IN BRIEF

The Wonder of Not Knowing is a story about the first meeting between the philosophers Socrates and Plato, and this pack is inspired by Ancient Greek philosophy! Here you will find activities that will encourage pupils to explore big ideas in new and interesting ways.



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- The stories in this month's issue of ***Storytime*** take place in many different times and places, and there are some interesting and unusual words in them! If your pupils come across a term they don't know, encourage them to look it up in the **Storytime Glossary**, which has handy definitions for challenging words or phrases. This will help build the students' vocabulary and get them used to looking up things for themselves.

- This month's **Class Discussion Sheet** is about philosophy and has questions about this discipline. Encourage pupils to think carefully about their answers and discuss how asking questions like Socrates can be useful in our day-to-day lives!

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** includes an extract from this month's story and asks students to find adjectives and an onomatopoeia. Are your pupils up for the challenge? Ask them if they can think of any more onomatopoeias!

- When telling a story, it's important to get the events in the right order, or it won't make sense! The events in the tale of Plato's meeting with Socrates are listed on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**, but the parts need to be numbered from 1-11 to show the order in which they should be read. Encourage pupils to refer back to the original story in the magazine to check they got things right.

- The **Storyboard** page has images from this month's story and spaces underneath for students to tell Plato's story in their own words. How will they describe key events, and what things will they focus on?

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- The **Philosophy Word Challenge!** sheet asks pupils to match philosophy-related words with their definitions and think of words that have Greek roots. (Plenty of words have Greek roots – especially in the sciences.) Also, can they unscramble the name of a philosopher? **Hint:** he liked to ask difficult questions...

- The names of Ancient Greek philosophers and philosophical terms are hidden in the **Wisdom Word Search**, and your students have to find them! They include the names of some people mentioned on the Philosophy Superstars! sheet, so your students might like to read that first. Also, can they find the secret hidden word?

2. HISTORY LESSON IDEAS

- Many of the world's most famous philosophers came from Ancient Greece, and they changed the way people thought about the world. The **Philosophy Superstars!** page lists six of the most famous ones – including Plato and Socrates! Each profile includes the big ideas they were famous for and additional fun facts. Which philosophers do your pupils like best?

- The **Amazing Ancient Greeks** lived over two thousand years ago, but many of their discoveries are still with us today. The sheet listing their many inventions and innovations does contain one extra thing that they didn't actually come up with. Can your pupils work out which one it is? When they read this page, they should consider which Ancient Greek breakthrough they think was most important, as that will be the subject of the exercise on the next page...

- After your pupils have read about what the Ancient Greeks discovered or invented on the previous page, they should think about which one was their most important gift to the world. This will be the subject that they write about on the **The Great Greek Debate** page. Encourage them to come up with three or more reasons why they think the thing they chose is the most important one of all.

Continued on page 3...

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3. PSHE LESSON IDEAS

- Philosophy is a fascinating subject because it encourages us to consider big questions like ‘what does it mean to be human’, ‘what is a good way to behave’ and ‘how do we know something is real?’ The **What Is Philosophy?** page introduces the different branches of philosophical study and poses the question of why philosophy matters.

- The **Ask Like Socrates!** sheet lists a dozen interesting philosophical questions that the members of your class can discuss in groups. There is no one right answer to any of them, but the process of talking about them will be very interesting and might lead to fascinating insights. At the bottom of the page are some Socrates-style questions that pupils can use during their debate.

- The **My Big Question** sheet has a flow chart that helps pupils to explore an important question of some kind. Encourage them to choose a question that they want to find an answer to and get them to fill out the sheet. It could be a question from the previous page or one that they came up with themselves.

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Look up any words you don't know in this section!

