focus to moral philosophy. But it seems that Archelaus also talked a little about morals—like what laws are and what is right and wrong. Socrates got some of his ideas from Archelaus, and because Socrates developed them further, people often thought they were his original ideas.

III. Archelaus believed that two main forces—heat and cold—cause things to be created. He thought that all living things came from mud. He also said that right and wrong aren't natural but are created by people through laws. He explained his thinking like this: when heat melts water, and fire acts on it, it becomes solid and turns into earth. If the water is melted again, it turns into air. So, the earth is surrounded by air and influenced by it, and air is changed by fire. He believed that animals came from warm earth, which produced a thick, milk-like substance that became their food. In the same way, people were created.

He was also the first to say that sound is made when air is struck. He thought the sea came from water that filtered through the earth's hollows and became thick and salty. He said the sun was the biggest of the stars and that the universe has no end.

IV. There were also three other people named Archelaus. One was a geographer who wrote about the places Alexander the Great traveled through. Another was a poet who wrote about things that have two natures. The third was a public speaker who wrote a book explaining the rules of his craft.

LIFE OF SOCRATES.

I. Socrates was the son of Sophroniscus, a sculptor, and Phaenarete, a midwife. He was from the Athenian district of Alopece.

II. Some people believed that Socrates helped the playwright Euripides with his works. Mnesimachus joked about this in a play, saying that Socrates was really the one behind Euripides' ideas. Other comic writers like Callias and Aristophanes also teased Socrates for his involvement in intellectual discussions and philosophical ideas.

III. It's said that Socrates was first a student of Anaxagoras or Damon, but after Anaxagoras was condemned, he became a student of Archelaus, a natural philosopher. According to Aristoxenus, they were very close.

IV. Duris claims that Socrates was once a slave who worked carving stones, and that he even sculpted the famous statues of the Graces in Athens. Timon described him as a sharp thinker who taught Greeks how to argue, calling him clever and witty.

V. Socrates was skilled in argument and speech. According to Xenophon, the thirty tyrants of Athens banned him from teaching others how to debate. Aristophanes made fun of him in plays, saying he could twist any argument. He and his student Aeschines were said to be the first to teach people how to speak and argue well. Socrates was also the first philosopher known to speak mostly about human life, and he was the first to be executed for his philosophy. Aristoxenus said he also worked as a money lender, collecting interest and re-lending it. Demetrius of Byzantium said that Criton admired Socrates so much that he convinced him to stop working and start teaching instead.

VI. When Socrates realized that studying nature didn't help people with daily life, he turned to studying how people should live. He taught in the marketplace and even in his workshop. He said his focus was on what helps or harms people in their own homes. While discussing ideas, he was often mocked, beaten, or laughed at—but he stayed calm. Once, after being kicked and asked why he didn't fight back, he said, "If a donkey had kicked me, would you expect me to sue it?"

VII. Unlike many philosophers, Socrates didn't travel much unless he had to for military service. He stayed in Athens and talked with anyone willing to have a conversation—not to argue for the sake of winning, but to search for truth. When Euripides gave him a hard book by Heraclitus, Socrates said, "What I understand is good, and I believe the rest is too—but it would take a deep diver to get to the bottom of it." He kept his body strong and in good shape. In the battle of Delium, he saved Xenophon's life and stayed calm during the retreat. He also fought at Potidaea and once stood still in one spot all night during that campaign. Though he deserved an award for bravery, he let Alcibiades take the honor. Some say he once traveled with Archelaus to Samos, and others say he visited Delphi and the Isthmus.

VIII. Socrates was brave and loyal to democracy. He refused to obey the tyrant Critias, who told him to help kill an innocent man. He was the only one who voted to spare the ten generals. When given the chance to escape prison, he chose to stay and face his punishment. Even while in jail, he continued to give thoughtful speeches, which are still preserved today.

IX. Socrates lived simply and didn't care about wealth. When Alcibiades offered him land to build a house, Socrates replied, "If I needed shoes and you gave me a whole piece of leather, wouldn't that be silly?" He often looked at the items for sale in the market and said, "So many things I don't need." He once said that fine silver and purple robes were for actors, not for real people. He turned down offers from powerful men like Archelaus and Scopas who wanted to pay him to visit. He was so healthy and disciplined that, during a plague, he didn't get sick.

