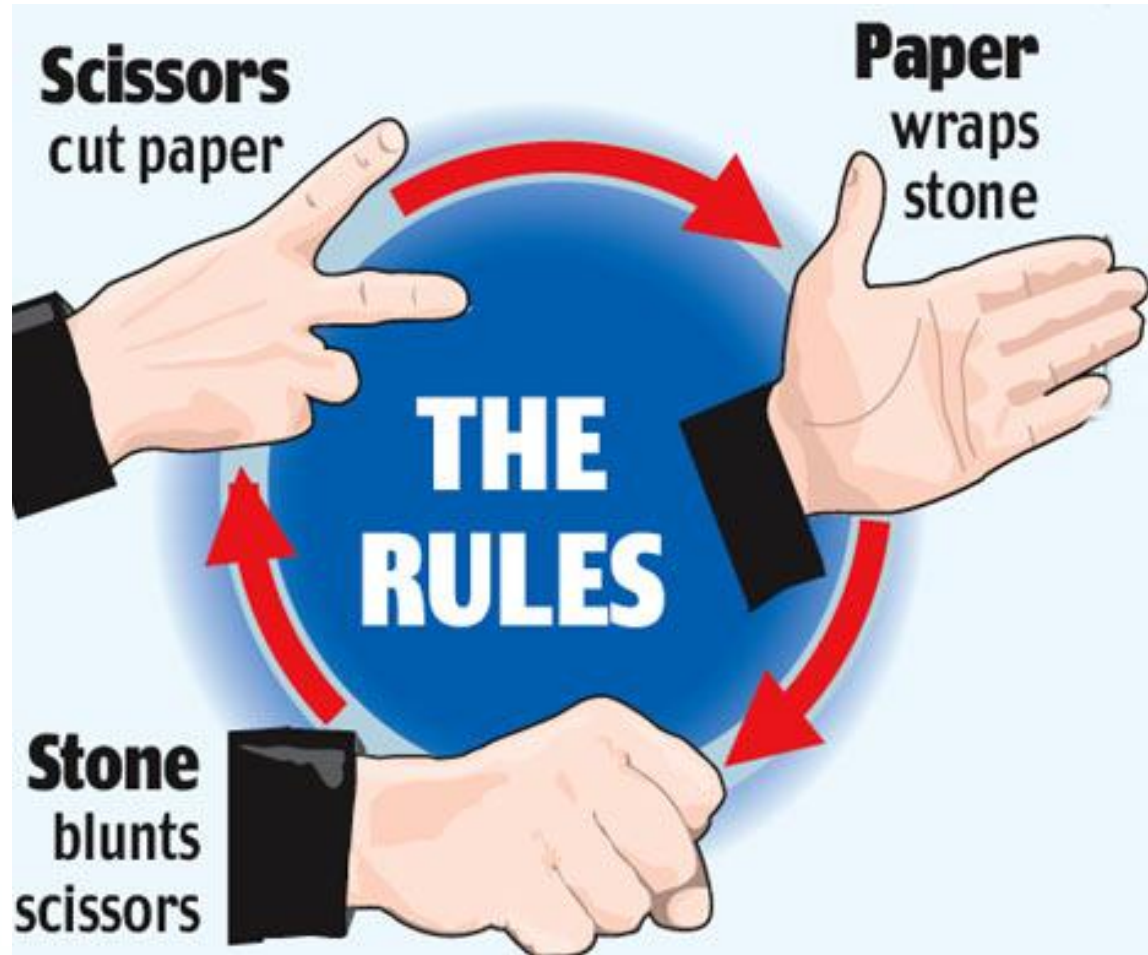


... Here's One Way: Magnetism!

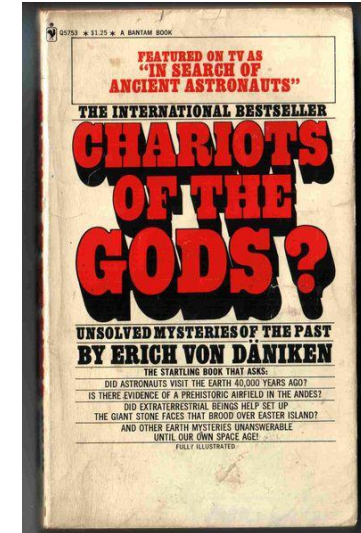


See the clip on Youtube – [SkepticMM](http://youtu.be/8uYqxhIObHg) channel:
<http://youtu.be/8uYqxhIObHg>

