**philosophy**

* Philosophy is the love of wisdom and exploration of fundamental questions about life.
* It touches various subjects and themes including metaphysics, logic, epistemology, aesthetics, politics, and ethics.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers questioned nature, origins, and existence using reason rather than attributing it to divine power.
* Xenophanes criticized religion and mythology, proposing a single god controlling the world through thought.
* Parmenides believed in the importance of reason and the existence of reality, influencing Western philosophy.
* Zeno of Elea defended Parmenides' ideas through paradoxes and contributed to the school of Elea using pure reason for truth.

**love of wisdom**

* Philosophy is defined as the "love of wisdom" and guides exploration of fundamental questions about existence.
* It encompasses a wide range of subjects beyond social science, including ethics, logic, politics, and more.
* Six major themes of philosophy include metaphysics, logic, epistemology, aesthetics, politics, and ethics.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers shifted focus from mythology to rational explanations of the universe and existence.
* They sought to identify a primary principle (archê) that serves as the basic material of the universe.
* Parmenides emphasized that truth could only be found through reason, not sensory experience.
* Zeno of Elea created paradoxes to defend Parmenides' ideas about reality and truth.
* The Eleatic school, founded by Parmenides, utilized pure reason as the criterion for finding truth.

**vast areas of study**

* Philosophy is the love of wisdom, exploring fundamental questions about existence and reality.
* It touches on various subjects, with no bounds; including meaning of life, knowledge, morality, reality, existence of God, consciousness, politics, religion, economics, art, and linguistics.
* Six major themes in philosophy: Metaphysics, Logic, Epistemology, Aesthetics, Politics, and Ethics.
* Pythagoras believed mathematics governed everything and was a sacred basis of reality.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers questioned the world around them, seeking rational explanations for the universe and existence, focusing on principles of change and primary materials.

**Pre-Socratic**

* The term "pre-Socratic" was popularized in 1903 by Hermann Diels and refers to Greek philosophers who existed before and around the same time as Socrates, but with different ideologies and principles.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers did not write texts that fully survived; our understanding of them is based on text fragments and quotes from later historians and philosophers.
* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged from Miletus in Anatolia (modern Turkey), including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales is considered one of the most important pre-Socratic philosophers, proposing that water is the single element (archê) and responsible for changes like evaporation and condensation.
* Following Thales, Anaximander believed in an indefinite substance called apeiron as the fundamental element, from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes, the last key philosopher of the Milesian school, proposed that air was the primary element, capable of transforming into different substances like water, fire, and earth.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers were interested in rational explanations for the world, the universe, and human existence, rather than attributing natural phenomena to gods.
* These philosophers questioned the origins of everything, what everything is made from, and sought to describe nature mathematically, focusing on the primary principle or archê of the universe.
* They explored the concept of change, hypothesizing that the archê contained principles of change to account for the variability and differing states of the universe.

**early Western philosophy**

* The roots of Western philosophy originate from Greek philosophers in the fifth and sixth centuries, known as pre-Socratic philosophers.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for the world, moving away from attributing phenomena to Greek gods.
* They focused on understanding nature, questioning the origins and composition of the universe, and the principles of change within it.
* The concept of archê was central to their philosophy, representing the fundamental material of the universe.
* The term pre-Socratic was popularized by Hermann Diels in 1903 and refers to the ideological differences from Socratic philosophy, not a chronological order.
* Most pre-Socratic texts have not survived, and our understanding is based on fragments and later interpretations, often biased.
* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged from Miletus, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales believed the archê was water, emphasizing its properties of change and importance for life.
* Anaximander proposed that the archê was an undefined substance called apeiron, from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes identified air as the archê, noting its transformative capabilities into various forms like water and fire.

