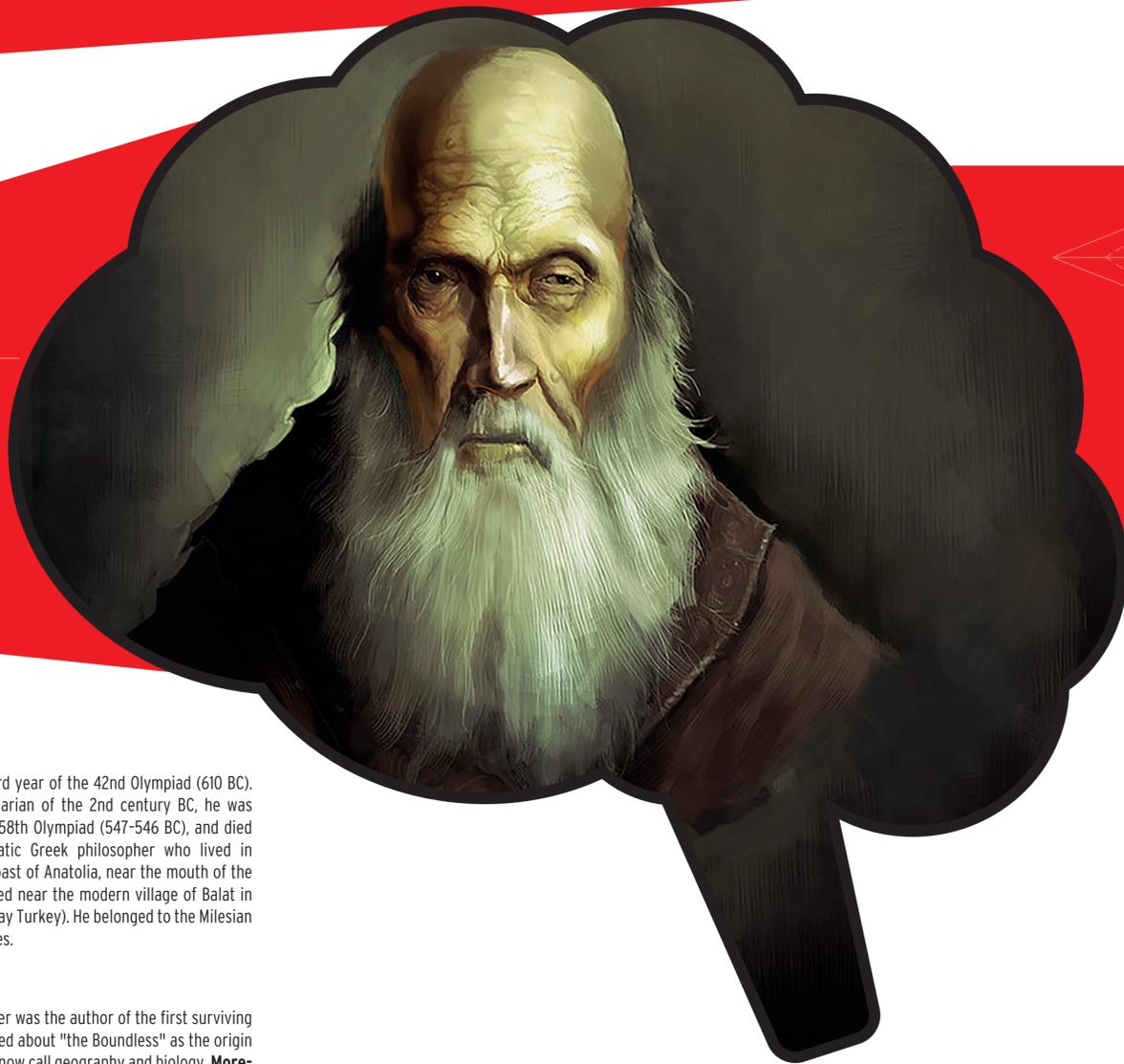


ANATOLIA "THE LAND WHERE SCIENCE WAS BORN AND FLOURISHED"



LIFE

Anaximander son of Praxiades, was born in the third year of the 42nd Olympiad (610 BC). According to Apollodorus of Athens, Greek grammarian of the 2nd century BC, he was sixty-four years old during the second year of the 58th Olympiad (547-546 BC), and died shortly afterwards. Anaximander was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher who lived in Miletus (was an ancient Greek city on the western coast of Anatolia, near the mouth of the Maeander River in ancient Caria. Its ruins are located near the modern village of Balat in Aydın Province, Turkey)., a city of Ionia (in modern-day Turkey). He belonged to the Milesian school and learned the teachings of his master Thales.

