**Philosophy**

* Philosophy means "love of wisdom" and involves exploring fundamental questions about life and existence.
* Philosophy is a social science that extends beyond academia and applies to various real-world contexts, including ethics in government and logic in computer programming.
* Philosophy encompasses diverse subjects, including life, knowledge, morality, reality, the existence of God, consciousness, politics, religion, economics, art, and linguistics.
* There are six major themes in philosophy: metaphysics, logic, epistemology, aesthetics, politics, and ethics.
* The roots of Western philosophy originated 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 explored the nature of the universe, mathematical descriptions, and principles of change in search of a primary material, or archê.
* The term pre-Socratic, established in 1903 by Hermann Diels, indicates a difference in ideology and not a chronological order before Socrates.
* Much of what is known about pre-Socratic philosophers comes from fragmentary texts and quotes from later historians and philosophers, often biased.

**Love of wisdom**

* Pythagoras believed in the power of mathematics to describe and predict reality, considering numbers sacred.
* His school had a cult-like following, even for his strange rules about daily life.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, featured four influential pre-Socratic philosophers: Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized religion and mythology, favoring the notion of a single god controlling the world through thought.
* Parmenides argued that reality was not about the perceived world, but about using reason to find the truth.
* Parmenides' ideas had a profound impact on Plato and Western philosophy, emphasizing pure reason as a path to truth.
* Zeno, Parmenides' student, defended his teacher's ideas with paradoxes that reinforced their views.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers began questioning the world around them, searching for rational explanations and primary principles of the universe.

**Nature**

* Greek philosophers during the fifth and sixth centuries, known as pre-Socratic philosophers, started seeking rational explanations for the world, universe, and existence rather than attributing them to Greek gods.
* These philosophers focused on a philosophy of nature, questioning origins, composition, mathematical description of nature, and explaining plurality in nature.
* They sought a primary principle, or archê, as the basic material of the universe, and identified principles of change it must contain due to the variability of the universe.
* Miletus, located along the western coast of Anatolia (modern Turkey), was home to three important pre-Socratic philosophers: Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales, an influential pre-Socratic philosopher, believed the archê was water, which could change states and was essential for moisture, heat, and nourishment. He also thought the earth floated on water.
* Anaximander, following Thales, proposed that the single element was an indefinite substance called apeiron, from which opposite properties like moist/dry and cold/hot emerged. He was the first known philosopher to leave written works.
* Anaximenes, the last major philosopher from the Milesian school, believed air was the fundamental element, capable of transformation into water, clouds, wind, fire, and even earth.
* Pythagoras, a renowned philosopher and mathematician, posited that mathematical relations formed the basis of reality, with mathematics governing everything. He regarded numbers as sacred and believed everything could be measured and predicted. His teachings were highly influential, and his school functioned with cult-like adherence to his doctrines and rules.

**Existence**

* The roots of Western philosophy began with pre-Socratic Greek philosophers questioning the world around them.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for existence rather than attributing it to the gods.
* They aimed to find a primary principle, known as archê, which represented the basic material of the universe.
* The Eleatic school produced significant philosophers like Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized anthropomorphic gods and proposed a singular, non-physical god.
* Parmenides emphasized that reality is understood through reason, not the senses, and focused on the concept of "what exists."
* Zeno created paradoxes to defend Parmenides' ideas about existence and reality.
* Thales identified water as the archê, noting its ability to change states and its essential role in life.
* Anaximander proposed the apeiron as the undefined substance from which opposites emerge.
* Anaximenes suggested that air is the archê, capable of transforming into various forms like water and fire.

**Reality**

* Philosophy is the "love of wisdom" and explores fundamental questions about existence.
* It is more than a social science; it touches on a wide range of subjects.
* Philosophy has practical applications in diverse fields like government policy, computer programming, and ethics.
* Major themes of philosophy include metaphysics, logic, epistemology, aesthetics, politics, and ethics.
* Western philosophy has roots in Greek philosophers during the fifth and sixth centuries, known as pre-Socratic philosophers.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers searched for rational explanations of the world, focusing on a primary principle called archê.
* Pythagoras believed reality was governed by mathematical relations and had a cult-like following devoted to his teachings.

