

PHIL 301
Ancient Philosophy

The Milesians

Ionian/Milesian Philosophers

- **Milesians:** many of the *phusikoi* are from Miletus, which is an area around the Aegean Sea, in an area called *Ionia*. These, and other Presocratic philosophers, are often also called the **Ionian philosophers**.

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Thales

- Born in Miletus, in Asia Minor (today's Turkey).
- He lived in the 6th century BCE. We know that he lived in 585 BCE which is the date of an eclipse he reportedly predicted.
- No existing fragments of his work.

Thales

Aristotle attributes these four views to Thales:

- The earth rests on water. (*De Caelo* 294a28)
- Water is the *archê* of all things. (*Metaphysics* 983b18)

Thales

- The magnet has a soul. (*De Anima* 405a19)
- All things are full of gods. (*De Anima* 411a7)

Thales

- Thales' view is **monistic** in that he proposes one entity or phenomenon to account for a plethora of phenomena. Everything can be explained, ultimately, in terms of water.