A Thought Experiment and Why Science Matters

We all have things we believe or accept as true.

Think of everything you accept as true or as fact. Not just “science” things…… every thing you think is right/correct/true. This will obviously include factual things you have learned over the years, but it will also include assumptions you have, beliefs you hold and opinions you have formed on wide ranges of people, places, things and ideas.

Make a Pie Chart. The pie chart includes 100% of everything you “know” to be true….. everything you believe to be true…… everything you think is accurate.

Now, consider this – Do you think you are “right” about 100% of everything you think you know? If you assume you are likely wrong about at least some of the things you think or “know,” how much would you say you are wrong about? If you had to estimate – what percentage of what you “know” is true or correct would you say you are wrong about. Shade in that portion of your pie chart. The shaded part represents what you currently accept as true or correct…… but is wrong. The rest represents things you know are correct…… and, they are actually correct.

Next, give this some thought…… Look at that shaded wedge of the pie chart – the things you are wrong about…… Now list them. List the things you hold as correct, but are actually incorrect.

This puts you in an interesting position……. Either, you can list the things you believe to be true but are wrong. Or, you cannot list the things you believe to be true but are wrong. Both of these possibilities have a rather profound implication. What is the implication of each of these possibilities?



