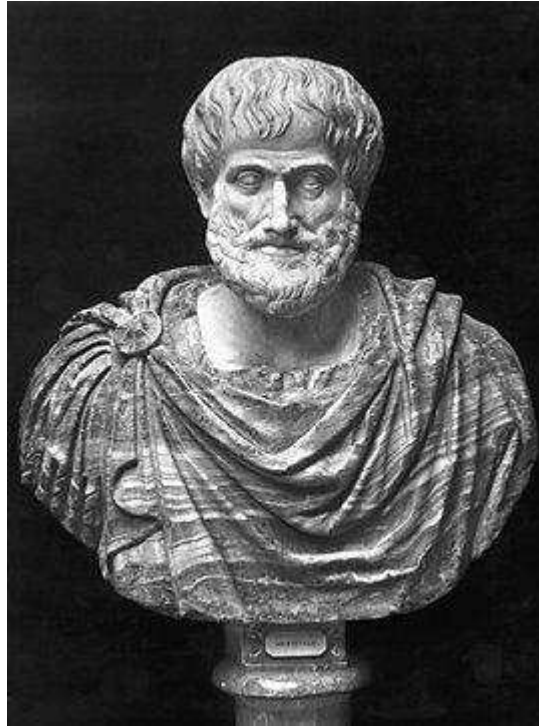


Aristotle

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ARISTOTLE



Two thousand three hundred years after Aristotle's death, he still remains one of the most influential people who ever lived. He was the founder of formal logic, he instigated the study of zoology and he left every future scientist and philosopher in his debt through his contributions to the scientific method.

Aristotle was born in 384 B.C.E. in Stagirus, a Greek colony. He was educated as a member of the aristocracy and at age 17 was sent to Athens, the intellectual centre of the world, to complete his education. Here, he studied under Plato for twenty years. After Plato's death he travelled to the island of Lesbos, where he did research on the botany and zoology of the island. In his research he separated aquatic mammals from fish. In 343 B.C.E. Aristotle becomes Alexander the Great's tutor. So huge was his influence that Alexander later brought a host of zoologists, botanists and researchers along on his various expeditions. He had also learned a great deal about Persian customs and traditions from his teacher. In 335 B.C.E. he returned to Athens and found Platonism the dominant philosophy. Thus, he sets up his own school, a place called the Lyceum. He is said to have given two kinds of lectures: in the mornings detailed discussions for an inner cycle of advanced students, and

in the evenings the popular discourses for ordinary people. Aristotle not only studied every subject possible in his time, but also contributed significantly to almost all of them. In 322 B.C.E. he complained of a stomach illness and died shortly afterwards.

The earliest known written evidence of a camera obscura can be found in Aristotle's writings on such a device in 350 B.C.E. His device contained a dark chamber that had a single small hole, or aperture, to allow for sunlight to enter. Using this device he could make observations of the sun.

Aristotle describes in, *Generation of Animals*, his findings when breaking open fertilized chicken eggs at different intervals to observe when visible organs were formed.

Aristotle classified living things into vertebrates and invertebrates, although he called it "animals with blood" and "animals without blood". He divided vertebrates further into live-bearing (humans and mammals) and egg-bearing (birds and fish) groups. Insects, crustacea (divided into shelled and non-shelled) and molluscs were classified as invertebrates.

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