**Pre-Socratic**

* The term pre-Socratic refers to philosophers before Socrates and was popularized by Hermann Diels in 1903.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers lived during the same time as Socrates, but their ideologies differ from his.
* Most knowledge about pre-Socratic philosophers comes from fragments of their texts and biased quotes from later historians.
* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged from Miletus, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales believed that water was the archê, the single element responsible for change and nourishment.
* Anaximander proposed that the archê was an undefined substance called apeiron, from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes identified air as the archê, capable of transforming into various forms like water and fire.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for the world, moving away from attributing phenomena to the gods.
* They questioned the origins of existence, the nature of the universe, and the principles of change within it.
* The search for a primary principle, or archê, was central to their philosophy, aiming to understand the material basis of the universe.

**Early Western philosophy**

* The roots of Western philosophy are found in the work of Greek philosophers from the fifth and sixth centuries, known as pre-Socratic philosophers.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers questioned the world around them to find rational explanations, moving away from attributing phenomena to Greek gods.
* Their philosophy focused on nature, questioning the origins, composition, and mathematical description of the universe, and seeking the existence of plurality in nature.
* The concept of archê, the primary principle, was central to their philosophy, being the basic material of the universe that contained principles of change.
* The term pre-Socratic, popularized in 1903 by Hermann Diels, distinguishes the philosophical ideas before Socrates, despite some philosophers living during his time.
* Most pre-Socratic texts have not survived fully, and our understanding comes from fragments and later quotes, often with bias.
* The Eleatic school, originating in Colophon, produced notable philosophers such as Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes was known for critiquing religion and mythology, promoting the idea of a singular, non-anthropomorphic god.
* Parmenides emphasized that true reality could only be understood through reason, not sensory experience, impacting Plato and Western philosophy significantly.
* Zeno of Elea, a student of Parmenides, created paradoxes to defend Parmenides’ ideas, focusing on logical reasoning.

**Milesian School**

* Pythagoras believed that mathematical relations were the basis of all reality and that mathematics governed everything.
* Pythagoras' teachings were considered sacred by his followers, who adhered to strict rules regarding lifestyle and behavior.
* The Eleatic school, based in Colophon, included important pre-Socratic philosophers such as Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes criticized anthropomorphic views of gods and proposed a singular, non-physical god that controlled the world through thought.
* Parmenides argued that reality is not based on sensory experience but on reason, claiming that only what exists is worthy of discussion.
* Parmenides' ideas significantly influenced Plato and the development of Western philosophy, emphasizing pure reason as the criterion for truth.
* Zeno of Elea, a student of Parmenides, created paradoxes to defend his teacher's philosophical ideas.
* Heraclitus, from the Ephesian school, posited that everything in nature is in a constant state of change, famously stating that one cannot step in the same river twice.

**Primary element in nature**

* Thales claimed the primary element was water, responsible for change through evaporation and condensation.
* Anaximander believed the primary element was apeiron, an undefined, unlimited, and indefinite substance that gave rise to opposites.
* Anaximenes believed the primary element was air, capable of transforming into various forms like water, fire, and earth.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers searched for a primary principle, or archê, to explain the universe and the nature around them.
* They also sought principles of change within the archê to account for the different states and forms found in the universe.
* Heraclitus believed in the constant change or flux of nature, with fire as the primary element, and stated that one cannot step in the same river twice.

