

Ancient Greek Philosophy Cheat Sheet

Abbreviated Version 3.0

Philosophers are listed roughly chronologically.

Term / Movement	Details
atomism	belief that matter is composed of indivisible atoms; followers included Democritus and his teacher, Leucippus
Epicureanism	school of thought related to hedonism; named for Epicurus
hedonism	school of thought in which pleasure is the ultimate good; contrasted with stoicism
sophist	teacher of rhetoric and philosophy
stoicism	school of thought that focused on resisting the effects of destructive emotion to create "apatheia" or peace of mind; discussed in <i>Meditations</i> by Marcus Aurelius; members included Zeno of Citium and Epictetus

Philosopher	Details
Pythagoras of Samos	philosopher and mathematician; created a namesake theorem relating the side lengths of a triangle to the length of its hypotenuse; theorized about the "music of the spheres;" hated beans
Heraclitus of Ephesus	proposed that the natural world is in flux and originated in fire
Zeno of Elea	formulated numerous paradoxes, including one about Achilles and a tortoise
Socrates	teacher of Plato; forced to drink hemlock after being sentenced to death for corrupting the youth of Athens; produced no written works himself, but see Plato below for more
Plato	student of Socrates and teacher of Aristotle; wrote the Socratic dialogue (<i>The Republic</i> , which includes "The Allegory of the Cave;" wrote <i>Apology</i> ; <i>Symposium</i>
Aristotle	student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great; <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> and <i>Poetics</i> ; founded the Lyceum
Zeno of Citium	founder of stoicism
Seneca the Younger	stoic philosopher and advisor to Nero