Illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.

• Professor Matt Might, CS, University of Utah has a good way of explaining what it means to do a Ph.D.
  – It is also applicable to doing MS research
  – and probably your life after graduation
• The presentation is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial 2.5 License

imagine a circle that contains all of human knowledge

By the time you finish elementary school, you know a little
By the time you finish high school, you know a bit more

With a bachelor's degree, you gain a specialty

A master's degree deepens that specialty

Reading research papers takes you to the edge of human knowledge
Once you're at the boundary, you focus

You push at the boundary for a few years

Until one day, the boundary gives way

And, that dent you've made is called a Ph.D.
Of course, the world looks different to you now

So, don't forget the bigger picture

Keep pushing