Ice Floe Adventure (Page 6)

- **Ice floe:** wide, flat piece of floating ice
- **Plunged:** dived suddenly
- **Blubber:** thick layer of fat in sea mammals
- **Bristles:** short, stiff hairs
- **Surface:** top of the water
- **Arctic:** cold northern region of world
- **Horizon:** line where the sky appears to meet the sea
- **Enthusiastically:** with excitement
- **Sunburned:** red and sore from too much sun
- **Surged:** moved forward suddenly
- **Slippery:** smooth and hard to grip
- **Flukes:** wide, flat parts of whale tail

The Secret Life of Mould (Page 12)

- **Mould:** kind of fungus that grows in damp places
- **Fungus:** member of a group of living things that includes moulds and mushrooms
- **Specimens:** special examples collected so they can be studied
- **Fungi:** plural of fungus
- **Microscope:** device for looking at very small things
- **Bacteria:** kind of tiny living organisms that can make us ill
- **Petri dishes:** small round dishes used to grow bacteria in laboratories
- **Agar:** jelly for growing bacteria on
- **Tendrils:** thin, thread-like strands

The Magic of Winter (Page 18)

- **Frozen:** turned to ice because it is cold
- **Grumbled:** said in a low, complaining way
- **Wellington boots:** high rubber boots
- **Thoughtful:** as if thinking carefully
- **Fellow:** person
- **Chilly:** a bit cold
- **Pyjamas:** clothes for sleeping in
- **Clambered:** climbed clumsily
- **Swirling:** moving in circles
- **Shivering:** shaking because of cold
- **Gasped:** said suddenly in surprise
- **Fern:** kind of plant with long, feather-like leaves

The Unicorn (Page 20)

- **Unicorn:** mythical horse-like creature with one horn on its head
- **Charcoal:** fuel made by heating wood until it turns black
- **Portion:** amount of food one person gets
- **Crossbow:** weapon with a bow mounted on a handle
- **Crumbs:** small bits of something
- **Flask:** kind of bottle
- **Leafless:** without leaves
- **Spookiest:** most scary or creepy
- **Shimmered:** shone with a wavering light
- **Adorned:** decorated
- **Heave:** sudden forceful movement
- **Hollow:** empty inside
- **Rummaged:** searched noisily
- **Dappled:** covered with light spots

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

The Donkey and the Lapdog (Page 28)

- **Lapdog:** small pet dog for people to hold or cuddle
- **Meadow:** grassy field
- **Coop:** small shed for chickens
- **Was envious:** wanted something that someone else had
- **Well:** deep hole that water can be found in
- **Pipsqueak:** small or unimportant person
- **Clopped:** walked while making a 'clopping' sound
- **Shoo:** gesture to make something go away
- **Overturned:** knocked over
- **Racket:** loud unpleasant noise
- **Crossly:** in an angry way

The Wonder of Not Knowing (Page 31)

- **Scroll:** roll of paper used for writing on
- **Barged:** entered suddenly and rudely
- **Lyre:** harp-like musical instrument
- **Pestering:** annoying repeatedly
- **Philosopher:** person who thinks deeply about life, ideas and what is right
- **Argument:** discussion where two or more people disagree loudly
- **Truth:** something that is correct
- **Wise:** knowing a lot and able to make good decisions
- **Grunted:** made a deep noise in throat
- **Respectfully:** showing good manners
- **Politician:** person who helps run place
- **Justice:** fairness and equal treatment

The Dancing Dragons (Page 36)

- **Blizzards:** strong snowy storms
- **Celestial:** to do with the sky or heavens
- **Glistened:** shone brightly
- **Emeralds:** green gems
- **Slender:** thin and graceful
- **Swift:** very fast
- **Minnows:** very small fish
- **Bone-cold:** so cold it reaches the bones
- **Good fortune:** good luck
- **Be plentiful:** give large amounts
- **Contentment:** feeling of calm happiness
- **Prosperity:** good fortune and wealth

The Pandava Brothers (Page 40)

- **Merciful:** kind and forgiving
- **Archer:** person who shoots a bow and arrow
- **Swordsman:** someone using a sword
- **Jealous:** upset that someone might want what you have
- **Inferno:** large, dangerous fire
- **Fertile:** good for growing things
- **Merchants:** people who sell things
- **Banquet:** large, fancy dinner
- **Chausar:** board game played with dice
- **Wilderness:** wild land with no towns
- **Negotiate:** talk to make a deal
- **Reclaim:** take back
- **Haughty:** proud and unfriendly
- **Fair and square:** in a fair and honest way
- **Enchanted:** affected by magic
- **Thunked:** hit with a *thunk* sound

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Philosophy! This is the study of important questions about things like existence, knowledge, reason and how we should behave. The questions below will help you think like a philosopher!

