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## Aristotle on the Nature of Society

Aristotle was not only a great philosopher but also what we would now call a scientist. In particular he wrote extensively on natural sciences and his study of biology clearly exercised a powerful influence on his thought in other areas. It makes sense therefore to begin a study of the *Politics* by thinking about Aristotle's conception of nature (*physis*) in its bearing on political matters.

During the fifth century the Greeks had evidently become