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Abstract: The article discusses American philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce and his theory of the symbol. How Peirce's theory of the symbol relates to the concept of habit is examined. The author states that Peirce added an evolutionary perspective to the theory of the symbol that had gone unnoticed by other philosophers. Peirce's belief that the symbol is the unique characteristic of human nature is explored. The article also discusses Peirce's definition of the symbol against the background of the history of semiotics.

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