

The Philosophers

- I. **Socrates** 470-399 B.C.
- A. Athenian philosopher and moralist
 - B. Wrote no philosophy, but profoundly influenced the development of Greek philosophy.
 - C. Few sources of his life and work
 1. Some remarks by Aristotle, who was born 15 years after Socrates' death.
 2. The Clouds by Aristophanes, written in 423 when Socrates was 47.
 3. Plato's writings
 4. Other literary fragments
 - D. Parents, Athenian citizens.
 1. Mother was a midwife
 2. Father was a sculptor or a stonemason
 3. Wealthy
 - E. Married late in life and had three sons.
 - F. Had little concern for material things (money, property, etc.) and in later life he was extremely poor.
 - G. Served in three military efforts and was recognized for his courage.
 - H. Socratic method of learning.

You do not begin to learn until you realize that you know nothing.
 - I. Primary concern was ethics
 - J. Taught in the Agora
 - K. No interest in political affairs, but served in civic duties and governing councils.
 - L. Trial and Death of Socrates in 399
 1. Charges
 - a. Corrupting young people
 - b. Not believing in the Greek gods
 2. Penalty – death – Hemlock

Plato was absent.
 - M. Plato was Socrates' greatest student.
- II. **Plato** 428-348 B.C.
- A. Greek philosopher, one of the most brilliant figures in the history of the Western thought.
 - B. Born an Athenian
 - C. Parents – Father died when Plato was young and his wife remarried. Step-father played an active part in the political and cultural life of the age of Pericles.
 - D. Gave up any desire to enter politics when the city executed Socrates.

- E. Life was rather uneventful.
- F. In 387 he started the first university called the Academy, named after Academicus.
- G. Major area of interest was mathematics.
- H. Writings of Plato
 - 1. Dialogue Form
 - 2. *The Republic*
- I. Died at age 80 while he was still working and writing.

III. **Aristotle** 384-322 B.C.

- A. "The first great Greek scientist."
- B. From Macedonia
- C. Father was a physician.
- D. At age 17, became a student of Plato
- E. Married man.
- F. When Alexander was 13, Aristotle was called to Macedonia to teach Alexander and continued until Alexander was 20.
- G. Primary love was biology.
- H. Lyseum
- I. Gave to the world the classification of plants and animals.
- J. After Alexander died in 323, Aristotle had to leave Athens for his personal safety.