

Aristotle Greek Philosopher

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Aristotle lived many years ago. He was born in a Greek colony about 350 years before the birth of Christ (B.C.) His father, Nichomachus, was the physician for the king of Macedonia. Unfortunately Nichomachus died when Aristotle was quite young. When he was 17 years old he was sent to Athens to study. Athens was a center of learning and he joined the Academy and studied for twenty years under Plato who was the foremost philosopher and teacher of that time. When Plato died Aristotle left Athens and went to Mysia where he taught for three years in the king's court and married the king's daughter Pythias. They had a daughter and Pythias died when she was a young woman. Some writers claim that Philip, king of Macedonia, invited him to come and teach his son Alexander who was 13 years old at the time. He tutored him for five years. This same Alexander would later go on to conquer the then-known world. He returned to Athens. Aristotle set up his own school, the Lyceum, he would teach there for 13 years. The school he started continued for more than two hundred years. Aristotle was a genius. He studied many different subjects; science, plants, animals, the human body, weather, the earth, the heavens, politics, government, ethics and philosophy. He taught moderation, urging his students to follow the middle road between extremes. He defined virtue as the disposition of the soul that promotes human flourishing. Aristotle thought common men of virtue were capable of governing themselves. He died soon afterward in 322 B.C. at the age of 62.



Answer each question.

1. What do you know about the early life of Aristotle?
2. What did he do in Mysia?
3. What did some writers claim about Aristotle?
4. Where did Aristotle set up his school?
5. How many subjects did Aristotle study?
6. What were the teachings of Aristotle and when did he die?