



# HYPATIA

*Sofia Russo*



# WHO WAS SHE AND WHY WAS SHE FAMOUS?

**Hypatia**, (born c. 355 CE—died March 415, Alexandria) was an Egyptian philosopher, mathematician and astronomer. She became a symbol of learning and science. She lived in Alexandria during the last years of the Roman empire. In her time, she was the world's leading mathematician and astronomer. She also was an important teacher of philosophy.







# LIFE

Hypatia was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in about 355. Her father was a mathematician and astronomer who belonged to the Alexandrian Museum, a famous center of learning. Unlike most girls of her day, Hypatia was not kept at home with female relatives and rebelled against societies conventions. She went to the museum to read and to listen to her father discuss ideas with other scholars. Her bright mind allowed her father to teach her math's science, art, literature and philosophy. Hypatia became a scholar like her father. She worked to preserve ancient Greek teachings. She wrote about geometry and arithmetic, and number theory. Hypatia also became a well-known phylosophy teacher. She attracted many students and large audiences. She rose to be head of a school of philosophy in Alexandria.

# DIFFICULTIES



- During this time there was a bitter religious conflict between Christians, Jews , and pagans. Pagans believed in many gods rather than a single god. In 412 the bishop of Alexandria ordered the destruction of a pagan temple. Although Hypatia's teachings were not religious, some Christians saw them as pagan. Her views became less accepted in the city. In March 415 a group of extreme Christians murdered Hypatia.
- Although she did not face many difficulties because of her career choice as a woman, I think her gender co incided/heavily influenced the outcome of her death. As if she was a man in this religious conflict I'm sure that Christians (who probably didn't accept the idea of a matriarch in their teaching body) would not have decreed his teachings pagan (since they had no relation to religion)and therefore lead to 'his' demise.

WOULD SHE BE MORE  
ACCEPTED TODAY?







With less religious conflicts and more acceptance towards equality and matriarchy I think hypatia would be highly commended in this society as a great, inspiring and empowering female role model since she doesn't abide the expected 'norm' and counters social etiquette by becoming the unexpected for a woman in her time... a philosopher and teacher. With few philosophers in today's civilization she would be a great attribute/contribution in today's big questions as a female.

THE END