

jade	a hard gemstone often used in jewelry
oracle	a prediction by a wise person, or a person who makes a prediction
lord	a person of high rank who owned land but owed loyalty to his king
peasant	a farmer with a small farm
Confucius	an influential Chinese teacher who came up with a set of guidelines based on moral values to restore family order and social harmony
ethics	moral values
Confucianism	a philosophy based on the ideas of Confucius that focuses on morality, family order, social harmony, and government
Daoism	a philosophy that developed in China and stressed the belief that one should live in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality
Laozi	the most famous Daoist teacher; wrote the basic text of Daoism—The Way and Its Power
Legalism	the Chinese belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled
Shi Huangdi	a Qin king who unified China in 221 BC and gave himself a title meaning “first emperor”

Great Wall	a barrier made of walls across China's northern frontier
seismograph	a device that measures the strength of an earthquake
sundial	a device that uses the position of shadows cast by the sun to tell the time of day
acupuncture	the Chinese practice of inserting fine needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain
wheelbarrow	a single-wheeled cart
silk	a soft, light, and highly valued fabric developed in China
Silk Road	a network of trade routes that stretched across Asia from China to the Mediterranean Sea
diffusion	the spread of ideas from one culture to another (Hint: to diffuse means to spread out.)

Chapter 7

Judaism	the religion of the Hebrews; it is the world's oldest monotheistic religion
Abraham	an early Hebrew who left Mesopotamia and settled with his family in Canaan; his descendants, the Hebrews, lived in Canaan for many years

Moses	freed the Hebrew slaves in Egypt and led his people out of Egypt
Exodus	the journey of the Hebrews, led by Moses, from Egypt to Canaan after they were freed from slavery
Ten Commandments	in the Bible, a code of moral laws given to Moses by God
David	a king of Israel who defeated the Philistines and captured lands including the city of Jerusalem
Solomon	the son of David who took the throne in 965 BC; he built a great temple to God in Jerusalem
Diaspora	the scattering of the Jews outside of Canaan after the Babylonian captivity
monotheism	the belief in only one god
Torah	the most sacred text of Judaism
synagogue	a Jewish house of worship
prophet	someone who is said to receive messages from God to be taught to others
Talmud	a set of commentaries, stories, and folklore that explains Jewish law
Dead Sea Scrolls	writings about Jewish beliefs created about 2,000

	years ago
Zealots	radical Jews who supported rebellion against the Romans
rabbi	a Jewish religious leader
Passover	a holiday in which Jews remember the Exodus
High Holy Days	the two most sacred of all Jewish holidays—Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Chapter 8

polis	the Greek word for a city-state
classical	an age marked by great achievements
acropolis	a high hill upon which a Greek fortress was built
democracy	a type of government in which people rule themselves
aristocrat	a rich landowner or noble
oligarchy	a government in which only a few people have power
citizen	a person who has the right to participate in government

tyrant	an ancient Greek leader who held power through the use of force
Pericles	the elected leader of the Athenian government from about 460 to 429 BC; encouraged democracy in other parts of Greece
mythology	stories about gods and heroes that try to explain how the world works
Homer	a Greek poet who wrote the two great epic poems—the Iliad and the Odyssey
Sappho	a Greek woman who was the most famous lyric poet
Aesop	a Greek writer who is famous for his fables
fable	a short story that teaches a lesson about life or gives advice on how to live

Chapter 9

Cyrus the Great	king of the Persians and Medes who won independence for Persians and conquered the Medes; considered by historians to be the founder of the Persian Empire
cavalry	a group of soldiers who ride on horses
Darius I	ruler of the Persian Empire who called himself the king of kings; restored order to the empire and built a new capital called Persepolis

Persian Wars	a series of wars between Persia and Greece in the 400s BC
Xerxes I	a Persian ruler who was defeated in his attempt to conquer Greece in 480 BC
alliance	an agreement to work together
Peloponnesian War	a war between Athens and Sparta in the 400s BC
Philip II	king of Macedonia from 359 to 336 BC who conquered Greece
phalanx	a group of Greek warriors who stood close together in a square formation
Alexander the Great	a Macedonian king who conquered the Persian Empire and created the largest empire the world had ever seen
Hellenistic	Greek-like; heavily influenced by Greek ideas
Socrates	a Greek teacher and thinker who wanted to make people think and questions their beliefs; accused of questioning the authority of the gods and condemned to death
Plato	a Greek teacher and philosopher who believed in an ideal society based on justice and fairness to everyone that would be run by philosophers