1. What do you think of when you hear the word 'philosophy'?

2. Can you think of times when you've asked things like 'why?' or 'what's fair'?

3. Do you think asking questions is important? Does it make us smarter?

4. Where do we find answers today? What's the best way to find information?

BE A PHILOSOPHER!

Write one Big Question you'd like to ask about the world inside the speech bubble! Then, in pairs, take turns answering each other's questions. Remember: there are no right or wrong answers — just great thinking!

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

There are *proper nouns* and an *onomatopoeia* waiting to be found!

> Just then, his big brothers barged into the room. Glaucon knocked over Plato's lyre, which made a *twang* when it hit the floor. Adeimantus ruffled his little brother's hair.
>
> "You need to stop scribbling in here and get some exercise! Come on, we're going to the wrestling school!"
>
> Plato sighed and put down his pen. The boy knew his brothers wouldn't stop pestering him until he agreed to go. He followed them into the streets of Athens.

1. A *proper noun* is the name of a particular person, place or thing. (Tip: They are spelt with a capital first letter.) What are the four proper nouns in this extract?

2. An *onomatopoeia* is a word that sounds like the thing it is describing – for example, a noise. What is the onomatopoeia in this extract?

3. What do you think the word 'pestering' means in the third paragraph?

PROPER OR IMPROPER?

Which two words below are proper nouns?

Dog
School
France
Policeman
Samuel

ANSWERS: 1. Glaucon, Plato, Adeimantus, Athens. 2. Twang. 3. 'Pestering' means 'annoying for a long time'.
Proper or improper? France and Samuel are proper nouns.

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Plato has written about his meeting with Socrates, but the events are in the wrong order. Number them in the order in which they *should* be read!

Plato asked his friend Xenophon who the old man was. Xenophon said he was Socrates, a philosopher who was good at arguing.	
Socrates asked Plato what 'justice' was. Then, he asked the boy how a person could gain wisdom.	
Socrates asked Plato why he wanted to become a politician. The boy said it was because his family members were in politics.	
The boy followed his brothers to the school. They started boxing with each other. Plato noticed an old man exercising nearby.	
When Socrates asked if this was a good reason, Plato stopped and thought. He said he could bring peace and justice to the city.	
Socrates replied that if he was wise, it was only because he knew that he knew nothing. He said that asking questions was important.	
Socrates said he would like to talk to Plato again. The boy burned his poems because he now wanted to become a philosopher, not a poet!	
Socrates asked Plato what his name was and what he wanted to do when he grew up. Plato said he wanted to become a politician.	
Plato was writing a poem when his brothers barged into his room. They were going to the wrestling school and wanted him to come.	
After pondering for a bit, Plato decided that a person could become wise by asking questions and thinking about things.	
Plato thought that Socrates didn't look particularly smart, so he decided to talk to him. The boy asked the old man if he was wise.	

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STORYBOARD

Now you have the chance to tell Plato's story in your own words!
Write about what happened to him under the illustrations below.

1



2



3



4



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PHILOSOPHY WORD CHALLENGE!

Prove how clever you are by answering all of these questions related to philosophy!

A. Unscramble these letters to spell out the name of a wise man!

SOTCESAR

B. Match these words with their definitions:

1. TRUTH

2. IDEA

3. JUSTICE

A. Being fair

B. A thought in your mind

C. The quality of being factual

C. Can you think of terms that include these Greek words?

1. GEO is a Greek word for *land*. What is a word beginning with 'geo'? _____

2. BIO is a Greek word for *life*. What is a word beginning with 'bio'? _____

3. HYDRO is a Greek word for *water*. What is a word beginning with 'hydro'? _____

4. MIKROS is a Greek word for *small*. What is a word beginning with 'micro'? _____

5. ASTRON is a Greek word for *star*. What is a word beginning with 'astro'? _____

6. MEGAS is a Greek word for *large*. What is a word beginning with 'mega'? _____

DID YOU KNOW?

