

Psychology as it is known today can be seen as a merge between the disciplines of physiology and philosophy. Ancient philosophers, such as Plato and Aristotle were asking questions about the nature of mental processes long before psychology had become an official discipline. While questions about human existence and the nature of being are ideas that are indeed relevant to the field of psychology today, they cannot be used to qualify these ancient philosophers as psychologists. Psychology, in the strict sense, is a scientific study of these mental processes. The key distinction between modern psychology and ancient philosophy is that psychology seeks to answer questions about human behavior and mental processes using the scientific method. Therefore, the history of psychology has its roots in ancient philosophy but not its beginnings. The use of the scientific method to achieve answers about mental processes did not begin until the nineteenth century. Work done by physiologists in the field of science, as well as work from philosophers would merge, and thus create a new field. One of the early leaders in the field of psychology was a German physiologist named Wilhelm Wundt. Wundt's impact on the field took place around the end of the nineteenth century. The field of psychology grew and ended up traveling to America.