

B. was a  
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**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

B. F. SkinnerBurriss Frederic Skinner was born on March 20th, 1904 in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania. His mother, Grace M. Burrhus, was a stenographer and a secretary, in a law office and later in a railroad chief executive's office. His father, William A.

Skinner, was an attorney, who studied law with another local attorney at a New York Law School. Skinner's parents were both good students. His father had bought several sets of books, so there was a lot of reading material their children. Skinner said that his parents never used physical punishment, except for the time they washed his mouth out with soap for bad language. (Ulrich, 1997) B.

F. Skinner was very adventurous child. He led a 300 mile canoe trip down the Susquehanna River when he was only 13 years old. He was a natural inventor and he loved to build things. One of his inventions included a device that automatically reminded him to hang up his pajamas in the morning. He played the saxophone in a jazz band during high school and played piano until his failing eyesight made it hard for him to read the music.

In college, he was very independent, and sometimes even a prankster. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1926 and later received his Ph.D. in psychology at Harvard University. (Ulrich, 1997) John B. Watson John Broadus Watson was born in Greenville, South Carolina on January 9th 1878.

He went to college at Furman University and the University of Chicago. Watson created " Psychological behaviorism" in 1912. He told the world about his theory of behaviorism in a 1913 paper entitled " Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It." In the paper he described Behaviorism as the part of

psychology that shows behavior as “ a series of observable movements in time and space”. (Turner, 1997) He rejected both conscious and unconscious mental activities and defined behavior as a response to a stimulus. A few of John B.

Watson's literary works include the following books and papers: *Animal Education*, *Behavior*, *Psychology from the Standpoint of a Behaviorist*, *Behaviorism*, and *Psychological Care of Infant and Child*. (Turner, 1997) Along with his own theories of behaviorism, Skinner developed the theory of operant conditioning. Operant conditioning is based on the idea that “ we behave the way we do because this kind of behavior has had certain consequences in the past.” (Demar, 1996) For example, if your parents give you a present when you do what your told, you will be likely to behave when you want to get a present.

This means that basically- you do something to get a reward. Like Watson, Skinner denied that feelings play any part in determining behavior. Instead, he claimed that the drive to be rewarded determines our behavior. (Demar, 1996) Some critics feel that operant conditioning was a dangerous technique because Skinner was controlling people and could have manipulated them. In reply to their criticism, Skinner argued that control is not wrong. Control is very important and sometimes unavoidable in education, government, and therapy. (Bijou, 1994) What Skinner objects to is the fact that control is usually used in negative ways which include the use of threat, punishment or to use other people. Skinner argues that because of this, people are against control, because the people in control use their power in a negative way.

For instance, Inthe family, a child is controlled by the fear of punishment from his parents. In school, the students are placed in a threatening environment in which theycan escape only by learning. Our government controls us through laws, rules, andregulations. Skinner claims that what is needed is not less control but bettercontrol. Better control could be used if society had adopted his psychologicaltheories.

If this where to happen there would be better ways of teaching, betterworking conditions, and a better system of government. (Skinner, 1938) Skinnerhad many inventions that pertained to behaviorism. One of his most famousinventions was called a “ Skinner box.” A Skinner box is a chamber made bySkinner which helps control animal behavior in laboratory experiments. In oneexperiment using the skinner box, he made it so if the chicken pecks on theyellow, green, or red buttons, he gets nothing.

But if he hits the blue button, a small amount of food comes down the chute; therefor, the chicken is reinforcedwith food for hitting the correct button. He also created other inventions, including an air-crib for babies and the first cumulative recorder. (Bjord, 1990) Skinners experiments with rats and pigeons raise the following