

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Plato

What we know about Socrates comes mostly from his student, Plato. Plato called Socrates "the best of all men I have ever known." Plato wrote down his teacher's ideas in a series of dialogues. A dialogue is a conversation between two people.

Plato was a young man when he began to study with Socrates. Plato came from a very wealthy and powerful family. He was named Aristocles, but he was better known as Plato, a nickname that means "broad." Plato's nickname could have referred either to the philosopher's broad shoulders, or to the breadth of his great intellect.

When Socrates died, Plato left Athens for more than a decade. He returned to start the *Academy*, a school where Plato and his invited guests would discuss philosophy.

Plato saw his imperfect world and thought of ways he could improve society. Plato wrote about utopia. A utopia is an imaginary place where governments and social conditions are perfect. No government has ever adopted Plato's ideas, but his

philosophy influenced leaders for over two thousand years.

Plato argued in favor of an "aristocracy of merit," or rule by the best and the wisest people. Plato believed that government should raise all children so that everyone would have equal opportunities. Schools would test students on a regular basis. Students who did poorly would be sent to work, while those who did well would continue their studies. Plato believed a small group of intelligent and educated men and women should govern society. This small group would select the best and the brightest students to join them.

Later in his life Plato mentored a young man named Aristotle. A mentor is someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person. Aristotle's ideas would form the basis of modern science.



## Fill in the Blanks

Plato was a p\_\_i\_\_o\_\_o\_\_h\_\_r who studied with S\_\_c\_\_a\_\_es. A d\_\_c\_\_de after Socrates' d\_\_a\_\_h, Plato used his family's \*w\_\_a\_\_th to open a school called the A\_\_a\_\_e\_\_y. Plato tried to imagine a perfect world called a u\_\_o\_\_ia. In Plato's utopia all c\_\_i\_\_d\_\_en had equal o\_\_p\_\_r\_\_u\_\_i\_\_y because the children would be r\_\_i\_\_ed by the g\_\_v\_\_r\_\_m\_\_nt. Plato imagined a world governed by its most i\_\_t\_\_l\_\_i\_\_e\_\_t citizens. No government has adopted Plato's ideas of a utopia, but his philosophy i\_\_f\_\_u\_\_n\_\_ed leaders for over two \*m\_\_l\_\_e\_\_n\_\_a. Late in life, Plato m\_\_n\_\_o\_\_ed a young man named A\_\_i\_\_t\_\_t\_\_e. Aristotle's ideas would form the b\_\_s\_\_s of modern s\_\_i\_\_n\_\_e.

## Answer in complete sentences

1. Do you agree or disagree with Plato's idea of a utopia? Explain your reasoning.

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\*2. What is a mentor? Who is your mentor? Explain your reasoning.

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\*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.