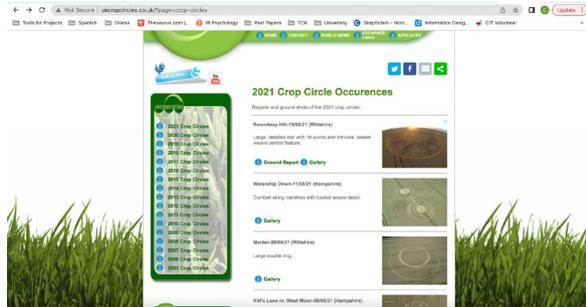


## Why do we seek knowledge?

### Knowledge and the Knowers

#### Object 1 - Website of UK Crop Circles

<http://www.ukcropcircles.co.uk/?page=crop-circles>



This is the link to a website dedicated to sightings of UK Crop Circles. There are updates of 20 Crop Circle sightings per year since 2005. The website has links to other social media platforms for specific groups of knowers to report their experiences with Crop Circles. Crop Circle is a scientific knowledge, sought to find the irregularities of the world. The lack of explanation for the Crop Circles creates doubts of whether it was man made or a natural phenomena. One seeks scientific knowledge to solve the mysteries of our world.

The website allows the group of knowers to spread the magical sightings of Crop Circles to their communities. The community of seekers of the Crop Circles are called 'Croppies'. They collaborate to understand the unknown from space. They gathered that 80% of Crop Circles in England reside in Wiltshire, the site of Stonehenge. Some believe that the Crop Circles are messages from extraterrestrial beings just like Stonehenge. They seek astrological knowledge to prove the existence of aliens. They hope to justify their intense belief, which many may deem to be subjective knowledge as aliens aren't proven by scientific theories. One could argue that others' skepticism about this subjective knowledge motivates the Croppies to prove themselves.

Simultaneously, many treat it as art or accept that their source cannot be known, simply appreciating the sighting. There are also skeptics that regard the Crop Circles to be business schemes made by farmers. Their perspective being that hoaxsters exploit the deep beliefs of people like Croppies to create revenue and investigate their version of the truth, showing that some people seek knowledge to reveal truths and perhaps, similar to the Croppies, prove that their knowledge is correct.

The Croppies seek knowledge to understand the origin of the Crop Circles, in hopes for extraterrestrial beings while many simply accept that they could be scams from farmers for recognition and business. The object demonstrates that we seek scientific knowledge to prove and spread our judgment.

Object 2 - The New York Times reporting the launch of Sputnik 1  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/sputniki.htm>



This is the newspaper from 5th of October, 1957, one day after the launch of Sputnik 1, the first spacecraft to go into space. The short article reports the technological lead the Soviet Union has on the Americans and informs the readers of America's progress. Disregarding the scientific importance, this news article demonstrates the significance of superiority between countries. The Americans sought political knowledge to understand their position in the space race.

This launch astonished many Americans, having believed that they had technological superiority over the Soviet Union. The political knowledge puts pressure on the American scientists and politicians to perform better and defeat their competitors. They sought to improve their models for a better result and understand the pace of which to work. The American politicians had then funded the missile development. With numerous publicized failures, the scientists launched a satellite three months after the Soviet Union. The knowledge led them to increase funding and speed up on their work showing the political agenda behind this knowledge.

The Soviet Union changed the design of their original satellite to overtake the Americans, exhibiting their primary aim to compete as well. The political knowledge they provided is a statement of superiority. The knowledge led them to gauge the reaction of the Americans to tweak the strategies for their next design. Compared to the 'Croppies', it appears that the launch of Sputnik 1 exhibits political knowledge more than scientific knowledge.

Contrasting the politicians' intention to quicken their technological advancements, the US citizens sought the political knowledge to understand the gravity of the space race. They were humbled by the information compared to the citizens of the Soviet Union who felt pride. The Americans' dismay showed their patriotism and investment in the country's political developments. The differing reactions of the politicians and scientists — who were able to change their status in the space race — and the citizens — who were only able to watch as the event goes by — sheds light on the idea of the powerful and the powerless: Both were seeking the same knowledge but with drastically different attitudes, showing the influence of status in seeking knowledge.

### Object 3 - My Guitar



This is the guitar that I have been learning for 2 years. This is an acoustic guitar and compared to a classical one, it produces a crisper sound. It's generally meant for fingerpicking and strumming, thus specific to a genre of music. The object demonstrates that one seeks procedural knowledge due to interest and practicality.

We initially seek procedural knowledge from our interest in something and we continue learning to master our interest due to our deep desire to understand more about our passion. I learned guitar because I wanted to be able to play the songs that I like; I continued to improve my skills and technique so I am able to master more songs until my muscle memory takes over. I never gave up due to my growing enthusiasm for music showing that the seeking of procedural knowledge comes from our passion and self instilled motivation.

On the other hand, there are some people that seek procedural knowledge to stimulate their brains. Their perspective being that playing the guitar acts as a leeway to combine different skills, which leads to multitasking, enhanced sensory perceptions, improved memory etc. Research has shown that playing the guitar improves concentration and reduces anxiety, showing that some see procedural knowledge as a practicality and an opportunity to improve other aspects of their lives.

Contrasting the political knowledge, the seeking of procedural knowledge comes from a more personal perspective rather than a deeper and more complex intention. It interacts with our inner desires and is less affected by outside influences. It gives more access to various skills and allows one to share their knowledge within a specific group of knowers.

## References

1. Object 1 - Crop Circle

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210822-englands-crop-circle-controversy>

2. Object 2 - The New York Times reporting the launch of Sputnik 1

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/sputniki.htm>

3. Object 3 - My Guitar

Author's own photograph

<https://www.chasingsound.com/posts/10-health-benefits-of-playing-guitar#:~:text=Studies%20show%20that%20playing%20the,good%20workout%20for%20your%20brain.>