

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Think Like a Titan: Your 4th Grade Greek Philosophy Challenge

Evaluate the ethics of Epicurus, the logic of Zeno, and the courage of Hypatia through challenging scenarios that bridge ancient wisdom with modern dilemmas.

1. Imagine you see a classmate struggling to carry heavy books. Epicurus taught that true happiness comes from 'Ataraxia' (peace of mind and avoiding pain). From a Stoic perspective, why might Zeno suggest you help them?

Answer: A) Because helping others is a duty that aligns with the natural order of reason.

Zeno, the founder of Stoicism, believed that humans should live in agreement with nature and reason, which includes performing our duties to help the human community.

2. Hypatia of Alexandria believed that people should have the right to think and learn about math and philosophy, even if their ideas were different from the government's.

Answer: A) True

Hypatia was a famous female philosopher and mathematician who valued the pursuit of knowledge and teaching, often standing up for intellectual freedom.

3. The philosopher Heraclitus famously said, 'No man ever steps in the same _____ twice,' because he believed the world is constantly changing.

Answer: B) River

Heraclitus used the river metaphor to explain 'Panta Rhei' (everything flows), meaning that both the water and the person change every second.

4. Diogenes the Cynic lived in a large ceramic jar and owned almost nothing. If he saw someone throwing away a perfectly good toy because they wanted a newer, shinier one, what would he likely say?

Answer: B) Practical things are more important than fancy items that make you greedy.

Cynics like Diogenes believed that virtue is found in living a simple life and that being dependent on 'stuff' makes people less free.

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5. Thales of Miletus is often called the first philosopher because he looked for natural answers rather than repeating myths. Where did he believe all life originally came from?

Answer: C) Water

Thales observed that all living things need moisture to survive, leading him to conclude that water was the primary substance of the universe.

6. Pythagoras believed that the entire universe could be understood and explained through the use of numbers and music.

Answer: A) True

Pythagoras and his followers believed that mathematics was the 'language' of the world and discovered the numerical ratios in musical scales.

7. Democritus was an early philosopher who imagined that everything in the world was made of tiny, invisible particles called _____.

Answer: B) Atoms

Democritus coined the term 'atomos,' meaning 'uncuttable,' providing an early foundation for what would eventually become the science of chemistry.

8. Epicurus taught that we should seek pleasure, but not the kind that makes us sick later. If you were following his advice, which 'pleasure' would he value most?

Answer: C) Having a quiet dinner and a deep conversation with a good friend.

Epicureanism focused on 'modest pleasures' and friendship to achieve a state of tranquility, avoiding overindulgence which often leads to pain.

9. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus taught that we should worry deeply about things we cannot control, like the weather or what other people think of us.

Answer: B) False

Epictetus taught that the key to happiness is distinguishing between what is in our control (our thoughts and actions) and what is not.

10. How does Heraclitus' idea of 'change' help a scientist today?

Answer: A) It reminds them that because things change, they must keep observing and testing.

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Understanding that the natural world is in a state of flux encourages scientists to use repeated observation to understand the patterns of change.