Time For A Trick: Nontransitive Dice ☺

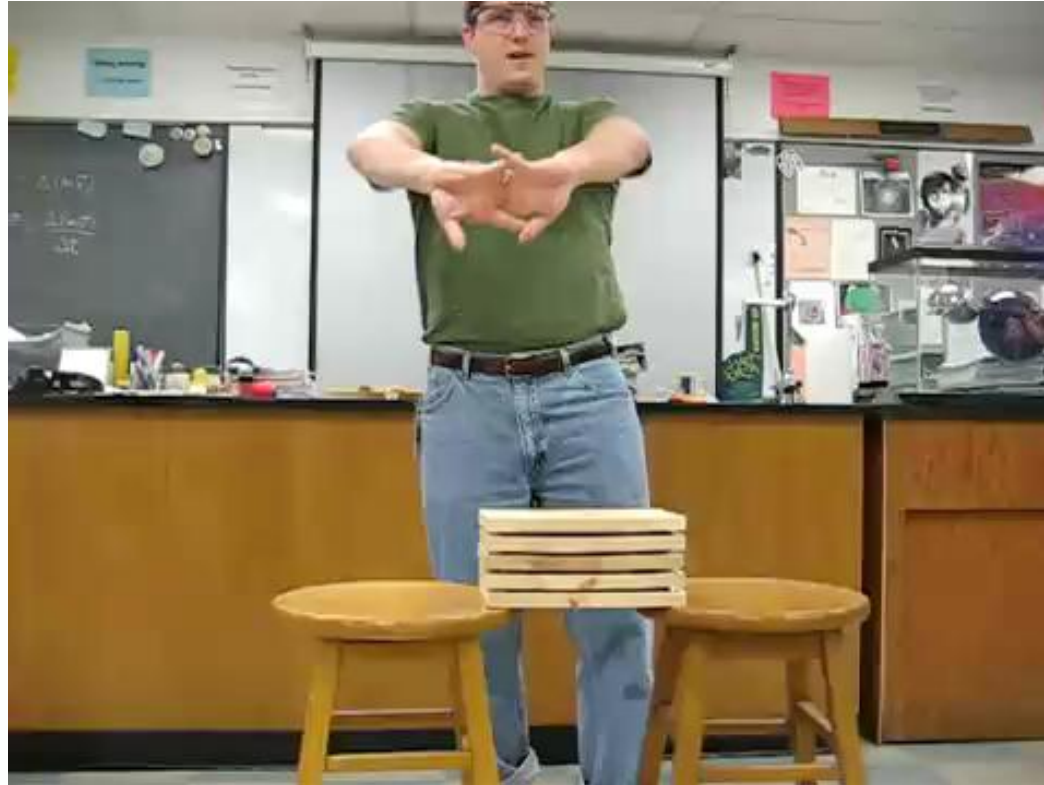


Egyptian Pyramids: Human-Made or “Alien”?



