### **Natural philosophy**

*Main article:* [*Natural philosophy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_philosophy)

[Natural philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_philosophy) has its origins in [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece) during the [Archaic period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaic_Greece) (650 BCE – 480 BCE), when [pre-Socratic philosophers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presocratics) like [Thales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thales) rejected [non-naturalistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodological_naturalism) explanations for natural phenomena and proclaimed that every event had a natural cause.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-singer2008p35-17) They proposed ideas verified by reason and observation, and many of their hypotheses proved successful in experiment;[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-lloyd1970pp108-109-18) for example, [atomism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomism) was found to be correct approximately 2000 years after it was proposed by [Leucippus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leucippus) and his pupil [Democritus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democritus).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-about-atomism-19)

### **Medieval European and Islamic**

*Main articles:* [*European science in the Middle Ages*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_science_in_the_Middle_Ages) *and* [*Physics in the medieval Islamic world*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics_in_the_medieval_Islamic_world)

The [Western Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire) fell in the fifth century, and this resulted in a decline in intellectual pursuits in the western part of Europe. By contrast, the Eastern Roman Empire (usually known as the [Byzantine Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire)) resisted the attacks from the barbarians, and continued to advance various fields of learning, including physics.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics#cite_note-FOOTNOTELindberg1992363-20)

In the sixth century, [Isidore of Miletus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isidore_of_Miletus) created an important compilation of [Archimedes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archimedes)' works that are copied in the [Archimedes Palimpsest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archimedes_Palimpsest)