X. Aristotle says Socrates had two wives. One was Xanthippe, and they had a son named Lamprocles. The other was Myrto, the daughter of Aristides the Just, and with her he had two sons, Sophroniscus and Menexenus. Some say Myrto was actually his first wife. Others, like Satyrus and Hieronymus, say he had both at the same time because Athens once passed a law to help grow the population, allow-

Socrates wasn't the only one the Athenians treated unfairly. They once fined the famous poet Homer 50 drachmas for being "crazy," said Tyrtaeus was insane, and even gave a statue to Astydamas before honoring Aeschylus. Euripides criticized them in his play Palamedes, saying:

"You have killed, you have killed,

O Greeks, the wise nightingale,

The Muse's favorite, though he was innocent."

Philochorus said Euripides died before Socrates. According to Apollodorus, Socrates was born in the 4th year of the 77th Olympiad on the 6th day of Thargelion, the same day the Athenians purified the city and celebrated the birth of Artemis. He died in the 1st year of the 95th Olympiad at the age of 70. But Demetrius Phalereus says he might have only been 60.

XXIV. Both Socrates and Euripides were students of Anaxagoras. Euripides was born during the first year of the 75th Olympiad. Socrates seems to have occasionally studied nature too, since he often talked about careful thinking and planning, as Xenophon tells us. Though Xenophon says Socrates focused on ethics, Plato's Apology mentions natural philosophers and the ideas of Anaxagoras. Even though Socrates denied agreeing with them, he probably shared some of their views. Aristotle said a wise man from Syria once came to Athens and criticized Socrates for how he lived and even predicted that he would die a violent death.

Here's a short poem someone wrote about him:

"Now you drink in the realm of the gods, Socrates,

For the god truly called you wise.

He who said it is full of wisdom himself.

You drank poison from your people,

But they drank wisdom from your words."

XXV. According to Aristotle, Socrates once had a public debate with Antiolochus from Lemnos. He also argued with Antipho, who interpreted omens. Many great thinkers had similar rivals. For example:

- Pythagoras vs. Cylon of Crotona
- Homer vs. Sagaris during his life, and Xenophanes after his death
- Hesiod vs. Cercops, then later also Xenophanes
- Pindar vs. Amphimenes
- Thales vs. Pherecydes
- Bias vs. Salarus

- Lycon, who represented the orators
- Meletus, who represented the poets

Socrates often criticized all three groups. However, Phavorinus later said that the speech written by Polycrates can't be the real one, since it mentions events that happened six years after Socrates died.

XIX. The charges against Socrates were written like this (they were still kept in a temple, says Phavorinus):

"Meletus, son of Meletus, accuses Socrates, son of Sophroniscus. Socrates is guilty of not believing in the gods the city honors and of bringing in new gods. He is also guilty of corrupting young people. The penalty he deserves is death."

XX. Lysias, a well-known speaker, wrote a defense speech for Socrates. But after reading it, Socrates said, "It's a great speech, Lysias, but it doesn't fit me—it sounds like a lawyer, not a philosopher." Lysias asked, "How can a good speech not be right for you?" Socrates answered, "Just like fancy clothes and nice shoes wouldn't suit me either."

During the trial, Plato reportedly stood up to speak and began, "Men of Athens, I am the youngest one here..." but the judges yelled for him to get down.

XXI. Socrates was found guilty by a narrow vote—281 against him, 275 in his favor. When asked what punishment he thought he deserved, he jokingly suggested a fine of 25 drachmas. Eubulides says he actually suggested 100. The judges were upset, so he said, "What I really deserve is free meals at the public hall for life." That made the judges angrier, and this time even more voted for the death penalty —80 more than before. He was sent to prison and, days later, drank poison hemlock. In the meantime, he had many wise conversations, which Plato wrote down in the Phaedo.

XXII. Some say Socrates also wrote a hymn that began:

"Hail, Apollo, King of Delos,

Hail, Diana, child of Leto."

But Dionysidorus says it wasn't really his. He also wrote a fable like Aesop's, though not very well. It began:

"Aesop once advised the leaders of Corinth

Not to trust the people to judge what is good."

XXIII. After Socrates died, the Athenians quickly regretted what they had done. They shut down the wrestling schools and gymnasiums, punished his accusers, and even executed Meletus. They put up a bronze statue of Socrates near the sacred treasures, made by the sculptor Lysippus. Anytus had already fled Athens, and when he arrived in Heraclea, they kicked him out on the first day.

