

world are to be sought within its boundaries, and that autonomous human reason is our sole and sufficient instrument for the search.

• Its first exponents, Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes, were citizens of Miletus, an Ionian Greek city on the west coast of Asia Minor, from the beginning of the 6th century B.C. onward.

Why did Philosophy Begin in Ionia?

• Geography, Trade and Cultural Exchange:

• Ionia, located on the western coast of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), was a wealthy and cosmopolitan region during the early 6th century BCE.

• Its proximity to older civilizations — Babylon, Egypt and Phoenicia — meant frequent contact with advanced ideas in mathematics, astronomy and religion.