

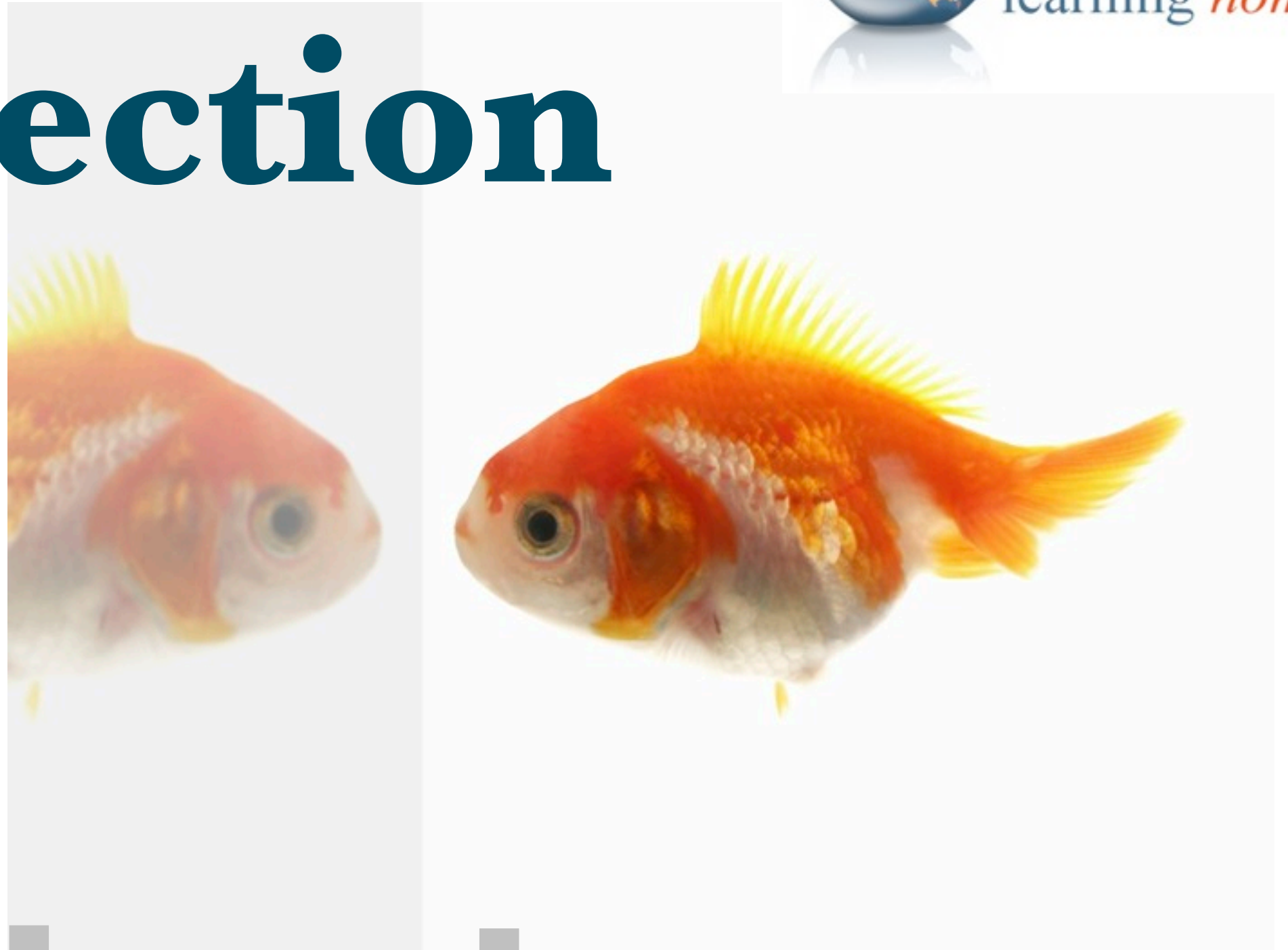
Pre-departure workshop





Bringing the
learning *home*

Reflection



pre-departure

prepared!



- On the cusp of a big adventure ... will it be life changing?
- Prepared for departure – bags packed & passport in hand
- Journey to another land – and come back ‘different,’ ‘transformed,’ ‘changed’...

setting the scene

Back home

When you return...



Photo, 'Zebra-Mule Hybrid?,' by Doug Wertman, 2011.

Taken in Gentry, Arkansas, USA.

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Original at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nanoprobe67/5817419939/in/photostream/>

Hybrid?

