

Social Studies

Complex Instruction: Philosophers of Ancient Greece

Overview: These complex instruction tasks invite students to work creatively while examining the different philosophies of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. Students work in small groups of three and may need to use classroom and school resources as well as the Internet to expand on their textbook readings about these philosophers. Following the completion of these tasks, students can engage in small or whole group discussions about the influence of past thinkers on the way we live and think today and can begin to evaluate their own philosophies.

Standards:

- Recognize and analyze the achievements of Ancient Greek civilization
- Assess the enduring contributions of the Ancient Greeks

Objectives:

The students will **KNOW**

- The fundamental philosophies of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato.

The students will **UNDERSTAND THAT**

- Philosophers and thinkers through time have been affected by and have reflected the times and cultures in which they have lived.
- Thinkers of the past have impacted ideas in the present.
- Examining different philosophies invites us to examine our own as well.

The students will **BE ABLE TO**

- Explain, compare, and contrast the philosophies of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato.
- Conduct research.
- Connect the past and the present.

Basis for Differentiation: Student learning profile

Task One (the artist)

Create three cartoon strips of at least three frames each that demonstrate the philosophies of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato (one cartoon strip will address Socrates, another will address Aristotle, and the last will address Plato). You must address these philosophers' ideas about leadership/government and its role in the lives of people, education, and ethics. What scenarios might you be able to use to illustrate their ideas?

Lastly, create another cartoon of at least three frames that shows how their philosophies are at work in today's society.

Task Two (the writer)

Create the dialogue for a panel discussion that you facilitate that includes Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. This panel discussion should help us get to know each of these philosophers and his ideas. Be sure to have them answer questions that give us insight into their thoughts about leadership/government and its role in the lives of people, education, and ethics. How might they respond to one another's ideas? Let them do the talking!

Then write a paragraph explaining how these ancient philosophers' ideas are at work in today's society.

Task Three (the performer)

Write and perform a one-person show in which you play these three ancient Greek philosophers: Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. If they could talk to us now, what might they say about their ideas about leadership/government and its role in the lives of people, education, and ethics? How might they state their philosophies?

Your performance should be both entertaining and informative. Be sure to end it by explaining how these philosophers' ideas are still relevant today.