**John Dewey**

**Life Events**

* Born in Oct, 1859 in Vermont.
* After graduating from the University of Vermont at the age of 19, he accepted consecutive secondary, then elementary teaching positions
  + Decided that elementary or secondary teaching were not for him
* Went on to receive a Masters and PhD from Johns Hopkins University
  + Area of concentration: philosophy and psychology
* Accepted a teaching position at the University of Michigan in 1884
  + Met his wife, Harriot Alice Chipman
  + He and his wife had 6 children and later adopted another
* University of Chicago, 1894
  + Head of philosophy department AND director of Chicago’s School of Education
* Columbia University, 1904
  + Professor of philosophy
  + Retired in 1930
* Died June, 1952 in New York, NY

**Philosophy**

* Experimentalism (he preferred it to be known as Instrumentalism)
  + Very interested in ‘man’s’ role in society and how he could improve the human experience.
  + In order to change and improve in society, he believed that teaching adults (and later children) how to think creatively to problem solve was the key to breaking humanity’s need to be creatures of habit.

**Education Reform**

* He felt that schools could become living experiments to test his theory that traditional academic settings in conjunction with experience-driven learning were the key to societal progress.
  + Learning through doing
  + Cross-curricular teaching
* Started two schools
  + - The University Elementary School, Chicago 1894
    - The New School for Social Research, 1919

**Notable Works**

* Democracy and Education, 1916 (progressive education)

**Why He Matters**

* Student-centered learning WAY before his time
* Emphasis on hands on learning
* Belief that life needs to be experienced to learn

Sources

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/projects/centcat/fac/facch08_01.html>

<https://www.biography.com/scholar/john-dewey>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dewey>