Generally people are motivated to go overseas
out of

desperation or inspiration

whatever your motivation, you will need to
step outside of your comfort zone + harness
your inner resources.

motivation



Experience isn't what
happens to you;

it is what you make of
what happens to you.

Aldous Huxley

experience

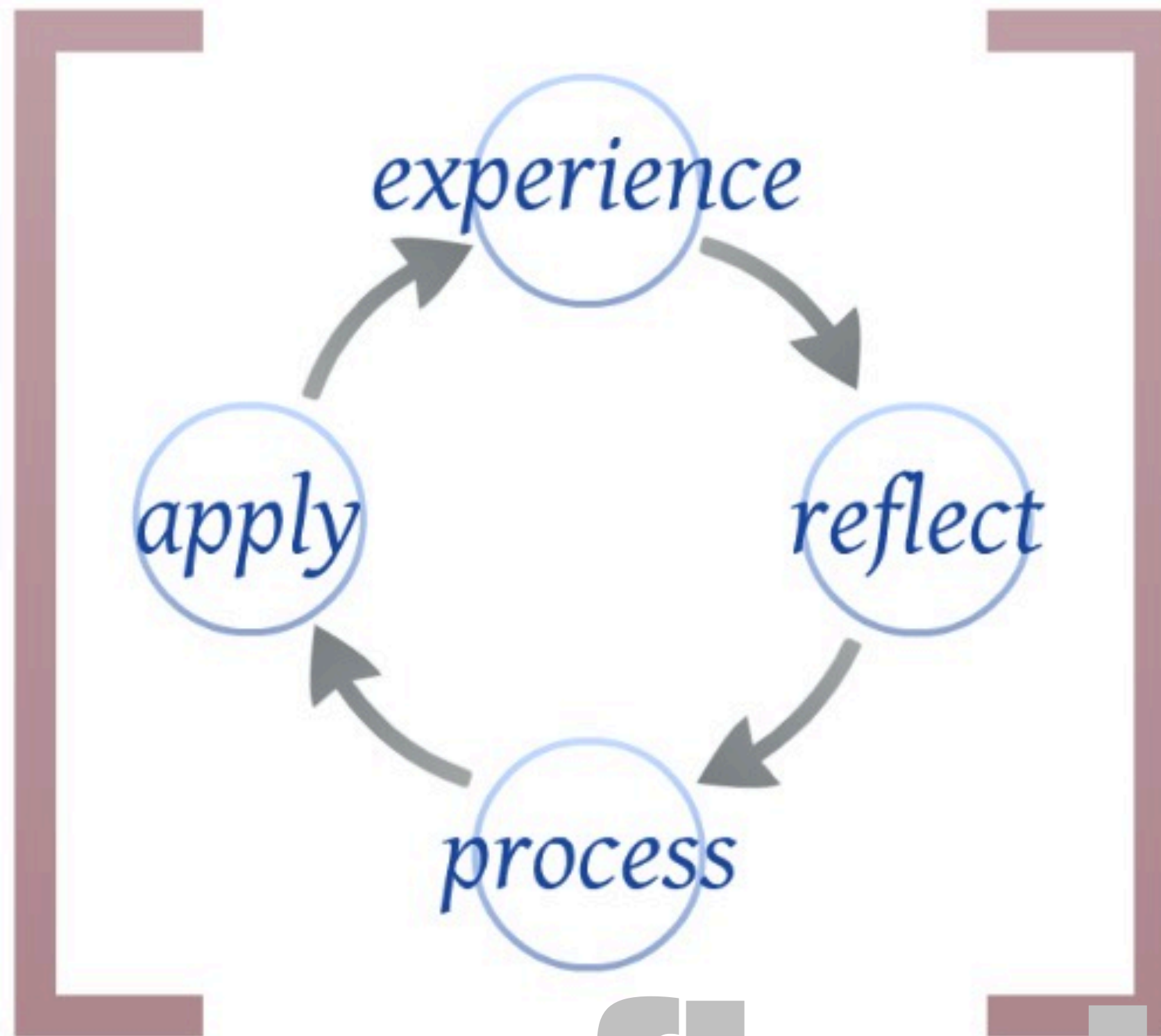
Everything that happens to you is
your teacher.

The key is to learn to sit at the
feet of your own life and be
taught by it.



Polly B. Berends

experience



reflection

a four stage process

transforming your experience into
meaningful life events

is the **data-
generating** part
of the cycle that
sets the
foundation for
learning.

experience

reflection



reflect

What did you see?

