How Do We Know What We Know?
Philosophy

Philosophy		The study of big questions that exist about the universe, life, values and knowledge
Wisdom		Having **experience**, **knowledge** and good judgement
Logic		A **judgement** based on **reason,** common sense and **deduction**
Socratic Questioning		A method of **gaining wisdom** by asking a **large range of people** for their knowledge
Allegory		A **story, poem, or picture** that can be interpreted to **reveal a hidden meaning**
Existence		The fact of something **being** a **reality**
Perceive		To **experience** something **through our senses** - through sight, sound, touch or taste
Proverb		A short, **well-known saying** containing a piece of **advice**
Virtuous		Having a **good** moral **character**

Socrates
500 B.C.E

"I know you won't believe me, but the highest form of human excellence is to question oneself and others."
Socrates

Socrates is known as the Father of Philosophy. He believed that there were barriers to true wisdom. These included:

- Not asking Big Questions
- Not thinking for ourselves or using logic (for example, simply accepting what others say)
- Failing to reflect on ourselves or know ourselves
- Having muddled ideas about what makes us happy
- Panicking and losing perspective

How do we know what we know?
Through constantly asking questions and accepting nothing at face-value

Plato
429 B.C.E

"The basis of any wisdom is patience."
Plato

In his allegory, three men have spent their whole lives tied up in a cave. As far as they are concerned, this cave is all that exists. They see shadows pass across a wall and think that these things are real. One day one of them escapes and gets outside the cave. He then goes back and tells his friends about what he has observed but his friends do not believe him. One of Plato's messages in this allegory was that people are happy in their ignorance and they do not want their beliefs or views challenged, even if they are challenged with the truth.

How do we know what we know?
Through inner reflection, observation and education.

Berkeley
1685

"To be is to be perceived".
Berkeley

Berkeley was a theologian and a philosopher. He argued that things only exist because we can experience them. The second we stop observing or perceiving them, they cease to exist.
He went on to argue that all that really exists are ideas. The ideas that we have are the ONLY things that are real in the world. Because of this Berkeley is sometimes called an idealist. Because he believed that material things (physical objects) don't really exist he is also sometimes referred to as an immaterialist. He believed that everything we experience and think about only exists in our mind. God guarantees the continuing existence of our ideas. This is the world that God has created.

How do we know what we know?
Through experiencing and perceiving it. Through the ideas that God has allowed us to have.

Confucius
551 B.C.E

"By three methods may we learn wisdom: by reflection, which is noblest, by imitation, which is easiest, by experience, which is the bitterest".
Confucius

Confucius taught traditional ideas about ethics, self-improvement and human behaviour and came up with a system of rules about how to behave. His teachings lived on after his death in a book called The Analects and have become known as Confucianism.

How do we know what we know?
EDUCATION, reflection, honesty about our own ignorance.