

Name: _____ Date: _____

Shatter the Myth: A 6th Grade Ancient Greek Philosophy Quiz

Students analyze Stoic resilience, Epicurean logic, and Cynic social critiques to evaluate how hidden moral frameworks shaped early European thought.

1. Zeno of Citium founded Stoicism, teaching that we should ignore things we cannot control to find inner peace. If a 6th grader loses a soccer game despite playing their best, what would a Stoic advise?

- A. Blame the referee to feel better about the loss.
- B. Remain calm and focus on your own effort rather than the final score.
- C. Complain to the coach until the game is replayed.
- D. Assume you are a bad player and quit the sport entirely.

2. The philosopher Epicurus believed that the main goal of life should be to eat as much luxury food as possible, regardless of the health consequences.

- A. True
- B. False

3. Diogenes the Cynic famously lived in a large ceramic jar/tub to prove that humans should reject social status and live according to ____.

- A. Royal decrees
- B. Wealthy traditions
- C. Nature
- D. Religious law

4. Pythagoras is famous for math, but he also led a philosophical community with strict rules. Which of these was a surprising belief held by the Pythagoreans?

- A. They believed the Earth was flat.
- B. They refused to eat beans because they believed they contained souls.
- C. They thought music was a distraction from logical thinking.
- D. They believed numbers were unimportant for understanding the universe.

5. Heraclitus famously stated that 'No man ever steps in the same ____ twice,' highlighting his philosophy that the universe is in a constant state of change.

- A. Forest
- B. River
- C. Temple
- D. Footprint

6. Skepticism, championed by Pyrrho of Elis, suggests that because our senses can be deceived, we should avoid making final judgements about the truth.

- A. True

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B. False

7. Anaximander was an early philosopher who proposed that the world began from something he called the 'Apeiron.' What does this term mean?

- A. A tiny solid atom
- B. The breath of the gods
- C. The boundless or infinite
- D. A mixture of fire and clay

8. While many Greeks focused on many gods, Xenophanes criticized people for creating gods in their own image, suggesting that the truth of the ____ was much more abstract.

- A. Weather
- B. Government
- C. Divine
- D. Underworld

9. The Sophists were teachers who focused on 'arete' (excellence) and were mostly famous for teaching people how to win any argument, regardless of the truth.

- A. True
- B. False

10. If you are following the philosophy of the 'Golden Mean' (often linked to Hellenistic virtue), how should you react if you see someone being bullied?

- A. Cowardice: Run away and hide to stay safe.
- B. Recklessness: Attack the bully with no plan or help.
- C. Courage: Stand up for the victim in a firm but controlled way.
- D. Indifference: Ignore it completely as it doesn't involve you.