

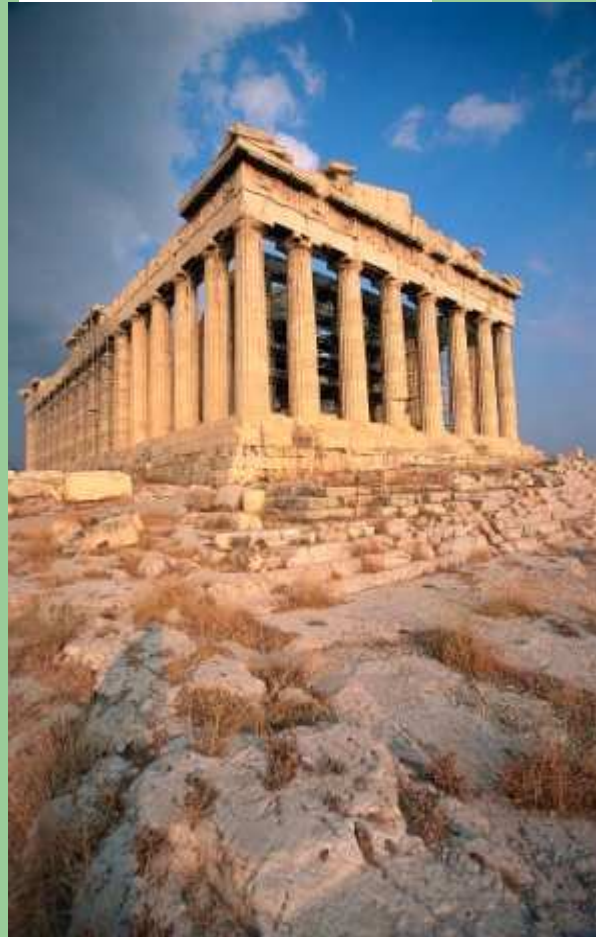
Greek Philosophers

Plato and Aristotle

Greek philosophers were ahead of their time. Two of those Greek philosophers were Plato and Aristotle. You will not only learn about their life, but will learn about their major accomplishments that made them famous. Here is a little bit of background information.

Plato, was the student of Socrates who unlike other philosophers wrote no books. After Socrates was executed Plato was left with a lifelong distrust of democracy.

Aristotle was Plato's most famous student. His effects would last for a long time.



Period 4



Work Cited:

Text Book

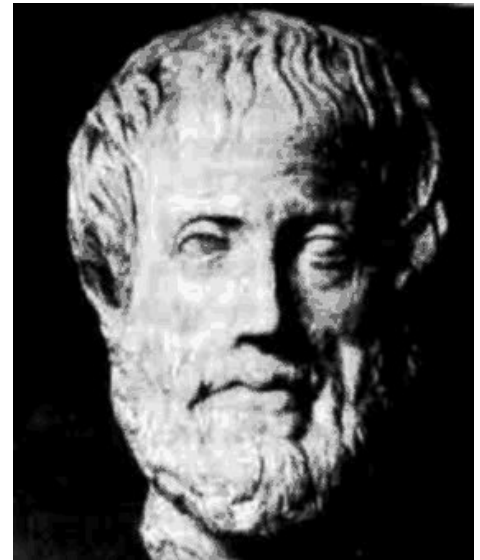
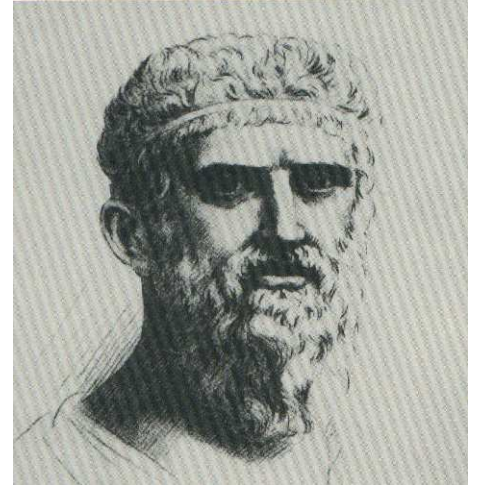
Greek Philosophers

Plato and Aristotle

The execution of Socrates left Plato with a lifelong distrust of democracy. He fled Athens for 10 years. When he returned, he set up a school called the Academy. There, he taught and wrote about his own ideas. Like Socrates, Plato emphasized the importance of reason. Through rational thought he argued, people could discover unchanging ethical values, recognize perfect beauty, and learn how to best organize society. Plato described his vision of an ideal state. He rejected Athenian democracy because it had condemned Socrates. Instead, Plato argued that the state should regulate every aspect of its citizen's lives in order to provide for their best interests. He divided his ideal society into three classes: workers to produce the necessities of life, soldiers to defend the state, and philosophers to rule. The wisest of them, a philosopher-king, would have the ultimate authority. He thought that, in general, men surpassed women in mental and physical tasks, but that some women were superior to some men. Plato died in 347 B.C.

Aristotle was Plato's most famous student. Aristotle developed his own ideas about government. He analyzed all forms of government, from monarchy to democracy, and found good and bad examples of each. Like Plato, he was suspicious of democracy, which he thought could lead to mob rule. In the end, he favored rule by a single strong and virtuous leader. He also addressed the question of how people ought to live. In his view, good conduct meant pursuing the "golden mean," a moderate course between extremes. He promoted reason as the guiding force for learning. He set up a school, the Lyceum, for the study of all branches of knowledge. He left writings on politics, ethics, logic, biology, literature, and many other subjects. When the first European universities evolved some 1,500 years later, their courses were largely based on the works of Aristotle. Aristotle died in 322 B.C.

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