Philosophy = 'philo' (love) + 'sophia' (wisdom)

ANSWERS: A. Socrates. B. 1C, 2B, 3A. C. 1. Answers could include *geology* or *geography*. 2. Answers could include *biology* or *biography*. 3. Answers could include *hydroelectric* or *hydrometer*. 4. Answers could include *microchip* or *microscope*. 5. Answers could include *astronomy* or *astronaut*. 6. Answers could include *megabyte* or *megaphone*.

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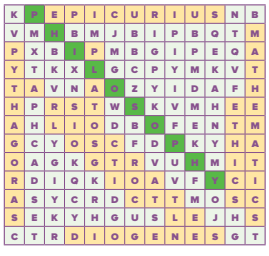
WISDOM WORD SEARCH

Can you find philosophical words and names of philosophers in the puzzle below? There is a bonus word in there for all of you 'lovers of wisdom' – can you spot it?

K	P	E	P	I	C	U	R	U	S	P	N	B
V	M	H	B	M	J	B	I	P	B	Q	T	M
P	X	B	I	P	M	B	G	I	P	E	Q	A
Y	T	K	X	L	G	C	P	Y	M	K	V	T
T	A	V	N	A	O	Z	Y	I	D	A	F	H
H	P	R	S	T	W	S	K	V	M	H	E	E
A	H	L	I	O	D	B	O	F	E	N	T	M
G	C	Y	O	S	C	F	D	P	K	Y	H	A
O	A	G	K	G	T	R	V	U	H	M	I	T
R	D	I	Q	K	I	O	A	V	F	Y	C	I
A	S	Y	C	R	D	C	T	T	M	O	S	C
S	E	K	Y	H	G	U	S	L	E	J	H	S
C	T	R	D	I	O	G	E	N	E	S	G	T

ARISTOTLE
DIOGENES
EPICURUS
ETHICS
LOGIC
MATHEMATICS
PLATO
PYTHAGORAS
SOCRATES

AND THE BONUS WORD IS:



ANSWER:

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PHILOSOPHY SUPERSTARS!

Here are the top Ancient Greek philosophers and their ideas. Which one is your favourite?

Socrates (about 470–399 BCE)
Big idea: You should find wisdom by asking lots of questions!
Fun facts: Socrates' questions annoyed the people in his home city of Athens so much that he got arrested! He never wrote down his ideas. What we know about him comes from his student, Plato, and other writers.

Aristotle (384–322 BCE)
Big idea: We learn by observing the world!
Fun facts: Aristotle was a student of Plato and taught the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great (see ***Storytime*** 112). He had many ideas about the universe that people believed for hundreds of years... even if they were wrong!

Pythagoras (about 570–495 BCE)
Big idea: The equation for figuring out the size of the sides of a right-angled triangle ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$).
Fun facts: His philosophy involved lots of maths! His followers, called Pythagoreans, had to be vegetarian and were not allowed to eat beans! Pythagoras might even have invented the word 'philosopher'!

Diogenes (about 413–321 BCE)
Big idea: Criticise the rules of society!
Fun facts: Diogenes was a follower of Socrates, but he asked questions in rude and annoying ways! He didn't value material things and lived in a giant wine jar.

Plato (about 428–348 BCE)
Big idea: There are perfect ideas behind everything.
Fun facts: He wrote down his ideas in the form of 'dialogues' where different characters argued about ideas. Plato even included his teacher, Socrates, in some of his dialogues.

Epicurus (341–270 BCE)
Big idea: Happiness is the greatest good, and pain is the greatest evil.
Fun fact: He started his own philosophy school, called 'the Garden'. It was the first one to admit women.

