

# ARISTOTLE

Born 384 BCE, died 322 BCE

Aristotle was one of the greatest philosophers who ever lived and the first genuine scientist in history. He identified the various scientific disciplines and explored their relationships to each other



He is most important for establishing the parameters of Logic



Archaeological site believed to be Aristotle's tomb  
Excavating since 1996, claim of tomb in 2016

He emphasized science, the process of analysis, and logic

Argued often with Plato

↳ What was the disagreement between Plato and Aristotle? While Plato believed that the objects had universal and perfect forms, Aristotle believed that it was not necessary that forms were always attached to the objects and every object had to be analyzed individually.

Tutor of Alexander the Great (starting age 13)

Taught that slavery was good for those born into slavery

↳ Aristotle believed that the majority of humans may be enslaved without injustice, because they are slaves by nature.

Encouraged Alexander to be a leader to Greeks, and despot to barbarians

## Philosophy (major ideas)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cslW4W\\_DYX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cslW4W_DYX4) (7:30)

Aristotle's philosophy stresses biology, instead of mathematics like Plato. He believed **the world was made up of individuals (substances) occurring in fixed natural kinds (species)**.

- ⇒ Ideas do not have an independent, extra-mental subsistence, but exist in things
- ⇒ Body and soul are conjoined as matter and form his **systematic concept of logic**. Aristotle's objective was to come up with a universal process of reasoning that would allow man to learn every conceivable thing about reality

A soul, Aristotle says, is “the actuality of a body that has life,” where **life means the capacity for self-sustenance, growth, and reproduction**. If one regards a living substance as a composite of matter and form, then the soul is the form of a natural—or, as Aristotle sometimes says, organic—body.

Humans' purpose is **to exercise their virtues in accordance with their reason**. In other words, to use their reason in order to act morally right. Being 'good' for Aristotle is the same as being happy. One is happy if one's life goes well.

In his metaphysics, he claims that **there must be a separate and unchanging being that is the source of all other beings**. In his ethics, he holds that it is only by becoming excellent that one could achieve ‘eudaimonia’, a sort of happiness or blessedness that constitutes the best kind of human life.