

## CATEGORICALLY



## importance for early man

## pattern recognition inductive generalization



## THINKING CATEGORICALLY

- Humans are hardwired to think categorically.
- The most obvious reason is the **importance for early man** of determining whether a footprint was that of a deadly saber-tooth tiger or a potentially life-giving ancient antelope.
- Human intelligence specializes in pattern recognition and inductive generalization, which is "messy, inconsistent, and often quite 'illogical' in a strictly deductive sense."
- We take mental short-cuts and "satisfice."