TAM!
VEGAS 2011

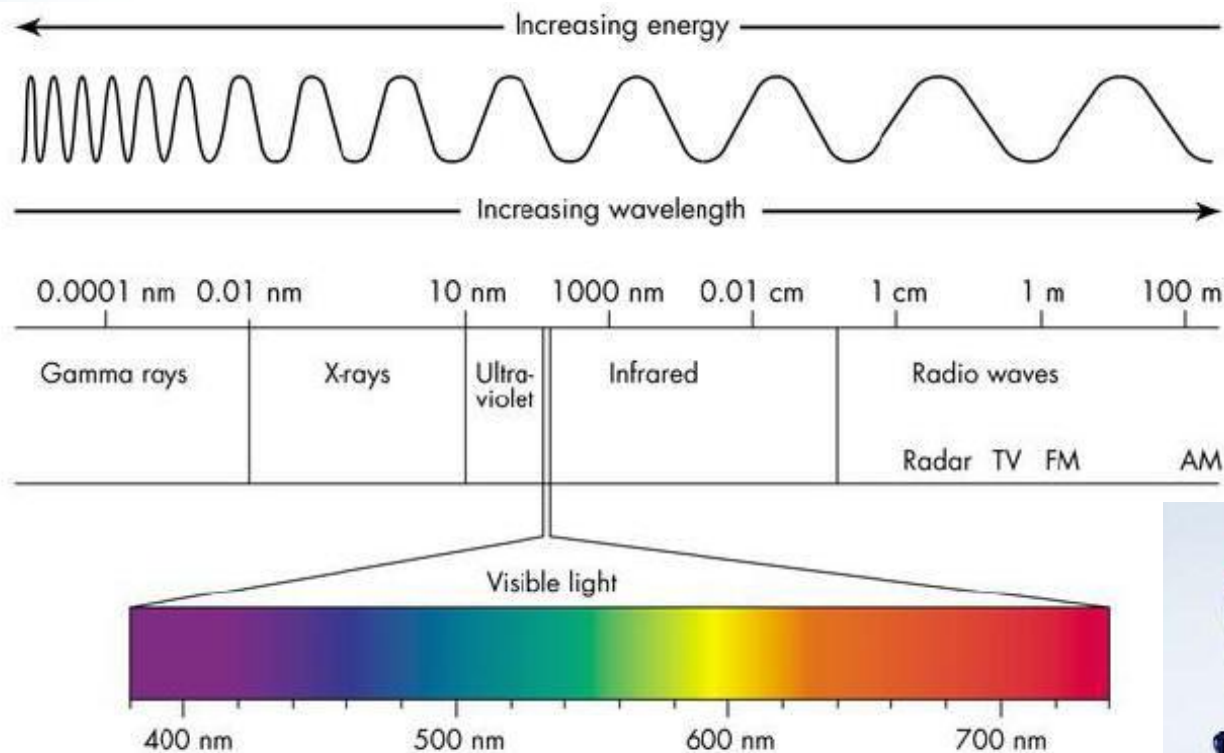
Board Breaking and Other “Miracles”



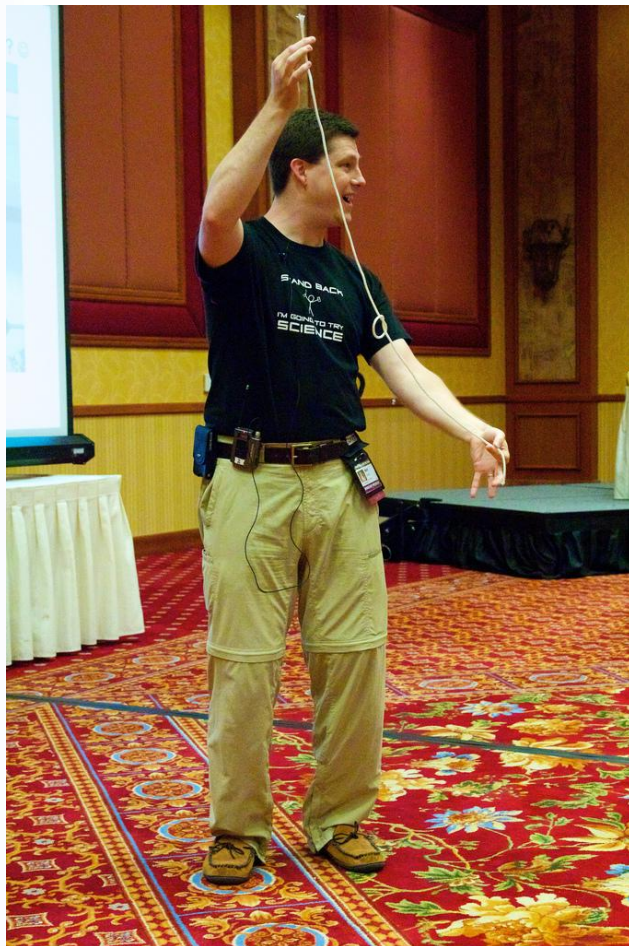
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Matthew Lowry – Inquiry-Based Skepticism in the Classroom

Ghost Hunters: “The Blair Witch Project” Was Better



Time for ANOTHER Trick: Self-Tying Knot? 😊



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Shameless Plug...

- **ICBS Everywhere** – if you want loot from this workshop and other sources, check out this link...

<http://icbseverywhere.com/blog/resources/tam9-education-workshop/>

- **The Skeptical Teacher** – My personal musings on science, education and skepticism in an age of woo...

<http://skepticalteacher.org>