

## Psychology

### Chapter Summary: Sigmund Freud

## About Sigmund Freud

- Freud was born in 1856 and died in 1939
- He spent most of his life in Vienna, Austria, however he died in London soon after retreating there prior to the beginning of World War II
- He's known for the development of an encompassing theory of the mind, developed over the span of many decades
- His work influenced:
  - How we think about every aspect of day-to-day life
  - How we think about the development of children
  - The causes and cures for mental illness
  - Origins of religion
  - The nature of war
  - Love, romance and sex
- Freud systematized dream interpretation and to some extent, adopted a more scientific perspective on it
- Freud spoke about myths in literature, where he argued that often things like fairytales expressed aspects of the unconscious
- He developed a theory of the origin of religion, linking it to things like a desire for a father figure and broader aspects of humanity
  - Connected this to his general theory of where civilization came from

Many of his ideas weren't taken into regard by peers and scholars because they carried very little validity.

One of these ideas is penis envy:

- At some point in her development, a little girl discovers that she doesn't have a penis
- This is a catastrophe because, according to Freud, she infers that she was castrated
- She turns to her father to get a penis substitute because he has a penis
- Rejects her mother who's equally unworthy

Freud calls this process the Electra Complex.