Look back and
replay in your
mind's eye ***what***
happened during
the experience?

reflection



process

So what? How
did this make
you feel, think,
sense? Did you
have an emotional,
visceral or
intellectual
reaction?

reflection



apply

Now what?

Applying what you
have learned. ***‘If I
were in the same
situation now, I
would...’***

reflection

Experience + Reflection = Learning

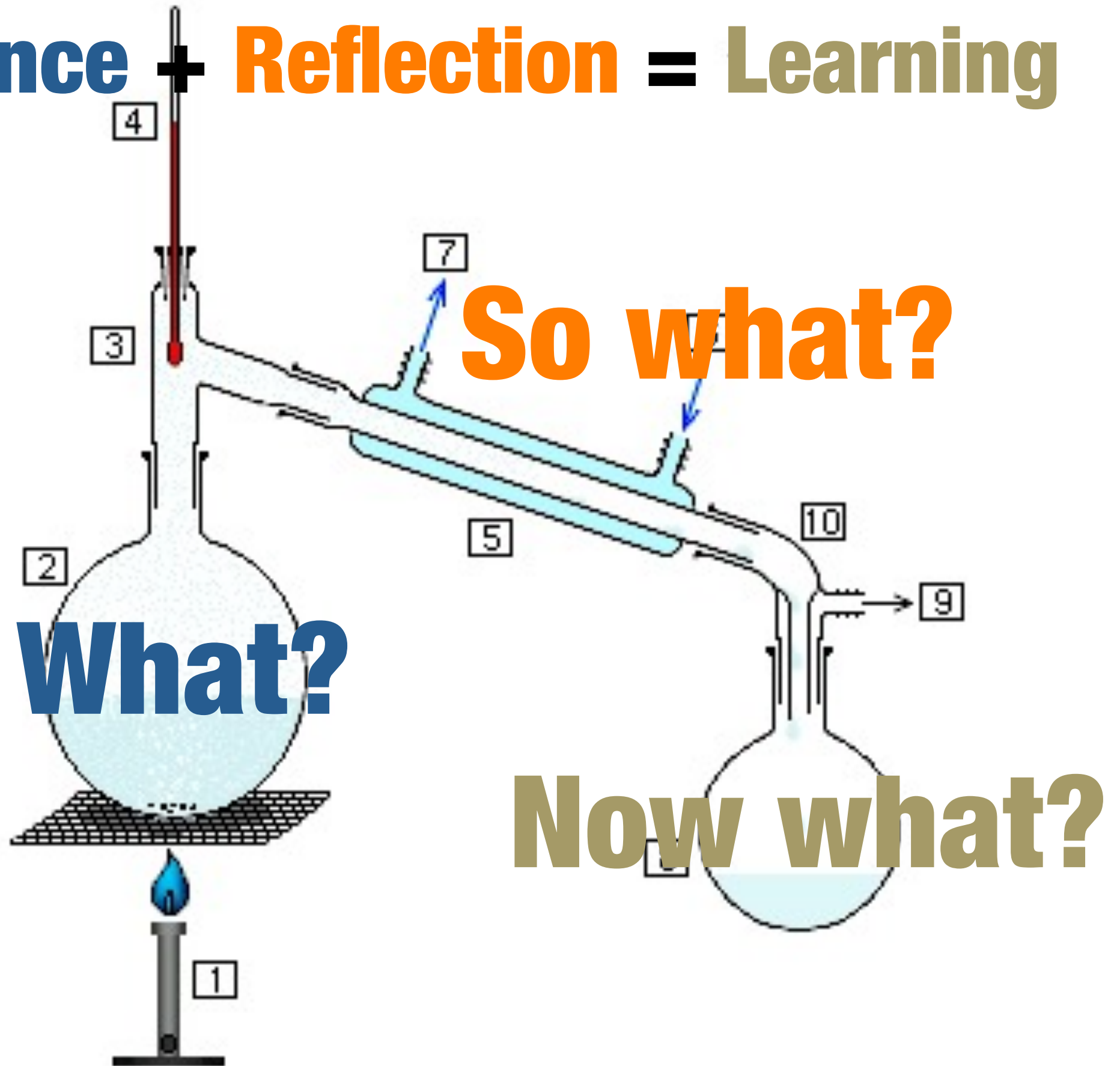


Diagram from Wikimedia Commons: http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Simple_chem_distillation.PNG

experience, reflect, **process, apply**

*the goldfish as
symbol of
departure...*



Leaving behind...

- safe
- known
- comfortable
- predictable
- familiar

in perspective

experience, reflect, **process, apply**

*the goldfish
enters a new
environment...*



Stepping outside
your comfort zone...

