

Ancient Greek Thinking Skills for 8th Grade

Examine how 10 foundational ideas like logic and atoms from Thales to Epicurus still shape how we understand the natural world today.

1. Which early philosopher is known as the 'Father of Science' because he looked for natural, rather than mythical, explanations for events like earthquakes?

- A. Thales of Miletus
- B. Homer
- C. Zeus
- D. Pericles

2. The philosopher Democritus proposed that everything in the universe is made up of tiny, invisible particles called 'atoms.'

- A. True
- B. False

3. The philosopher ___ believed that numbers and geometry were the key to understanding the harmony of the entire universe.

- A. Heraclitus
- B. Pythagoras
- C. Sophocles
- D. Leonidas

4. Epicurus taught that the main goal of life should be to find 'ataraxia,' which most closely means:

- A. Winning every war
- B. Gaining great wealth
- C. Peace of mind and freedom from fear
- D. Becoming a famous king

5. The Stoic philosopher ___ was a former slave who taught that we cannot control outside events, only our own reactions to them.

- A. Epictetus
- B. Alexander
- C. Julius Caesar
- D. Archimedes

6. Diogenes the Cynic believed that true happiness comes from owning many expensive things and following all social rules.

- A. True
- B. False

Name: _____

Date: _____

7. Which philosopher famously stated that 'Change is the only constant' and used a river as an example?

- A. Parmenides
- B. Heraclitus
- C. Solon
- D. Euclid

8. Hippocrates, often called the father of ___, created a code of ethics that professionals in his field still take today.

- A. Architecture
- B. Medicine
- C. Space Travel
- D. Banking

9. Zeno of Citium founded the school of Stoicism, which taught that virtue is the highest good and humans should live in agreement with nature.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Ancient Greek philosophy is important today primarily because it introduced the idea of:

- A. Building the tallest skyscrapers
- B. Using steam engines for transport
- C. Using reason and logic to solve problems
- D. Ignoring the laws of nature