Aristotle	a Greek thinker who taught that people should live lives of moderation or balance
reason	clear and ordered thinking
Euclid	a Greek scientist who was interested in the study of geometry; many of his rules about geometry are still taught today
Hippocrates	a Greek doctor who is known for his ideas about how doctors should behave

Chapter 10

Aeneas	a legendary hero from Troy who led the Trojans to a new city after they were defeated in the Trojan War
Romulus and Remus	twin brothers who were the legendary founders of Rome
republic	a political system in which people elect leaders to govern them
dictator	a ruler who has almost absolute power
Cincinnatus	a famous Roman dictator who gained power in 458 BC; successfully defended Rome against a powerful enemy and resigned his position as dictator

plebeians	
patricians	the nobility in Roman society
consuls	the two most powerful officials in Rome
magistrate	an elected official in Rome
Roman Senate	a council of wealthy and powerful citizens who advised Rome's leaders
veto	to reject actions and laws of other government officials
Latin	
checks and balances	a system that balances the distribution of power in government
forum	a Roman public meeting place
legion	a group of up to 6,000 Roman soldiers
Punic Wars	a series of wars between Rome and Carthage in the 200s and 100s BC
Hannibal	a general from Carthage who led an attack on Rome in 218 BC; his army was defeated by the

	Romans
Gaius Marius	a Roman consul and general who had great political power because of the support of the army
Lucius Cornelius Sulla	a Roman politician who defeated Marius and named himself dictator
Spartacus	a former gladiator who led a rebellion of Roman slaves

Chapter 11

jade	a hard gemstone often used in jewelry
oracle	a prediction by a wise person, or a person who makes a prediction
Christianity	a religion based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth that developed in Judea at the beginning of the first century AD
Jesus of Nazareth	Christianity is based on the teachings of this man.
Messiah	in Judaism, a new leader that would appear among the Jews and restore the greatness of ancient Israel
Bible	the holy book of Christianity

crucifixion	a type of execution in which a person was nailed to a cross
Resurrection	in Christianity, Jesus's rise from the dead
disciples	followers
Apostles	the 12 chosen disciples of Jesus who spread his teachings
Paul of Tarses	a follower of Jesus's teachings who spread Christianity after Jesus's death; considered by many to be an additional Apostle
martyr	a person who dies for his or her beliefs
persecution	the punishment of a group because of its beliefs
Constantine	the first Christian emperor of Rome
Diocletian	a Roman emperor who divided the empire into two parts and ruled the eastern half of the empire and named a co-emperor to rule the west
Attila	a brilliant leader of the Huns who raided Roman territory in the east
corruption	the decay of people's values

Justinian	a Byzantine emperor who tried to reunite the old Roman Empire
Theodora	an empress of the Byzantine Empire; the wife of Justinian
Byzantine Empire	the society that developed in the eastern Roman Empire after the fall of the western Roman Empire

Chapter 12

oasis	a wet, fertile area within a desert
caravan	a group of traders that travel together
Muhammad	prophet whose messages received from Allah formed the basis of Islam
Islam	religion started by Muhammad
Muslim	a follower of Islam
Qur'an	the holy book of Islam
pilgrimage	a journey to a sacred place
mosque	a building for Muslim prayer

jihad	an effort or struggle; has also come to mean holy war
Sunnah	a collection of writings about the way Muhammad lived that provides a model for Muslims to follow
Five Pillars of Islam	five acts of worship required of all Muslims
Abu Bakr	one of Muhammad's first converts and first caliph
caliph	a title that Muslims use for the highest leader of Islam
tolerance	acceptance
Janissary	an Ottoman slave soldier
Mehmed II	Ottoman leader who conquered Constantinople
Suleyman I	Ottoman ruler during peak of Ottoman Empire
Shia	a member of the second-largest branch of Islam
Sunni	a member of the largest branch of Islam
Ibn Battutah	traveler who wrote detailed descriptions of his travels

Sufism	a movement in Islam that taught people they can find Allah's love by having a personal relationship with Allah
Omar Khayyám	one of the most famous Sufi poets
patron	a sponsor
minaret	a narrow tower from which Muslims are called to prayer
calligraphy	decorative writing