- risky
- unfamiliar
- unexpected
- unknown
- uncomfortable
- unpredictable

in perspective

It is important that introspection and reflection be incorporated into the study abroad experience.

Experience without reflection is like eating without digestion.

An ounce of experience is better than a ton of theory simply because it is only in experience that theory has vital and verifiable significance.

John Dewey



Introspection

Merry Racism

I have been in the Netherlands for over three months now, and I haven't really been shocked by anything. ...

But then I began to notice some odd decorations in the windows of shops. Namely, colourfully dressed black dolls similar to 'Golliwogs'. I was quite shocked, because the Netherlands has a reputation for being a free-thinking liberal minded country, and these dolls would be completely unacceptable in Australia.

Apparently, the decorations were for the Dutch Christmas, called Sinterklaas.

Sinterklaas is celebrated on December 5th, and involves a Santa type figure arriving on a ship from Spain to give presents to children. However, he is not aided by elves, but by black slaves called the Zwarte Piet.

what?

Merry Racism

So every shop in Utrecht has pictures and dolls of Zwarte Piet. However, the Dutch claim that the tradition is not racist. They argue that Zwarte Piet isn't an African slave, but is only black because of soot from coming down the chimney. But then how are their clothes perfectly clean?

I couldn't believe it, so I went shopping and took photos of every example of what I perceived to be blatant racism. But I was absolutely floored when I saw people actually dress up as Zwarte Piet and paint their face black.

Seriously. I do not think that you could get away with that in Australia.



what?

Original post at <http://ozstudentsabroad.com/2010/12/08/merry-racism/>

Response to Nathan by Alex

I must say that I was initially a tad surprised by your reaction to my favourite Zwarte Piet, as he resembled joy to me when I was a child in Holland – he even rode on the back of my father's motorbike to visit us on Sinter Klaas!

Racism was never factored in – not even in my later years there. Zwarte Piet's mantra was one of respect – that we should respect others. And that just goes to show – cultural experiences and values are quite personal. That said, it does raise our awareness considerably.

For me, it was delightful to view your snaps as I have just returned from Holland after seeing him swinging from the balcony in "De Bijenlorf" in Amsterdam.



so what?

Original post at <http://ozstudentsabroad.com/2010/12/08/merry-racism/>

Merry Racism

Nathan's response to Alex's comment

When Nathan processes and analyses this newfound information gleaned from Alex's response he will adjust his future actions and suspend judgement accordingly -

Nathan can now move into the NOW WHAT phase (see next slide).



so what?

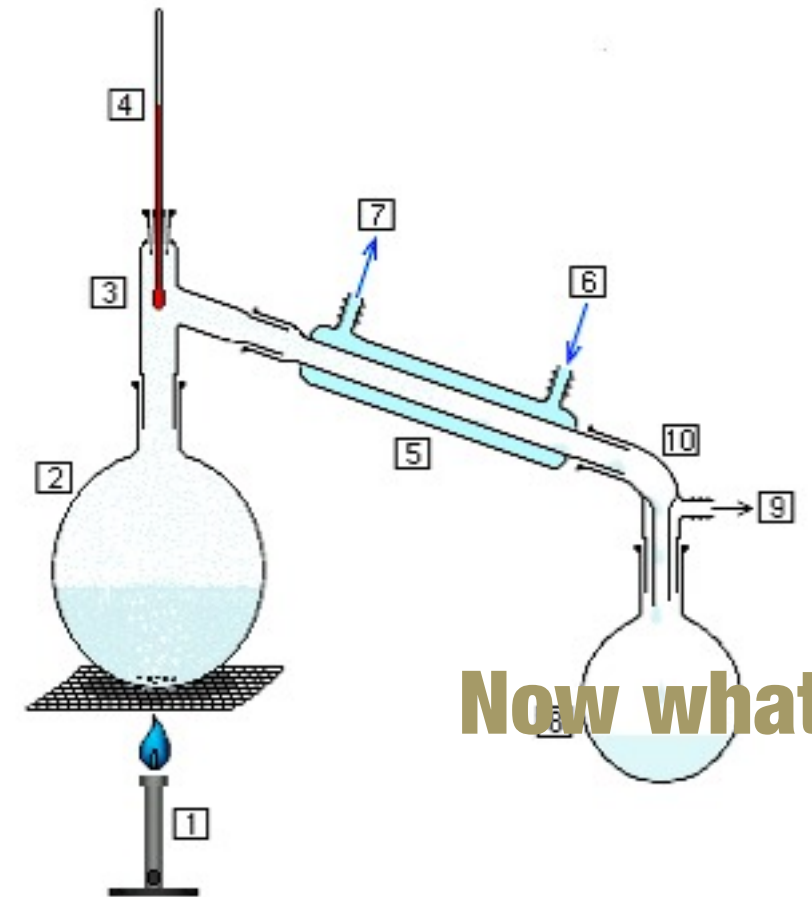
Original post at <http://ozstudentsabroad.com/2010/12/08/merry-racism/>