**Archê**

* Western philosophy's roots can be traced back to pre-Socratic Greek philosophers who sought rational explanations for the universe, rather than attributing everything to the gods.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers looked for a primary principle, called archê, which was the fundamental substance of the universe and contained principles of change.
* The Eleatic school originated in Colophon, with notable philosophers such as Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus.
* Xenophanes critiqued religion and the anthropomorphic portrayal of gods, proposing instead a single, thought-controlling deity.
* Parmenides argued that reality is discerned through reason, not the senses, and challenged prior philosophical notions, emphasizing that only what truly exists is worth discussing.
* Zeno, a follower of Parmenides, crafted paradoxes to support and defend his mentor's ideas.
* The first pre-Socratic philosophers originated from Miletus, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales proposed that water was the archê due to its capacity for change and its role in nourishment and heat generation.
* Anaximander suggested the archê was an indefinite substance called apeiron, from which opposing elements emerged.
* Anaximenes identified air as the archê, citing its omnipresence and transformative abilities into various states like water, wind, and fire.

**Thales**

* Thales was a significant pre-Socratic philosopher from Miletus, Anatolia, who considered water the fundamental element (archê) of the universe.
* Thales believed that water could change forms (evaporation, condensation) and was essential for moisture and life.
* Anaximander, succeeding Thales, proposed that the archê was an indefinite substance called apeiron, from which opposing elements originated.
* Anaximenes, another philosopher from Miletus, posited that air was the primary element and could transform into other substances like water and fire.
* Xenophanes from Colophon critiqued anthropomorphic concepts of gods and suggested a singular god that controlled the world through thought.
* Parmenides argued for the primacy of reason over sensory experience to understand reality, critiquing earlier philosophers for asking the wrong questions.
* Zeno of Elea defended Parmenides' ideas through paradoxes and was a student of Parmenides.
* Pythagoras believed in the fundamental role of mathematics in understanding reality, establishing a cult-like following centered on mathematical and mystical teachings.

**Water as primary element**

* Thales claimed that water is the archê, or single element, responsible for change and nourishment.
* Thales believed that the earth floated on water and recognized water's ability to exist in different states (gaseous, solid).
* Anaximander proposed that the single element is apeiron, an undefined and unlimited substance from which opposites emerge.
* Anaximander is noted for being the first philosopher to leave written works.
* Anaximenes identified air as the single element, capable of transforming into various forms like water, clouds, and fire.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for the universe, moving away from attributing phenomena to the gods.
* They aimed to identify a primary principle (archê) that serves as the basic material of the universe.
* The concept of change was essential to their philosophy, as they recognized that not everything remains in the same state.
* Heraclitus emphasized constant change in nature, famously stating that one cannot step in the same river twice.
* Heraclitus believed that fire is the single element and that everything is a manifestation of fire.

**Anaximander**

* Anaximander was a pre-Socratic philosopher from Miletus, active around 610–546 B.C.
* He followed Thales as an important philosopher of the Milesian school.
* Anaximander proposed that the fundamental element of the universe was not a known substance but an indefinite, unlimited substance called apeiron.
* He believed that opposites like moist and dry or hot and cold separated from this apeiron.
* Anaximander is credited as the first philosopher known to have left writings of his work.

**Indefinite substance (apeiron)**

* The first pre-Socratic philosophers emerged in Miletus, Anatolia, including Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes.
* Thales proposed that water was the single element (archê) and recognized its ability to change states.
* Anaximander introduced the concept of apeiron, an undefined and indefinite substance from which opposites emerged.
* Anaximenes believed air was 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, dismissing earlier philosophical inquiries.
* Zeno created paradoxes to defend Parmenides' ideas about the nature of existence.
* Pre-Socratic philosophers sought rational explanations for the universe, moving away from mythological interpretations.
* They aimed to identify a primary principle (archê) as the fundamental material of the universe, acknowledging principles of change.

**Anaximenes**

* Anaximenes was a pre-Socratic philosopher from Miletus, along the western coast of Anatolia, modern-day Turkey.
* He was part of the Milesian school of philosophy and lived from 585 to 528 b.c.
* Anaximenes believed that air was the single fundamental element, or archê, from which everything else is derived.
* He posited that air could transform into other substances such as water, clouds, wind, fire, and earth through processes of rarefaction and condensation.
* Anaximenes was one of three important philosophers from Miletus, following Thales and Anaximander.