

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Spark the Great Ideas: 5th Grade Ancient Greek Philosophers Quiz

Examine how Diogenes and Epicurus thought about happiness as you decide how to live your best life in and out of the classroom.

1. Diogenes the Cynic was famous for living in a large clay jar and owning almost nothing. What did he think was most important for a happy life?

Answer: B) Being honest and living simply

Diogenes believed that fancy belongings didn't bring happiness; instead, he preached that being true to oneself and living a simple life was the key.

2. The philosopher Epicurus believed that the best way to be happy was to spend time with good friends and be kind.

Answer: A) True

Epicurus taught that simple pleasures, especially friendship and a calm mind, were much more important than expensive things.

3. Thales, one of the earliest Greek thinkers, looked at the world and guessed that _____ was the most important building block of all life.

Answer: C) Water

Thales observed that plants and animals need water to survive, leading him to believe it was the basic element of the universe.

4. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus was once a slave, but he taught that we can always be free in our minds. What did he say we should focus on?

Answer: D) Our own thoughts and choices

Stoics like Epictetus taught that while we can't control what happens to us, we can always control how we choose to react.

5. Ancient Greek philosophers only thought about math and never asked questions about how people should behave.

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Answer: B) False

Philosophy actually means 'love of wisdom,' and these thinkers spent a lot of time asking questions about right and wrong.

6. Pythagoras is a famous Greek thinker who believed that the whole universe could be explained using _____.

Answer: A) Numbers

Pythagoras and his followers were fascinated by patterns in math and music, believing numbers were the key to everything.

7. Imagine you are at a Greek 'Symposium' or meeting. What would philosophers most likely be doing there?

Answer: C) Talking and debating ideas

Greek philosophy was very social; thinkers loved to gather and have long conversations to figure out the truth.

8. The philosopher Heraclitus said 'No man ever steps in the same river twice' because he believed the world is always changing.

Answer: A) True

Heraclitus used the river example to show that just as water flows, everything in life is constantly in motion and changing.

9. Democritus was a philosopher who had the amazing idea that everything is made of tiny, invisible pieces called _____.

Answer: B) Atoms

Even without a microscope, Democritus correctly guessed that the world was made of 'atomos,' which means 'uncuttable' parts.

10. If a philosopher asks you, 'Is it better to be lucky or to be wise?' they are helping you practice which skill?

Answer: A) Critical thinking

Philosophy is about using your brain to look deeply at questions that don't have just one easy answer.