

EIGHT GREAT ERAS IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

The Era Named Its Chronology Framed ☞ Memorize these ☞	Be Conversant with these Celebrated Philosophers Appreciate their Paramount Contributions ⚡ [Connect their Issues to Worldviews] ⚡
The PRE-SOCRATIC Launch The 6 th c.— 5 th c. BCE	Discuss the alleged shift from “ <i>mythos</i> to <i>logos</i> .” From Thales to the Atomists...what were they looking for, and how? What legacy did they leave to us? To their own times? [What do their dilemmas reveal about WV problems?] [e.g.—Appearance vs. Reality, Form vs. Matter, Permanence vs. Change]
The ATHENIAN Zenith The 5 th c.— 4 th c. BCE	Athens as an intellectual & cultural leader. Sophists – education innovation. Socrates – greatest teacher of all. Plato’s Theory of Forms; Metaphysical Dualism Aristotle disagrees with Plato’s Forms; the Prime Mover [Sophists as early <i>humanists</i> . Greek Philosophy shapes Christian Theology]
The HELLENISTIC Way 4 th c. BCE to the 4 th c. CE	Describe the vast and syncretistic ‘Greco~Roman’ World. Know the “ <i>Way of Life</i> ” philosophies that flourished and competed with “Christianity”: Epicureanism Stoicism Neo-Platonism [Detect roots of Paganism, Hedonism, Pantheism, and Mysticism in this era.] Compare the Hebraic Biblical WV with Hellenistic WVs
The MEDIEVAL Mind The 5 th c. to the 13 th c.	Western Roman Empire <i>collapses</i> – Roman Catholic Church <i>rises</i> . Describe general features of the ‘Medieval Christian Synthesis’ “Saintly” Philosophers: Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas. Define Scholasticism Issues: Faith & Reason, Proving God Exists, Universals & Particulars [Was the “Medieval Christian Synthesis” <i>Biblical</i> ? How so...How not?]
The RENAISSANCE World The 14 th , 15 th & 16 th c.	These few centuries turned the world ‘around’! Understand the tumultuous impact of the: Humanist <i>Renaissance</i> , Protestant <i>Reformation</i> , and Scientific <i>Revolution</i> What happens to the Faith and Reason synthesis? [Connect these tumults to: Enlightenment quest for certainty, and Deism’s rise.]
The ENLIGHTENMENT Age The 17 th & 18 th c.	This is the beginning of the Modern Age! Obsession with Epistemology — Rationalists vs. Empiricists on <i>how</i> we know. Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz vs. Locke, Berkeley & Hume KANT’s critiques “revolutionize” knowledge, but can we know God? [The Enlightenment is crucial for WVs: some are still in its grip, others revolt against it!]
The NINETEENTH CENTURY The Age of ?	This is the beginning of <i>widespread</i> Secularism AND Spiritualism! Major thinkers: Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Nietzsche, Utilitarians, Frege ... not to mention Darwin’s impact! [An Atheist Spiritual Vacuum invites incursion of Eastern religions and a Pagan revival. Recognize the roots of the New Age Movement. Trace them all the way back, but... ...See them begin to coalesce in the 19 th century.]
20 th Century and <i>Beyond</i> An Era of ?!	Quantum Physics, World Wars, Genocide, Nuclear Danger, Space Travel, Cyber-Reality, Eugenics, Terrorism, New Plagues, Eco-Disaster, Information Proliferation <i>without</i> wisdom... Pragmatism, Positivism, Linguistic Analysis, Deconstructionism, and Existentialism. [We are POST-POSTMODERN — Absolutely Relativistic...but isn’t that Nihilistic?] Where ARE we going? WILL there be a NEW AGE? What is the TRUTH?

BEGIN WITH WONDER. END WITH WONDER