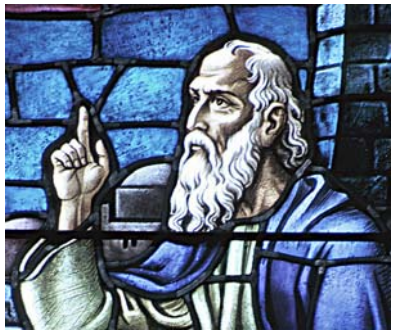
Ancient Mathematical Thought

8.3.5 d

"The mathematical sciences particularly exhibit order, symmetry, and limitation; and these are the greatest forms of the beautiful."
~ Aristotle (384-322 BC) *Metaphysica*



Select a mathematical topic to research and present as a short lesson using the Socratic Method. In the lesson, be sure to highlight some of the ways in which ancient mathematical thinking is still used today.

Remember the basics of the Socratic Method:

1) Ask thought-provoking questions. Your questions should lead or guide the student to the correct conclusion.

2) Do not GIVE the answers to the students. Lead them to state the answers themselves.

Possible topics:
- Archimedes (science)
- Euclid (geometry)
- Pythagoras (Pythagorean theorem, geometry)
- Ptolemy (astronomy)
- Roman numerals

After you have presented your lesson to your group, discuss the quotation by Aristotle above. Do you agree or disagree with Greek thought about mathematics? Explain why.