



# SOCRATES

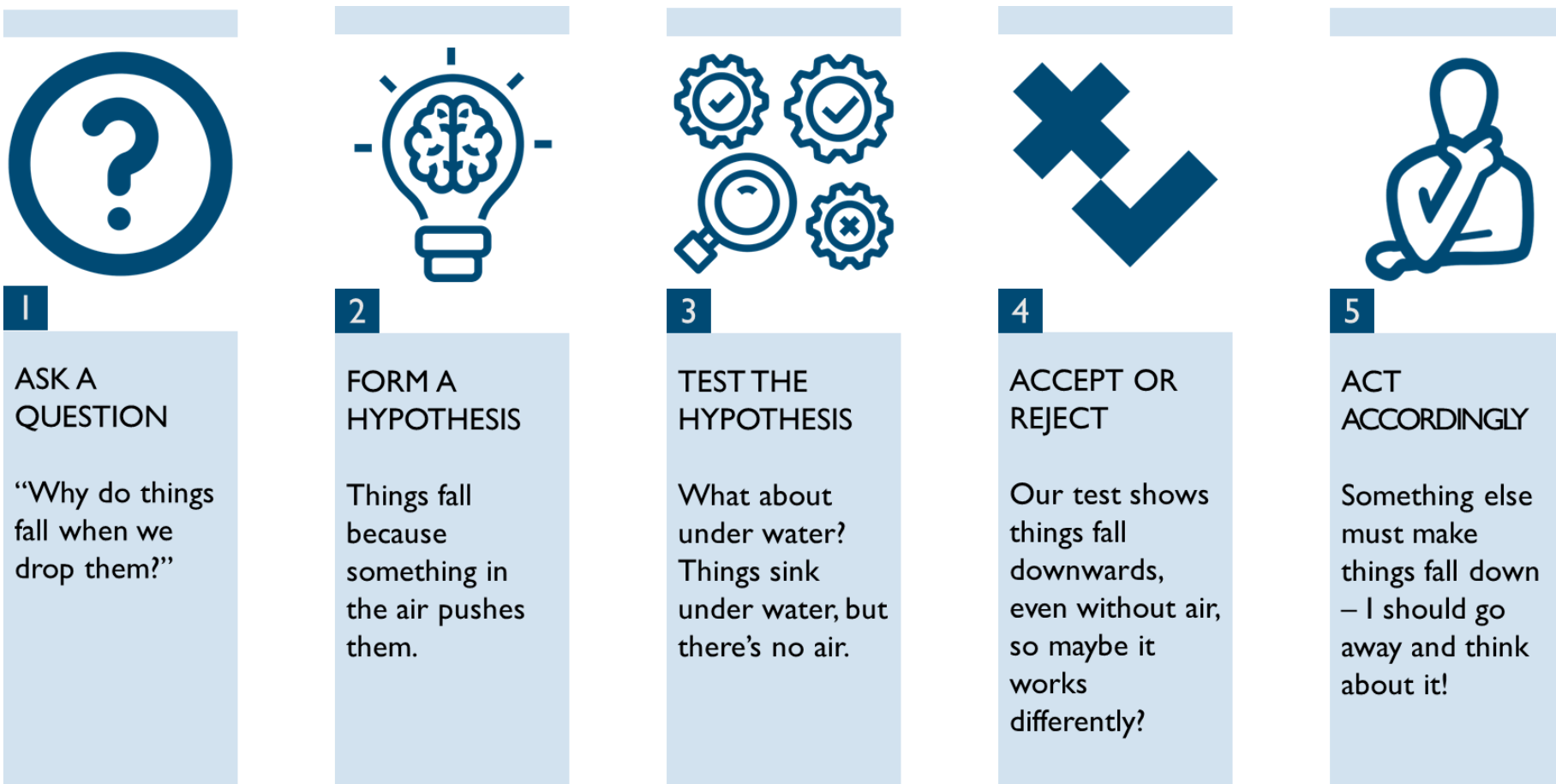
One of the **founders** of Western philosophy. Socrates never wrote anything down, but spent most of his time out in the town square talking to people about their beliefs.

Socrates would often begin arguments with people by asking them simple questions about what they thought was happening in the world. After a few moments with Socrates, many men discovered they actually knew nothing at all.

Socrates began a philosophical **movement** that attracted pupils like the famous Plato.

The Socratic method, which is famously **attributed** to Socrates, has a certain structure:

First, you think of an idea, this is called a hypothesis. Then, you test this hypothesis by discussing it, questioning it, and attempting to understand it on a deeper level. Once this has been done, you either support that hypothesis or reject it and move on to another hypothesis. Take a look below at the structured argument about gravity:



## Discussion Points

1. Socrates famously said (Plato wrote it down): ‘The only true knowledge is knowing you know nothing.’ What might he have meant by this?
2. Do you think it should be a crime to encourage people to question how they live?
3. Can you think of an example of your own Socratic argument?

## Keywords

**founder** to have started or created something.

**movement** lots of people sharing the same ideas and making things happen.

**attributed** when you attribute something to someone, you say that they invented it or came up with it.