

Video Guide

FREEDOM RIVER

8 minutes, color

Orson Welles narrates this story about a special river of freedom. There once was discovered a land where freedom flowed like a clear, fresh stream. Word about this land spread so that people from other lands came to live near this river. These people worked hard to create a great and prosperous nation. New ideas and inventions abounded. The soil produced great crops. Unfortunately, over time, these people became content and proud of their achievements. Their pride grew and turned to arrogance and greed. As their industry turned to exploitation, they could not see the river changing from sparkling red, white and blue to a murky, muddy mess. Wise men and children tried to point out what had happened but they were ignored. The river became even worse. Finally forced to open their eyes, the people became discouraged with the idea of freedom. Confusion and despair prevailed in the once lovely land. Certain voices warned that "the river was a nuisance," "too much freedom caused disorder," and "the people were not ready for the River of Freedom." "Maybe later the river could be restarted." Other voices said that "if everyone worked together, the river could be made fresh again." "The life or death of the River of Freedom is in our hands."

Thought Questions:

1. What caused the river to become polluted? Why didn't the people notice what was happening? Do problems have to become serious before most people will act?
2. What solution did the voices propose in the time of darkness and confusion? What do you think of these solutions?
3. How important is freedom if we have as a goal for people that they become mentally healthy? Self-actualizers?

Application Project

In this story are a number of psychological concepts that we have studied this semester. As you watch the film, identify examples from the film, for as many of these concepts you can. Before Coming to the film, review these important course concepts.

Examples of Concepts and Film Examples:

- creativity - The story and its telling demonstrate creativity. In the land many new ideas and inventions are produced which are the result of creativity. A light bulb is used to represent new ideas. Later in the story new ideas are laughed at and put down, the ideas are rejected. The light bulb becomes burned out!
- rumors - At the start of the film people in other lands hear about this river of freedom and the special things that could happen.
- self-actualization - As the people drank of the water of this river, they looked much better, they bloomed, they self-actualized, they became what they could be.

Here are the concepts to watch for in the **film**. Look for at least one (1) example for each concept. Some concepts have several examples. Some examples can fit in several places.

bystander effect

rejection of a deviate

reality therapy

aggression

critical evaluation

varying perspectives

punishment

feedback

conformity

positive reinforcement

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify examples of course concepts. Identify examples for the concepts listed above. If you notice other concepts, write them down and the example from the film.
2. Explain the meaning of the story.
3. Identify examples of course concepts used in the teaching of this course.