



Read the biography passage carefully. Then answer each question below in complete sentences.

Look for key facts about the person's early life, achievements, and impact. Use details from the passage to support your answers.

Hypatia: Alexandria's Brilliant Mind



Imagine a time when few women were scholars, yet one woman shone as a beacon of knowledge in the ancient world. That was Hypatia, a philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer from Alexandria, Egypt.

Born around 350-370 CE, Hypatia was the daughter of Theon, a renowned mathematician who taught at the Library of Alexandria. From a young age, she showed an extraordinary intellect, learning from her father and quickly surpassing many of her male peers in her studies.

Hypatia became a leading scholar and teacher at the Neoplatonic school in Alexandria, attracting students from across the Roman Empire. She taught complex subjects like philosophy, mathematics, and astronomy, and is credited with inventing or improving scientific instruments such as the astrolabe, used for measuring celestial bodies, and the hydroscope, for measuring liquid density.

However, Alexandria in her time was a city rife with political and religious tensions. Hypatia, with her independent thought and significant influence, became a symbol for different factions, making her a target during a period of intense conflict. Sadly, her dedication to reason and learning ultimately led to her tragic death around 415 CE.

Today, Hypatia is remembered as a pioneering woman in science and philosophy, a symbol of intellectual courage, and a martyr for knowledge. Her story reminds us of the



enduring power of learning and the importance of protecting the freedom to think and explore.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Where did Hypatia live and teach for most of her life?

- A Alexandria, Egypt B Athens, Greece C Rome, Italy
 D Byzantium, Turkey

(2) Hypatia was known for teaching philosophy, mathematics, and _____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word "pioneering" mean as it is used in the passage?

- A Someone who follows others' ideas
 B Someone who is among the first to explore or develop something new
 C Someone who enjoys traveling to new places
 D Someone who avoids difficult challenges

(4) Why was Hypatia's work considered remarkable for her time? Use details from the passage.



(5) How does Hypatia's story inspire people today? What can we learn from her life?

