

Lesson Plan

NEUROHEADWAY

Neuroscience Into Education

Module 1

What Is Philosophy? An introduction to the term and questionings

The **objectives** of this module are to help children:

- Learn the etymology of the word *philosophy*
- Become familiar with the names of a few founding fathers of philosophy
- Develop an understanding of what is a philosophical question
- Recognise the philosophical questions amidst the questions they spontaneously ask themselves.
- Stimulate their natural sense of wonder
- Stimulate them to make pondered questions rather than giving acritical answers
- Acknowledge philosophy as an intellectual in-progress adventure, rather than a ready-made encyclopaedic study
- Exercise in the intellectual practice of analysis and synthesis

These objectives will be **achieved** through:

- Teacher sharing PowerPoint presentation
- Free discussion with the class
- Children sharing examples of their own spontaneous questionings
- Children discussing on their own ways to figure out possible answers to their spontaneous questionings.
- Group work

Teacher plan

- Show the children PowerPoint presentation
- Ask the children to formulate questions they think are philosophical and write them on the blackboard.
- With the children's help, group similar questions by circling them with the same colour.
- Process of SYNTHESIS: give a general formulation to similar questions (ex. Who Am I? Who Are the Others? How Am I Different From Everybody Else? = Question of IDENTITY; Where Do I Come From? How Did the World Originate? Which Came First: the Chicken or the Egg? = Question of the Origin). Explain the children what

you mean by the general term you are proposing (Identity, Origin...), so that they can agree on it.

- Divide the children into groups and assign a question to each group. Ask them to

develop the main question into more detailed questions (Process of ANALYSIS).

They will prepare a large sign bended in two parts. The general question (ex. IDENTITY) will be written on the headline, centred. The detailed questions (Ex. Who

Am I?) will be reported in the left-side half of the sign.

- Once the main questions transcribed, ask each group to discuss the question they

are considering. They will report on the right-side half of the sign the possible answers each group member proposes, preceded by his or her name.

- Finish with evaluation assessment:

Power point Example

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φιλοσοφία

But what does the word "philosophy" mean?
Let's take a look at its etymology.

The etymology of a word is a study on its origin.

So, let's try to trace the origins of philosophy!

The word "philosophy" was born in **Greece** over 2000 years ago. In fact, nobody knows exactly when it was born, nor who invented it in the first place.



The ancient Greek word for philosophy is **φιλοσοφία** (philosophia)

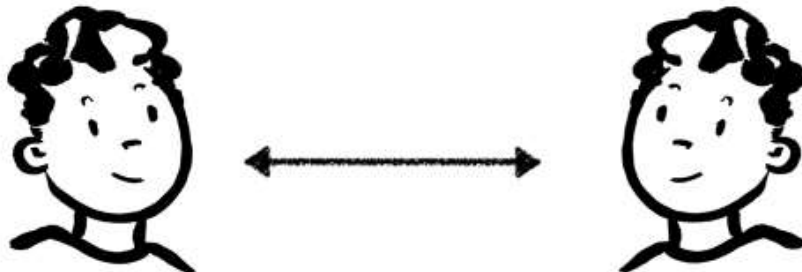
which is a **mix of two words**:

φιλεῖν (phileîn) = "to love" 
σοφία (sophía)= "knowledge" 

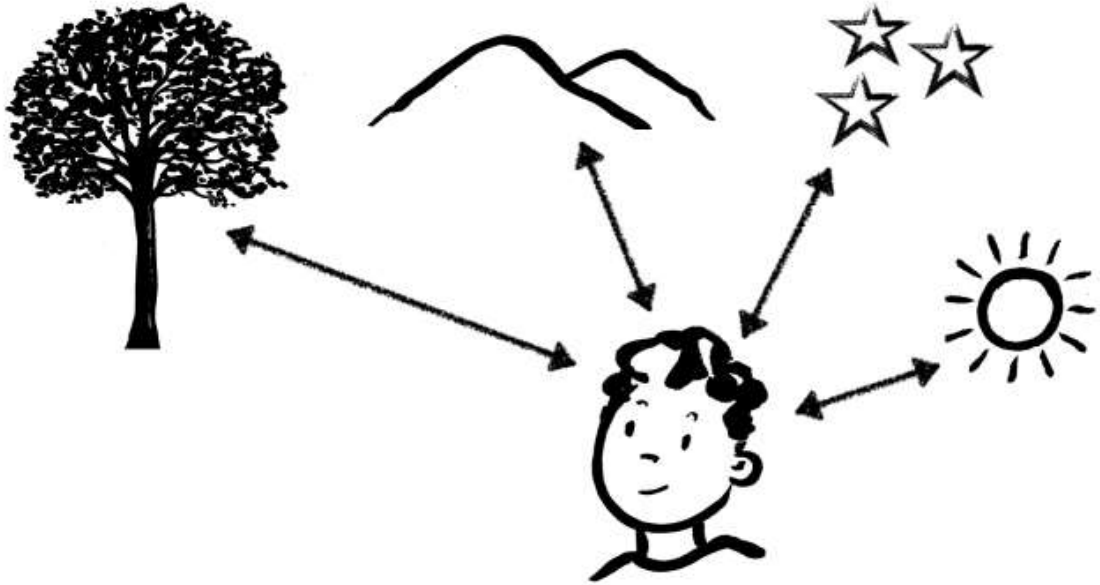
So, "philosophy" literary means
"love for knowledge"



Philosophy is a way of **questioning** our relationship
to ourselves,



and to the things that surround us



By "wonder" Plato and Aristotle
mean a **mixed feeling** of

stupefaction



excitement

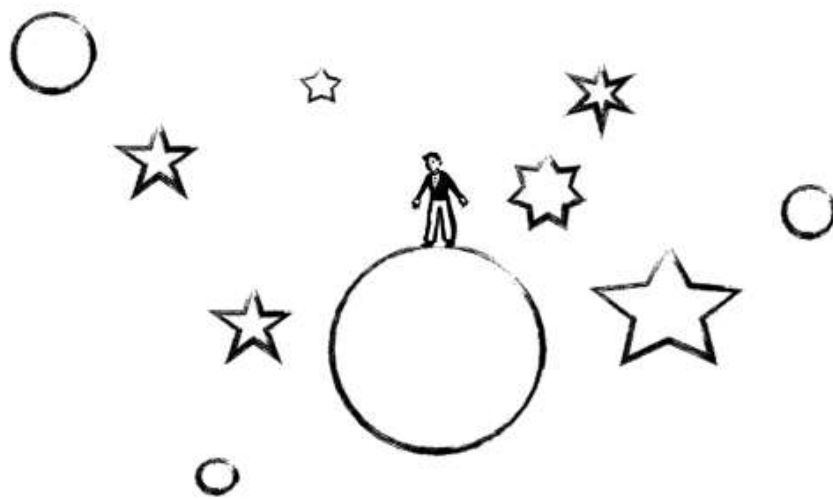


fascination



and fear





that we experience when we face the **extraordinary**
mystery of the universe and of the place we occupy in it.