STUDY

Little of his life and work is known today. Anaximander was the author of the first surviving lines of western philosophy. He speculated and argued about "the Boundless" as the origin of all that is. He also worked on the fields of what we now call geography and biology. **Moreover, Anaximander was the first speculative astronomer.** He originated the world-picture of the open universe, which replaced the closed universe of the celestial vault. His work will always remain truncated, like the mutilated and decapitated statue that has been found at the market-place of Miletus and that bears his name. Nevertheless, by what we know of him, we may say that he was one of the greatest minds that ever lived. **By speculating and arguing about the "Boundless" he was the first metaphysician. By drawing a map of the world he was the first geographer.** But above all, by boldly speculating about the universe he broke with the ancient image of the celestial vault and became the discoverer of the Western world-picture. Like many thinkers of his time, Anaximander's philosophy included contributions to many disciplines. In astronomy, he attempted to describe the mechanics of celestial bodies in relation to the Earth. In physics, his postulation that the indefinite (orapeiron) was the source of all things led Greek philosophy to a new level of conceptual abstraction. His knowledge of geometry allowed him to introduce the gnomon in Greece. He created a map of the world that contributed greatly to the advancement of geography. He was also involved in the politics of Miletus and was sent as a leader to one of its colonies.

WORKS

- On Nature
- Rotation of the Earth
- On Fixed stars
- The [Celestial] Sphere

Astronomer :

Anaximander was the first to conceive a mechanical model of the world. In his model, the Earth floats very still in the centre of the infinite, not supported by anything.

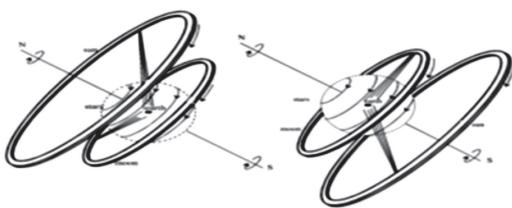


Illustration of Anaximander's models of the universe. On the left, daytime in summer; on the right, nighttime in winter. However, Anaximander pictured the earth as a truncated cylinder, not as a sphere as shown.

ANAXIMENDER

Born & Died: C. 610 - C. 546BC

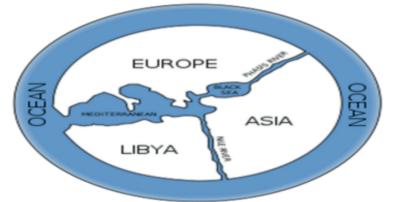
Main Interest: Metaphysics, Geometry, Astronomy, Philosophy

School: Miletus School

Notable Ideas: The apeiron is first principle

Geography :

Both Strabo and Agathemerus (later Greek geographers) claim that, according to the geographer Eratosthenes, Anaximander was the first to publish a map of the world. The map probably inspired the Greek historian Hecataeus of Miletus to draw a more accurate version. Strabo viewed both as the first geographers after Homer.



By drawing a map of the world he was the first geographer

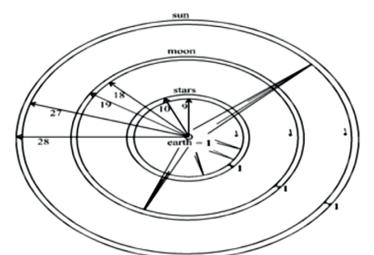


Figure 1
A map of Anaximander's universe

A map of Anaximander's World

(Detail of Raphael's painting The School of Athens, 1510-1511. This could be a representation of Anaximander leaning towards Pythagoras on his left)

Sayings

'Immortal and indestructible,'
'surrounds all and directs all.'

The source from which existing things derive their existence is also that to which they return at their destruction

There are many worlds and many systems of Universes existing all at the same time all of them perishable.

He was the first speculative astronomer.

By drawing a map of the world he was the first geographer.

Anaximander was the first to conceive a mechanical model of the world.

His knowledge of geometry allowed him to introduce the gnomon in Greece

He also worked on the fields of what we now call geography and biology

He created the first map of the world

By speculating and arguing about the "Boundless" he was the first metaphysician.

Anaximander was the author of the first surviving lines of western philosophy.

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Physics Teacher: **HATICE KIRMACI**