

Socrates Worksheet

By **Really Learn English**

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Socrates was a Greek philosopher in ancient times. A “philosopher” is a person who thinks about what it means to be a person and what it means to be alive. Philosophers often talk about the relationship between the body and the mind or between a person and nature.

Socrates lived in Athens, Greece. He was born in 469 BCE (before the Common Era). His father was a mason (a person who builds things out of stones) and his mother was a midwife (a person who helps women give birth to babies).

At first, Socrates was a mason like his father. When he got older, he realized that he was more interested in understanding why people act the way that they do. He also believed that the mind (people's thoughts) was more important than the body. He wanted to learn more and think more. So, he became a philosopher.

Socrates had three main ideas or philosophies about people. First, he believed that people choose to do things because they want to be happy. People will not do things that make them unhappy.

Second, Socrates believed that the best knowledge or wisdom comes from really understanding yourself. This means that people who really understand who they are and why they do what they do are the smartest people.

Finally, Socrates believed that the more knowledge a person has, the better choices he will make and the happier he will be. This means that the more a person understands himself, the easier it will be for him make choices that make him happy.

Unlike many philosophers, Socrates didn't write books or plays about his beliefs. Instead, he went around Athens and talked to people. He asked them questions about what they believed and talked to them about what he believed. Today, this kind of teaching is called the "Socratic Method." A "method" is a way of doing something. The "Socratic Method" is a way of teaching philosophy.



Many people in Athens enjoyed talking to Socrates. They thought he was funny and interesting. However, some other people did not enjoy talking to him. They thought that he threatened the way that people in Athens lived. “Threaten” means to put in danger.

During Socrates’s life, Athens was going through a very difficult time. They had become less powerful than they had been. Some people in Athens thought that Socrates and his questions were making it too difficult for them. Socrates was put on trial. “Put on trial” means that you are accused of a crime and you go to court to defend yourself. He was found guilty and sentenced (punished) to death. He died in 399 BCE.

Everything that historians know about Socrates comes from the writings of his students. His two most famous students were named Plato and Xenophon. Both of these men wrote many dialogues (conversations) about Socrates and his beliefs. Today, these dialogues help historians and people know what Socrates thought. These dialogues are some of the reasons why many people today consider (think of) Socrates as the father of Western philosophy.

Socrates Worksheet – Exercises

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Where and when was Socrates born?

2. What was one of Socrates's beliefs?

3. How do historians today know what Socrates thought?

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence "Socrates was a Greek philosopher"

Negative: Socrates was not a Greek Philosopher

Yes/No Question: Was Socrates a Greek Philosopher?

WH-Question: What was Socrates?

Tag Question: Socrates was a Greek philosopher, wasn't he?

1. Socrates lived in Athens, Greece.

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

2. Socrates became a philosopher.

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

3. Many people enjoyed talking to Socrates.

Negative: _____

Yes/No Question: _____

WH-Question: _____

Tag Question: _____

C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Socrates had three main ideas or philosophies _____ people.

- a) about b) with c) and

2. Socrates didn't write books or plays about _____ beliefs.

- a) her b) he c) his

3. He went around Athens and talked _____ people.

- a) in b) on c) to

4. However, _____ other people did not enjoy talking to him.

- a) much b) some c) very

5. Socrates _____ put on trial.

- a) is b) was c) were

6. His two _____ famous students were named Plato and Xenophon.

- a) a lot b) some c) most

7. At first, Socrates was _____ mason like his father.

- a) a b) an c) the

8. He believed that the mind was more important _____ the body.

- a) to b) than c) but

Socrates Worksheet – Answers

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Where and when was Socrates born?

Socrates was born in Athens, Greece in 469 B.C.E.

2. What was one of Socrates's beliefs?

Socrates believed: 1) That people choose to do things that will make them happy. 2) That the most knowledge comes from understanding yourself. 3) That the more knowledge you have, the better choices you make and the happier you will be.

3. How do historians today know what Socrates thought?

Historians know what Socrates thought because of the writings (dialogues) of his students, Plato and Xenophon.

B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

Examples for the sentence "Socrates was a Greek philosopher"

Negative: Socrates was not a Greek Philosopher

Yes/No Question: Was Socrates a Greek Philosopher?

WH-Question: What was Socrates?

Tag Question: Socrates was a Greek philosopher, wasn't he?

1. Socrates lived in Athens, Greece.

Negative: Socrates did not live in Athens, Greece.

Yes/No Question: Did Socrates live in Athens, Greece?

WH-Question: Where did Socrates live?

Tag Question: Socrates lived in Athens, Greece, didn't he?

2. Socrates became a philosopher.

Negative: Socrates did not become a philosopher.

Yes/No Question: Did Socrates become a philosopher?

WH-Question: What did Socrates become?

Tag Question: Socrates became a philosopher, didn't he?

3. Many people enjoyed talking to Socrates.

Negative: Many people did not enjoy talking to Socrates.

Yes/No Question: Did many people enjoy talking to Socrates?

WH-Question: Who enjoyed talking to Socrates?

Tag Question: Many people enjoyed talking to Socrates, didn't they?

C. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Socrates had three main ideas or philosophies **about** people.

- a) about b) with c) and

2. Socrates didn't write books or plays about **his** beliefs.

- a) her b) he c) his

3. He went around Athens and talked **to** people.

- a) in b) on c) to

4. However, **some** other people did not enjoy talking to him.

- a) much b) some c) very

5. Socrates **was** put on trial.

- a) is b) was c) were

6. His two **most** famous students were named Plato and Xenophon.

- a) a lot b) some c) most

7. At first, Socrates was **a** mason like his father.

- a) a b) an c) the

8. He believed that the mind was more important **than** the body.

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