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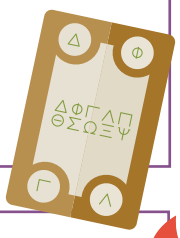
AMAZING ANCIENT GREEKS

They lived thousands of years ago and invented or developed many things that are still important to us today. You can find out about them below – but can you spot the one thing that the Ancient Greeks *didn't* come up with?



A. THEATRE
They invented words like *comedy* and *drama* and held performances on stages in the open air.

B. MATHEMATICS
They helped to develop things like geometry (the maths of shapes and angles).



C. COLUMNS
Ancient Greek temples and other buildings featured these tall pillars, which are still used today.



D. PHILOSOPHY
This is the study of knowledge and wisdom.



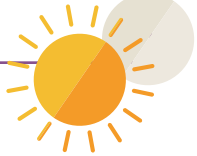
E. THE OLYMPIC GAMES
They held this sporting event in honour of their gods and goddesses.



F. BICYCLES
The Ancient Greeks invented these vehicles to travel around on.



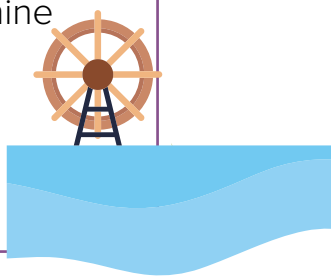
G. SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY
Their philosophers came up with many interesting ideas about the world and the universe.



H. DEMOCRACY
They introduced the idea that people should vote for who will govern them.



I. THE WATERMILL
They invented the first machine that used natural power to grind grain.



ANSWER: F – the Greeks didn't invent bicycles!

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THE GREAT GREEK DEBATE

Choose one of the things the Ancient Greeks invented or developed and write about why you think it is important!

Why _____ is the most important thing that Ancient Greece gave the world!

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WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy is the study of ideas about things like existence, knowledge, logic and the difference between right and wrong.

Philosophy ***means 'love of wisdom' in Greek. The Ancient Greeks invented 'philosophy' as we now know it.***

There are many different kinds of philosophy, and they ask different questions!

1. Ethics asks:
   "How should we behave?"
2. Aesthetics asks:
   "What is beauty?"
3. Metaphysics asks:
   "What is real?"
4. Logic asks:
   "How should we reason?"
5. Epistemology asks:
   "How can we know if something is true?"
6. Political philosophy asks:
   "How should we be governed?"

DID YOU KNOW? The Ancient Greeks thought that maths and sciences like biology, physics, medicine and astronomy were all part of philosophy, too!

Philosophy matters because...
(tick the options you think are true!)

- ☐ **It helps us think clearly and explore our ideas.**
- ☐ **It helps us understand right and wrong.**
- ☐ **It helps us wonder about life.**
- ☐ **It teaches us how to win every argument.**
- ☐ **It means learning lots of facts and memorising names.**
- ☐ **It helps us to listen and respect other opinions.**
- ☐ **It tells us exactly what to believe.**
- ☐ **It encourages us to ask good and interesting questions.**
- ☐ **It stops us from ever being wrong.**
- ☐ **It helps us become better thinkers and problem-solvers.**

ANSWERS: Philosophy matters because... All answers are correct except 'It teaches us how to win every argument.', 'It means learning lots of facts and memorising names.', 'It tells us exactly what to believe.' and 'It stops us from ever being wrong.'

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ASK LIKE SOCRATES!

Socrates the philosopher believed that asking questions encouraged people to think about and explore interesting ideas. In this exercise, pupils should sit in a group and question each other's ideas like Socrates would have!

What makes a good friend?	Can something be real if you can't see it?
What is happiness?	How do we know something is true?
Why do we have rules?	Can you ever know everything?
Why do people believe different things?	Can animals think like humans?
What makes something a good idea?	Can two people both be right if they disagree?
Can kindness change the world?	Who should decide what's right and wrong?

