

Greek Philosophers— Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle

What would the world be like if no one believed in the importance of knowledge and truth?

When did they live? the 400s and 300s BC

Where did they live? Athens

What did they do? They thought. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle thought about the world and searched for knowledge, wisdom, and truth. Between them they created the Socratic method of learning, the first political science book, and a method of scientific reasoning.

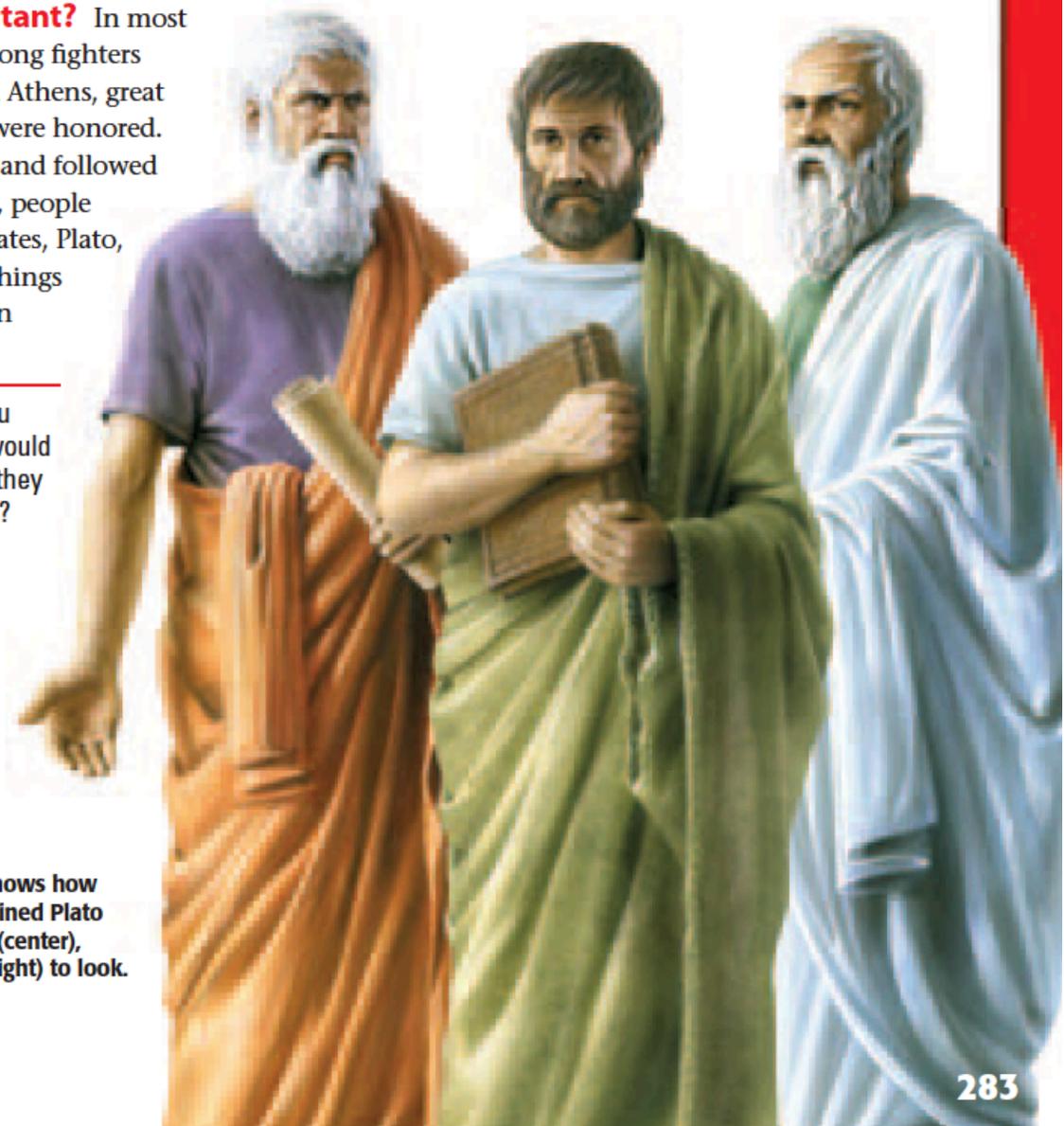
Why are they important? In most of the ancient world, strong fighters won all the glory. But in Athens, great thinkers and wise men were honored. People listened to them and followed their advice. Even today, people admire the ideas of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Their teachings are at the root of modern philosophy and science.

Making Inferences Do you think these philosophers would have been as influential if they had lived in a different city? Why or why not?

KEY FACTS

How did Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle influence history?

- **Socrates** taught Plato.
- **Plato** taught Aristotle.
- **Aristotle** taught Alexander the Great, who helped spread Greek ideas through much of the world.



This drawing shows how one artist imagined Plato (left), Aristotle (center), and Socrates (right) to look.