Merry Racism

Nathan's response to Alex's comment

For deep and relevant learning to occur, it is imperative that Nathan processes and analyses his newfound information and adjust his future actions accordingly -i.e. **NOW WHAT?**

From a Dutch person's perspective (i.e. Alex's comment) there was no inkling of racism evident in Zwarte Piet - in fact, only respect. A far cry from Nathan's initial reaction.



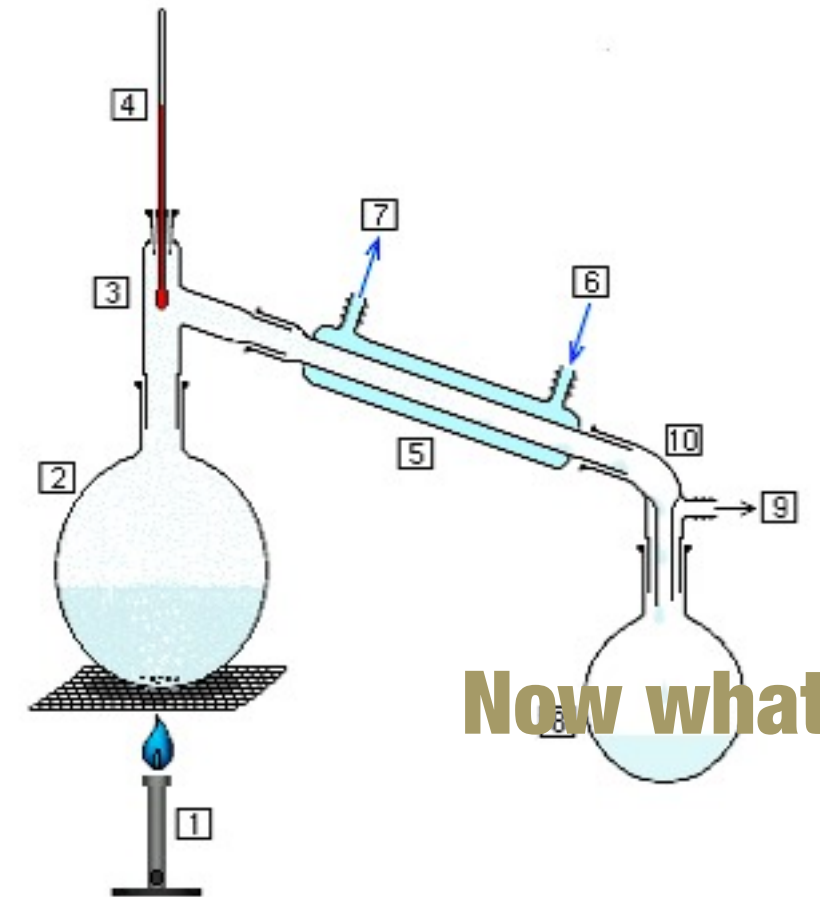
now what?

Merry Racism

Nathan's response to Alex's comment

Learning: Sometimes we have blinkered responses and only see through the lens of our 'home' culture. We jumped to the wrong conclusions – this example shows how...

Nathan also might wonder how some customs or practices at home might be misinterpreted – or just interpreted differently – by visitors or other outsiders.



now what?

In other words – your new found knowledge will “shape” how you approach the same experience in the future.

More wisdom? More savvy? More worldly?

*A mind that is stretched by new experiences
can never go back to its old dimensions.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes



Introspection

less doing, **more being**



- Sometimes travellers get swept along with the need to condensing the most into their time.
- E.g. ‘Here I am at the Eiffel Tower, the Coliseum, Venice, Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge, the Acropolis, Reichstag...’
- It is important to “Be” part of your host culture.
- Mantra – *less doing, more being.*

in perspective

Pre-departure workshop



Thank you!

Reflection pre-departure workshop

The *Bringing the Learning Home* Team: Tonia Gray (UWS), Greg Downey (Macquarie), & Jan Gothard (Murdoch).

The BLTH Students at all three institutions.

For more information: ozstudentsabroad.com or <http://www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/btlh/>



Bringing the
learning *home*

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