He used to say, "Most people live to eat, but I eat to live." When someone cared about the opinions of the crowd, Socrates said that was like rejecting one bad coin but then accepting a whole pile of the same bad ones. When Aeschines said, "I have nothing to give but myself," Socrates replied, "That's the most valuable gift of all." When someone complained about not being included in politics, Socrates asked, "So do you regret not being a tyrant, too?" When someone said, "The Athenians have sentenced you to death," Socrates said, "And nature has sentenced them to die too." Some say that was really said by Anaxagoras.

When his wife said, "You're dying for no reason," he replied, "Would you prefer I deserved it?" One time, he dreamed someone told him, "On the third day, you'll reach beautiful Phthia." So he told Aeschines, "I'll die in three days." Just before drinking poison, Apollodorus gave him a nice robe to wear, but Socrates said, "Wasn't my usual robe good enough for living in? Why not for dying?" When someone said, "That guy talks bad about you," Socrates replied, "Of course—he never learned to speak well." When Antisthenes showed off the ragged part of his cloak, Socrates said, "I can see your pride through those holes." When asked, "Doesn't that person insult you?" he said, "No, not if what he says isn't true." He believed it was smart to let comedians make fun of you—if they say something useful, you can learn from it, and if not, it's harmless.

XVII. One time, Xanthippe yelled at him and then dumped water on him. He said, "Didn't I say thunder would be followed by rain?" When Alcibiades said, "Xanthippe's temper is unbearable," Socrates answered, "I'm used to it—just like hearing a noisy pulley." Alcibiades said, "But my geese give me eggs and goslings." Socrates replied, "And Xanthippe gives me children." One time in the marketplace, she pulled his cloak off in front of everyone. His friends told him to push her away. He said, "Sure, and then you can all cheer, 'Great job, Socrates! Great job, Xanthippe!'" He used to say that living with a difficult woman was like training a wild horse: once you've learned to handle that, you can handle anything.

XVIII. Socrates lived such an honest and thoughtful life that the priestess at Delphi praised him when she told Chaerephon:

"Socrates is the wisest of all people."

But after this, many grew jealous of him. He made enemies by exposing people who thought they were wise but really weren't, like he did with Anytus in Plato's Meno. Anytus didn't like being made fun of, so he got Aristophanes to mock Socrates in a play, then convinced Meletus to take him to court for disrespecting the gods and corrupting young men. So Meletus made the official complaint, and a man named Polyeuctus gave the judgment, according to Phavorinus.

Some say that Polycrates, a speech-writer, prepared the accusation, though others claim Anytus wrote it himself. A man named Lycon helped push the case forward. According to Antisthenes and Plato, the main accusers were:

- Anytus, who represented the government

deeply inspired. When Euthyphron was planning to take his own father to court for killing a foreigner, Socrates talked to him about piety and convinced him to stop. He also helped Lysis become a very moral person. Socrates was great at using real-life situations to make his points. He calmed his angry son Lamprocles when he was upset with his mother. He also talked Glaucon, Plato's brother, out of going into politics because Glaucon wasn't ready. But he encouraged Charmidas to get involved in politics because he thought Charmidas would do well. He once gave courage to the general Iphicrates by pointing out how the gamecocks of one barber were bravely challenging those of a wealthy man. Another man said Athens should treasure Socrates like they would a rare bird. Socrates once said it was strange that people always know how much property they own but often don't even know how many true friends they have. When Euclid was stressing over tricky arguments, Socrates told him, "You're going to be good at debating sophists, but not at leading people." He didn't think nitpicking arguments helped much in real life.

XIII. When Charmidas offered him some slaves to help him make money, Socrates said no. And although many admired Alcibiades for his beauty, Socrates didn't let that distract him.

XIV. He believed free time was one of the best things in life. He used to say that the only real good is knowledge and the only real evil is ignorance. He didn't value wealth or noble birth—in fact, he thought those things could be harmful. When someone said that Antisthenes's mother was from Thrace, Socrates replied, "Did you think such a noble man needed two Athenian parents?" When Phaedo became a slave, Socrates told Crito to buy his freedom, and then he taught Phaedo philosophy.

XV. Socrates also practiced music, learning to play the lyre when he had time. He didn't think it was silly to learn something new, no matter your age. He also liked dancing and thought it was a good way to stay healthy.

