

Name:

Race: The Power of an Illusion I – The Difference Between Us

What is the difference between a biological and a social view of race?

Excluding your immediate family members, are you more likely to be genetically like someone who looks like you or someone who does not?

Why is it impossible to use biological characteristics to sort people into consistent races? Review some of the concepts such as "non-concordance" and "within-group vs. between group variation."

Who has benefited from the belief that we can sort people according to race and that there are natural or biologically based differences between racial groups?

Besides race, what other things explain why some people might be more susceptible than others to disease? Think about the girl in the film with sickle cell anemia. How is ancestry different from race?

Should doctors and other health professionals take biological race into account when

diagnosing and treating illness? Why? Can you think of a situation where thinking about race as biological might be misleading or have a negative effect? How would considering social race be different?

Towards the end of this episode, the students are asked if they would trade their skin color. Would you trade your skin color? How do you think your life would be different if you looked like someone of a different race?

Turn-of-the-century scientists like Frederick Hoffman drew scientific conclusions based on what they believed to be true. How are scientists today influenced by their beliefs or their social context?

For many people, race is an important part of their identity. How do the following two comments from the film affect the way you think of yourself:

“There’s as much or more diversity and genetic difference within any racial group as there is between people of different racial groups.” - Pilar Ossorio, microbiologist

“Every single one of us is a mongrel.” - Student