

Greek philosophy and medicine provided the underpinnings of the Scientific method

Philosopher	Date	Concepts, etc.
Thales	585 BCE	Predicted a total eclipse of the sun
Anaximandros	Student of Thales	Explained the world without any reference to the Greek gods; the movement of the universe and the precision of its cycles suggested that the world was a mechanism.
Socrates	469 BCE	Atheist, specialized in logical dialogue.
Hippocrates	400 BCE	Dismissed the notion that magic or spirits could cause or cure disease. Doctor ought to make careful observations of the symptoms. Start of physiology and anatomy as basis for curing disease.
Plato	429 BCE	Gods are not real; rationalist descriptions of the Universe.
Aristotle	Student of Plato	Dismissed Greek myths about their gods; mechanical view of the Universe.
Euclid	300 BCE	Known for his development of geometry, claimed that the world could be uncoded and understood through mathematics.
Hellenistic Age Cynics, Stoics, Epicureans	323 – 31 BCE	Naturalistic and ethical philosophy no-nonsense realism.
Carneades of Cyrene; a noted skeptic	200 BCE	Attacked the idea of argument by design – the idea that the world was so wonderful that it must have been created by an intelligence – he pointed out problems in the design. No intelligence seemed to be at work behind agonizing diseases, poisonous snakes, crocodiles and tidal waves. (Hurricanes !)
Alexandrian School		
Eratosthenes	200 BCE	Measured the circumference of the earth; sun is overhead at Syrene (Aswan) on June 21, but inclined 7° at Alexandria; value of circumference of 42,000 km (40,000 km is modern value).
Aristarchus	280 BCE	Proposed sun—centered model of the Universe, but could not explain lack of apparent <u>parallax</u> from winter to summer. <u>Parallax</u> of stars was first measured by Frederick Wilhelm Bessel in 1838. Star

		61 Cygni had parallax of 1/3 of arc second.
Ptolemy His model of the Universe lasted for 1,400 years !	85 – 165 CE	Wrote Almagest, mathematical treatise of the motions of the sun, moon and planets (the five known to the ancients). Earth – centered system described by Aristotle. Cycles and epicycles .