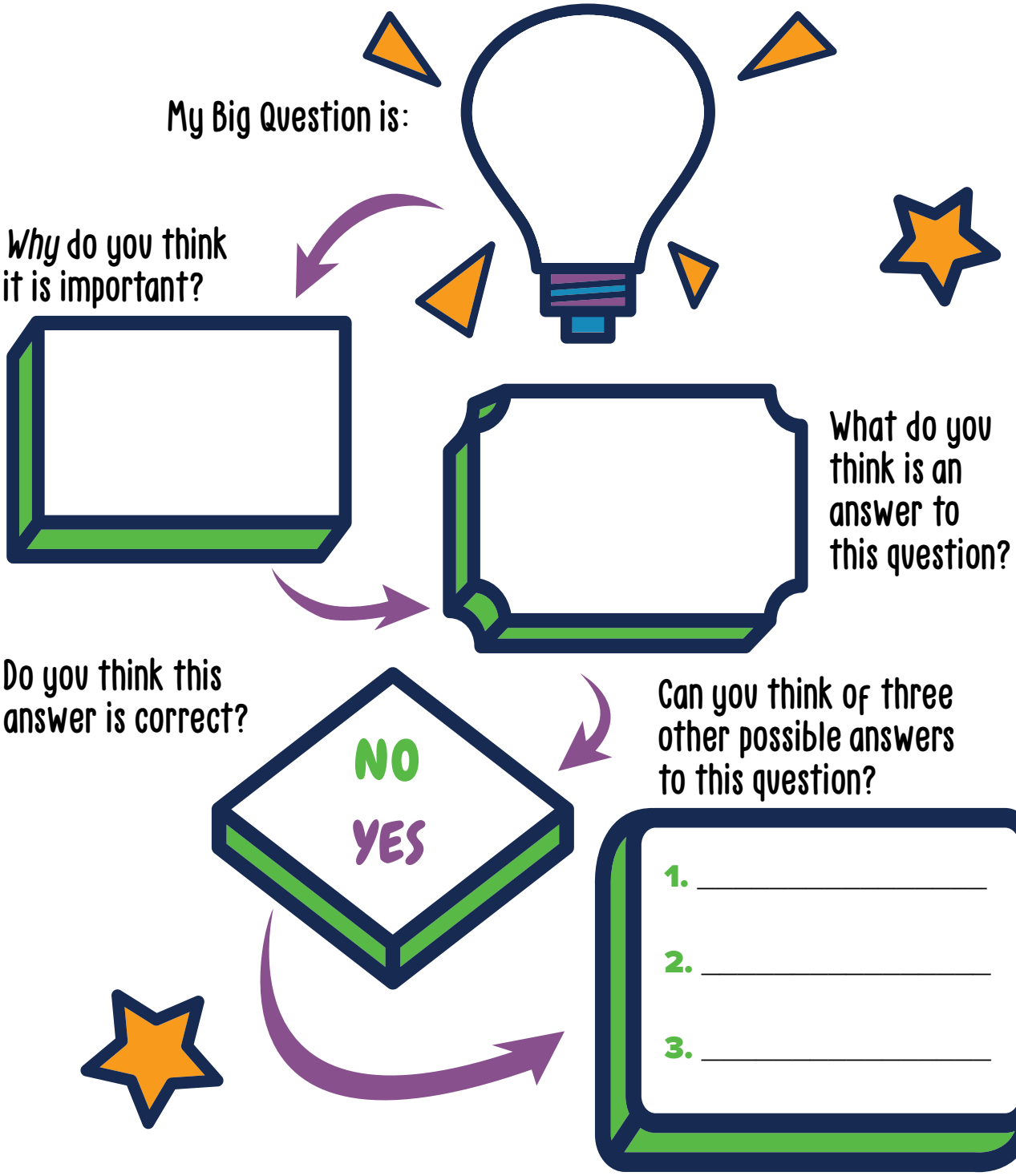
DEBATING IDEAS!

- 'Why do you think that?'
- 'What is a good example of that?'
- 'What would convince you to change your mind?'
- 'Can you explain it in another way?'
- 'How do you know?'
- 'Why do you think that?'
- 'What would be the opposite of what you said?'

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MY BIG QUESTION

What is a 'Big Question' that you think is important to answer? Write about it on the flowchart below!



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