**nature existence reality**

* Pre-Socratic philosophers questioned the nature of the universe, seeking rational explanations instead of attributing their surroundings to Greek gods.
* They aimed to find the primary principle, or archê, which was the basic material of the universe, and explored principles of change within it.
* Thales, one of the significant pre-Socratic philosophers, claimed that the archê was water, recognizing its potential for change through evaporation and condensation.
* Anaximander believed the archê was an undefined, unlimited substance called apeiron, from which opposed forces such as moist and dry emerged.
* Anaximenes asserted that air was the single element, transforming into various forms like water, clouds, wind, fire, and earth.
* Heraclitus emphasized the constant change (flux) in nature, proposing fire as the single element and stating that one cannot step in the same river twice.

**important Pre-Socratic schools**

* Pre-Socratic philosophers were those who came before Socrates and were known for their different ideologies and principles.
* The first pre-Socratic philosophers originated from the city of Miletus in modern Turkey.
* Thales, a significant pre-Socratic philosopher, claimed that water was the single element responsible for change through evaporation and condensation.
* Anaximander believed in an undefined, unlimited substance called apeiron, from which opposites like moist and dry emerged.
* Anaximenes believed that air was the single element and had the ability to transform into various substances.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers questioned the nature around them, seeking rational explanations and a primary principle, or archê, to explain the universe's essence.
* The roots of Western philosophy can be traced back to the work of Greek pre-Socratic philosophers during the fifth and sixth centuries.

**Milesian school**

* The Milesian school focused on the concept that everything arises from water, earth, or some other tangible substance.
* Pythagoras believed that the basis of all reality was mathematical relations and that mathematics governed everything.
* The Milesian school emphasized the importance of empirical observation and logical reasoning, rejecting mythology and traditional religion.
* Parmenides of Elea believed in the importance of using pure reason as the only criterion for finding truth, influencing Plato and Western philosophy.

**primary element**

* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged in Miletus, Anatolia (modern Turkey).
* Thales believed the primary element (archê) was water, noting its ability to change states and its role in nourishment.
* Anaximander proposed that the primary element was apeiron, an undefined and unlimited substance from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes identified air as the primary element, capable of transforming into various forms like water and fire.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, included philosophers like Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized anthropomorphic gods and proposed a singular, non-physical god.
* Parmenides argued that reality is understood through reason rather than sensory experience, emphasizing the importance of what exists.
* Zeno created paradoxes to defend Parmenides' ideas about reality and existence.
* Heraclitus, from the Ephesian school, believed in constant change and identified fire as the primary element, famously stating one cannot step in the same river twice.

**Thales**

* Thales was a pre-Socratic philosopher from Miletus, known for claiming that water is the single element (archê) of the universe.
* Thales recognized that water could change states (gaseous, solid) and was essential for moisture and nourishment.
* Thales believed the earth floated on water.
* Anaximander, another philosopher from Miletus, proposed that the single element was an undefined substance called apeiron, from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximander is noted for being the first philosopher known to have left written works.
* Anaximenes, the last major philosopher from Miletus, argued that air was the single element and could transform into other forms like water and fire.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, included philosophers like Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes critiqued anthropomorphic views of gods, proposing a singular, non-physical god who controlled the world.
* Parmenides emphasized that reality is understood through reason rather than sensory experience, criticizing earlier philosophers for asking the wrong questions.
* Parmenides' ideas significantly influenced Plato and Western philosophy, establishing pure reason as a criterion for truth.
* Zeno of Elea, a student of Parmenides, created paradoxes to defend his teacher's ideas.
* Pythagoras, a philosopher and mathematician, believed that mathematical relations were the foundation of reality and that numbers were

**Anaximander**

* Anaximander was a pre-Socratic philosopher from Miletus, following Thales.
* He proposed that the single element was an undefined and unlimited substance called apeiron.
* Anaximander is recognized as the first philosopher known to have left written works.
* He believed that opposites such as moist and dry, and cold and hot, originated from the apeiron.
* Thales, Anaximander's predecessor, claimed that water was the single element and believed the earth floated on it.
* Anaximenes, another philosopher from Miletus, asserted that air was the single element and could transform into other substances.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, included philosophers like Xenophanes, Parmenides, and Zeno.
* Xenophanes criticized anthropomorphic gods and proposed a singular, non-physical god.
* Parmenides argued that reality is understood through reason rather than sensory experience, impacting later philosophers like Plato.
* Zeno created paradoxes to defend Parmenides’ ideas about reality.