XVI. Socrates said that a spirit—or daimon—gave him hints about the future. He believed starting something well was important, but it wasn't everything. He used to say, "All I know is that I know nothing." He also said people who bought things out of season at high prices didn't expect to live long enough to get them at a fair price. When someone asked what the most important trait for a young man was, he said, "To avoid going overboard in anything." He thought geometry was useful only if it helped someone measure land for buying and selling. Once, when Euripides wrote in a play that "virtue is better left alone," Socrates walked out of the theater. He said it was ridiculous to look everywhere for a missing slave but completely ignore the search for virtue.

When asked whether someone should get married or stay single, he replied, "Whichever you do, you'll regret it." He said it was odd that sculptors work so hard to make a stone look like a person but many people don't care about actually being a good person. He told young men to look in the mirror often—if they were handsome, they should live up to their looks, and if they weren't, they should make up for it with their character. He once invited wealthy guests over, and when his wife Xanthippe felt embarrassed by their modest home, he said, "Don't worry—if they're wise, they'll understand. If they're not, we don't need to impress them."

ing men to marry more than one woman for the sake of having legitimate children. Socrates followed this law.

XI. Socrates didn't care if people made fun of him. He took pride in living simply and never asked his students for money. He believed that the hungrier a person is, the less they care about fancy food. The thirstier someone is, the less picky they are about what they drink. He also said that people who need the least are closest to the gods.

Even the comic poets who made fun of him often ended up praising him without realizing it. Aristophanes, for example, wrote:

"Smart man, who truly wants to be wise,

You'll find happiness in Athens and all across Greece.

Your memory is sharp, your thoughts are clever,

You're calm and never seem to get tired—

Whether you're standing still or on the move.

You don't complain about the cold,

You don't beg for breakfast, or give in to hunger.

You stay away from wine, overeating, and other silly habits."

Another writer, Ameipsias, put Socrates in a play wearing a strange-looking cloak and joked:

"Socrates, you're one of the best among a few,

But also one of the weirdest among many.

You come walking in so proud—

But where did you get that weird cloak?

Some leatherworker must've given it to you as a prank.

Still, even when he's starving, this guy never sucks up to anyone."

Aristophanes also made fun of him, saying:

"You walk through the streets with your head held high,

Barefoot, suffering through troubles, always acting above the rest of us."

Still, Socrates sometimes dressed nicely when the moment called for it—like in Plato's Symposium, where he's shown going to visit Agathon wearing fine clothes.

XII. Socrates was really skilled at encouraging people to do what's right and warning them away from bad decisions. For example, after talking to Theaetetus about knowledge, he left him feeling

- Pittacus vs. Antimenides
- Alcaeus and Anaxagoras vs. Sosibius
- Simonides vs. Timocreon

XXVI. The main students who followed Socrates, known as the Socratic school, included Plato, Xenophon, and Antisthenes. Out of a group often referred to as "the ten," the most well-known four were Aeschines, Phaedo, Euclides, and Aristippus. We'll begin by talking about Xenophon, then move on to Antisthenes, who became one of the leaders of the Cynics. After that, we'll continue with the rest of Socrates' followers and finally focus on Plato, since he was the most important of them and founded the first Academy. We'll follow that order for the rest.

There were also a few other people named Socrates. One was a historian who wrote about the city of Argos. Another was a philosopher from Bithynia who followed Aristotle's school of thought. A third wrote short poems called epigrams. And one more was from the island of Cos and wrote prayers to the gods.

LIFE OF XENOPHON.

I. Xenophon was the son of Gryllus and a citizen of Athens. He came from the borough of Erchia. He was known for being modest and very handsome.

II. It's said that Socrates once stopped Xenophon in a narrow street by holding his stick across the path. He asked Xenophon where people could buy all kinds of useful things. After Xenophon answered, Socrates asked him where people could learn to become good and virtuous. When Xenophon said he didn't know, Socrates told him, "Then follow me and find out." From that day on, Xenophon became his student.

III. Xenophon was the first to write down real conversations and share them with others. He called them "memorabilia." He was also the first to write about the lives of philosophers.

IV. According to Aristippus in his book Ancient Luxury, Xenophon was in love with a man named Clinias. Xenophon once said, "I enjoy looking at Clinias more than anything else on earth. I'd rather go