

Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

The Socratic Method

In Ancient Greece, Socrates wanted to learn about the world in which he lived. He asked himself and people in his community about what was going on in society, daily life, politics, etc. He was so intelligent that he realized it would take a great discussion to answer these large questions, such as “what is beauty?” or “what is wisdom?” Socrates became famous for asking a series of questions to help him come to conclusions. He believed that the answers to these questions were available, but it was the responsibility of the people to ask the right questions to get those answers. Asking a series of questions like this became known as the *Socratic Method*.

For a very simple example, if Socrates lived today in 2017 and wanted to know “why we wear shoes?”, he might ask the following set of questions:

1. What do we use our feet for? (to walk)
2. Where do we walk? (in our homes, outside)
3. Where do we walk outside? (on the grass, on the sidewalk, on the pavement)
4. What happens when you walk outside barefoot? (sometimes you scratch/cut/scrape/step in something dirty on the bottom of your feet)
5. How can you stop from scratching your feet when you walk outside? (put something between your feet and the ground to protect your feet)
6. How could you attach that protection to your foot? (strap, ties, etc.)
7. What are shoes? (a covering around your foot)
8. What does that covering do to protect your foot? (protects your foot from getting scratched/cut/scrapped/or dirty)
9. Therefore, you wear shoes so you can walk outside and have your feet protected?
(Yes...and the question is answered)