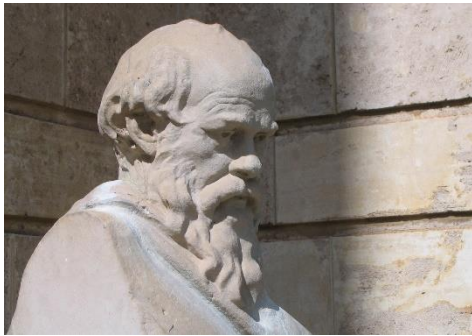




Philosophy in KS2



Socrates: 470 BC - 399 BC

One of the foundersⁱ of western Philosophy. He 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 movementⁱⁱ that attracted pupils like the famous Plato. The Socratic method, which is famously attributedⁱⁱⁱ to Socrates, has a certain structure; very simply, you think of an idea, this is called a hypothesis. 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 then move on to another hypothesis. Take a look at this structured^{iv} argument about gravity:

ⁱ Founders: to have 'founded' something. Alternative sentence: Socrates was one of the creators of western philosophy.

ⁱⁱ A movement can be understood as a moment that involves lots of people, sharing the same idea and

Socratic Method:

- 1. Ask a question** - Why do things fall when we drop them?
- 2. Form a hypothesis** – Things drop to the ground because there is something in the air pushing them down.
- 3. Test the hypothesis** – What about under water? Things still sink to the bottom when there's no air.
- 4. Accept/reject according to testing** – So if things fall to earth, or down, even when there's no air around then perhaps it doesn't work that way.
- 5. Act accordingly** – There must be some other force that pulls things down instead – I will think about this.

Socrates was sentenced to death by the Athenian government for 'corrupting the youth of the city'. He drank a poison called Hemlock in the company of all of his friends.

Discussion Points:

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

making things happen – causing changes in thinking, politics and society.

ⁱⁱⁱ Attributed – when you attribute something to someone you say that they invented it or came up with it.