

Ancient Greek Thinking Quest for 5th Grade

Students debate the Golden Mean, analyze Stoic responses to challenges, and construct logical syllogisms to build foundational reasoning skills.

1. Imagine you are an archer. Aristotle's 'Golden Mean' suggests that virtue is like hitting the bullseye between two extremes. If 'Courage' is the virtue, what are the two 'extreme' behaviors you should avoid?

- A. Being too fearful and being too reckless
- B. Being too honest and being too quiet
- C. Eating too much and exercising too little
- D. Studying too hard and playing too much

2. The philosopher Zeno met his followers on a 'Stoa' (a covered porch). His students, known as _____, believed that while we cannot control what happens to us, we can always control how we react.

- A. Epicureans
- B. Stoics
- C. Skeptics
- D. Cynics

3. True or False: The philosopher Heraclitus argued that the world is constantly changing, famously saying that a person can never step into the same river twice.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Hypatia of Alexandria was a famous female philosopher and mathematician. Which branch of philosophy, which studies how the universe works and the nature of reality, did she likely master?

- A. Cosmology
- B. Ethics
- C. Metaphysics
- D. Aesthetics

5. Aristotle developed a way of layering facts to reach a conclusion called a _____. For example: 1. All humans need air. 2. Pericles is a human. 3. Therefore, Pericles needs air.

- A. Metaphor
- B. Syllogism
- C. Hypothesis
- D. Dialogue

6. True or False: The philosopher Diogenes the Cynic believed that true happiness comes from owning many expensive things and living in a large palace.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- A. True
- B. False

7. Epicurus taught that the goal of life was 'Ataraxia.' If you were practicing this today, what would you be seeking?

- A. Winning a gold medal in the Olympics
- B. Gathering a large army to conquer a city
- C. Peace of mind and freedom from fear
- D. Accumulating the most gold in Greece

8. While many philosophers looked at the stars, _____ (known as the 'Laughing Philosopher') looked at tiny particles. He proposed that everything in the world is made of invisible, unbreakable pieces called 'atoms.'

- A. Democritus
- B. Pythagoras
- C. Anaximander
- D. Thales

9. Thales of Miletus is often called the first philosopher. How did he change the way people explained the world compared to the stories (myths) of his time?

- A. He claimed the gods were solely responsible for the weather
- B. He used observation and nature to explain how things happen
- C. He wrote long poems about the monsters of the sea
- D. He refused to speak to anyone who wasn't a king

10. True or False: In Greek philosophy, 'Areté' only refers to being good at sports like wrestling or running.

- A. True
- B. False