

## Pythagoras Questions

1. Pittacus was the teacher of Pherecydes, who was a teacher of Pythagoras. Much like Thales (and the other Milesian physicists), Pherecydes was a materialist monist about the ἀρχή. Just like Thales, Pherecydes believe that one material was the ἀρχή of every other material. In other words, they each believed that one kind of matter was the original source of all other kinds of matter. Yet unlike Thales, Pherecydes did *not* believe that the ἀρχή was water. According to Pherecydes, what is the ἀρχή?
2. From his teacher Pherecydes, Pythagoras learned about μετεμψύχωσις, but what is *that*? (That is, what is *metempsychosis*? In other words, what is *the transmigration of the soul*?)
3. According to Pythagoras, what is the ἀρχή of everything else?
4. According to Pythagoras, what are the five material elements, and what is the shape of each element?
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -
5. According to Pythagoras, what is a number?
6. According to Pythagoras, every number is either an even number or an odd number. Yet, modern mathematicians disagree with him. What is an example of a number that is *neither*

an even number *nor* an odd number? In terms of the Pythagorean theory of the monad, explain your answer.

7. Based on what Pythagoras had learned from his teachers Pherecydes and Anaximander, why might Pythagoras have thought that a vegetarian diet is the most *virtuous* diet?
8. After the death of Pythagoras, the Pythagoreans divided into two camps: the Ακουσματικοί and the Μαθηματικοί. How were these two competing Pythagorean sects different from each other? In other words, explain how each sect was from different than the other sect in terms of each Pythagorean sect's understanding of Pythagoreanism.