

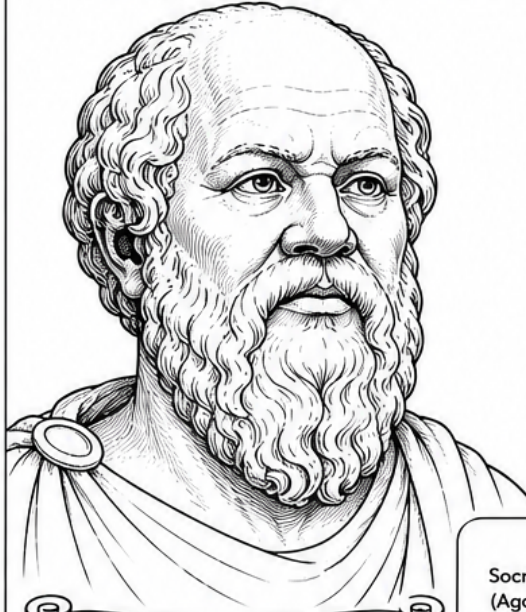
SOCRATES

c. 470 – 399 BCE

LIFE

- Socrates was born in Athens around 470 BCE, the son of Sophroniscus, a stonemason, and Phaenarete, a midwife.
- He did not leave any writings. We know about him mainly through his students, especially Plato and Xenophon.
- He served in the Athenian army as a hoplite and fought bravely in several battles.
- He spent his life in Athens talking with people of all kinds—young and old, rich and poor.
- In 399 BCE, he was accused of not believing in the gods the city worshipped and of corrupting the young.
- He was found guilty and was sentenced to drink hemlock. He refused to escape from prison.

ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER



"The unexamined life is not worth living."
– Socrates

PHILOSOPHY & IDEAS

- Socrates was not interested in the natural world. He wanted to know how people should live.
- He believed that true wisdom begins with knowing how little you know.
- He used questions to help people think for themselves.
- His method is called the Socratic Method.
- He taught that virtue (being good) is knowledge, and that no one chooses to do wrong on purpose.
- He believed that caring for your soul and being just and kind is more important than wealth or power.

THE SOCRATIC METHOD

Socrates asked a series of questions to find the truth. This helped people examine their ideas and discover better answers.

- 1 **Ask a Question**
Socrates asks a question about a topic.
- 2 **Examine Answers**
He asks more questions to test the answers.
- 3 **Find Contradictions**
If the answers don't make sense, they are challenged.
- 4 **Discover Deeper Truth**
Through careful thinking, people come closer to understanding what is true.

TRIAL AND DEATH

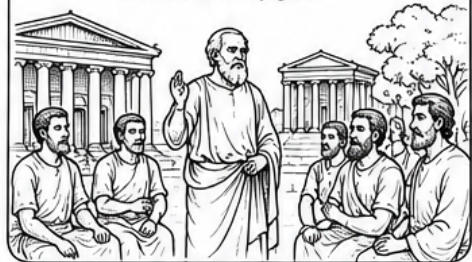
At his trial, Socrates defended his ideas and refused to stop questioning people. He was found guilty and sentenced to drink hemlock.

He refused to escape from prison, believing it was right to obey the laws.



SOCRATES IN ATHENS

Socrates could be found in the marketplace (Agora), parks and workshops, talking with people and asking questions about life, virtue and what is truly good.



WHAT DID SOCRATES BELIEVE?



Virtue is knowledge.
If we know what is right, we will do what is right.



Justice and fairness are essential for a good life and a good society.



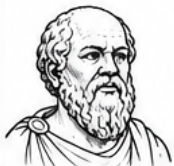
The soul is more important than the body or material things.



Everyone can improve their thinking through questioning and reason.

SOCRATES' INFLUENCE

Socrates never wrote anything down, but his ideas changed the world.



SOCRATES
c. 470 – 399 BCE

Plato was Socrates' student and wrote down many of Socrates' teachings in his dialogues.



PLATO
c. 427 – 347 BCE

Plato taught Aristotle, one of the greatest thinkers of all time.



ARISTOTLE
384 – 322 BCE

Aristotle later taught Alexander the Great, who went on to build one of the largest empires in history.



ALEXANDER THE GREAT
356 – 323 BCE

MAJOR STUDENT

Plato was Socrates' most famous student. He continued Socrates' work and founded the Academy in Athens.



DID YOU KNOW?

Socrates is often called the "Father of Western Philosophy" because he was the first to focus on questions about life, ethics and the human soul.

KEY WORDS

Philosopher – Someone who loves wisdom and asks big questions.

Virtue – Being good, doing what is right.

Hoplite – A foot soldier in ancient Greece.

Hemlock – A poisonous plant used to carry out the death sentence.

Dialectic – The art of discussion used to find the truth.