**indefinite substance**

* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged in Miletus, Anatolia (modern Turkey).
* Thales believed that the single element (archê) was water, which could change states (gaseous, solid) and was essential for moisture and nourishment.
* Anaximander proposed that the single element was an undefined, unlimited substance called apeiron, from which opposites like moist and dry emerged.
* Anaximander is noted for being the first philosopher known to have left written works.
* Anaximenes claimed that air was the single element, capable of transforming into various forms like water, clouds, and fire.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for the world, moving away from attributing phenomena to the gods.
* They aimed to identify a primary principle (archê) that served as the basic material of the universe.
* The concept of change was important to pre-Socratic thought, as they recognized that not everything remains the same.
* Heraclitus, from the Ephesian school, emphasized constant change in nature, famously stating that one cannot step in the same river twice.
* Heraclitus identified fire as the single element, viewing everything as a manifestation of fire.

**Anaximenes**

* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged from Miletus, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales believed the single element (archê) was water, which could change states and was essential for life.
* Anaximander proposed that the single element was apeiron, an undefined and unlimited substance from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes identified air as the single element, capable of transforming into various forms like water, clouds, and fire.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, included philosophers like Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized anthropomorphic gods and advocated for a singular, non-physical god.
* Parmenides argued that reality is understood through reason rather than sensory experience, emphasizing the importance of what exists.
* Zeno, a student of Parmenides, created paradoxes to defend his teacher's ideas about reality and existence.
* Heraclitus, from the Ephesian school, believed in constant change in nature and identified fire as the fundamental element.

**fundamental element**

* The roots of Western philosophy began with Greek philosophers in the fifth and sixth centuries, known as pre-Socratic philosophers, who sought rational explanations for the universe and existence.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers were focused on discovering a primary principle or fundamental element, known as archê, that constituted the universe and accounted for change.
* Thales, one of the pre-Socratic philosophers from Miletus, believed that water was the fundamental element due to its ability to change states and play a crucial role in life processes.
* Anaximander, another philosopher from Miletus, proposed that the fundamental element was apeiron, an undefined and indefinite substance from which opposites separated.
* Anaximenes, a successor of Thales and Anaximander, claimed air to be the fundamental element, capable of transformation into various forms such as water and fire.
* Heraclitus of Ephesus, from the Ephesian school, emphasized the constant flux or change in nature and considered fire as the fundamental element representing this transformation and unity of opposites.

**Pythagorean school**

* Pythagoras was a philosopher and mathematician who believed that mathematical relations were the basis of all reality and governed everything.
* Pythagoras considered numbers sacred and thought that everything could be measured and predicted with mathematics.
* Pythagoras's school was cult-like, with followers adhering to his teachings and strange rules regarding various aspects of life.
* Followers of Pythagoras believed his teachings were divine prophecies.
* The Eleatic school was based in Colophon and included philosophers such as Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized religion and mythology, particularly the anthropomorphism of gods, and believed in a single god with cognitive abilities.
* Parmenides argued that reality is apprehended through reason and that existence is the only thing worth discussing.
* Parmenides had a significant impact on Western philosophy and the school of Elea, which advocated pure reason for finding truth.
* Zeno of Elea, a student of Parmenides, created paradoxes to support Parmenides' ideas.
* The city of Miletus was home to the first pre-Socratic philosophers, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales proposed that water was the fundamental element of nature capable of change into different states.
* Anaximander suggested an indefinite substance called apeiron as the foundational element, from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes believed air was the primary element, capable of transforming into various other natural forms.