

Hilda Taba

Hilda Taba was an architect and curricular theorist born in Estonia in 1902. Taba studied English and Philosophy and earned her undergraduate degree at Tartu University in Estonia. She then went on to earn her Master's degree at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania studying the relationships between democracy and the curriculum. From here she would then go on to work with progressive educators such as Boyd Bode, William Kilpatrick, and John Dewey at Columbia University where she would study and earn her doctorate.

During her doctoral work and continuing onwards Taba believed that education should be a dynamic and interactive phenomenon where children are taught to think instead of just regurgitating facts. Taba argued that children should learn to solve problems and resolve conflicts together as a group, not individually (Taba, 1979). Most notably, Taba believed that teachers had to teach an efficient and organized curriculum with students being evaluated using appropriate tools (Taba, 1966).

Taba was such an influential curricularist that Ralph Tyler invited her to be a part of the Eight-Year Study. Taba was tasked with researching the attitudes and problems in a students' social life and the impacts this has. Taba focused on the measurement of the attitudes towards class, ethnicity, race as well as focusing on the social studies curriculum. In 1951 Taba took a position at the San Francisco State College. Here Taba did much of her research on curricular development. Taba's curricular research and development provided a blueprint for curriculum development in the twentieth century (Fraenkel, 1992; Krull, 2003).

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References

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