

acropolis highest and most fortified point within a Greek city-state

alliance formal agreement between two or more nations or powers to cooperate and come to one another's defense

artisan skilled craftworker

empire group of states or territories controlled by one ruler

imperialism domination by one country of the political, economic, or cultural life of another country or region

legislature lawmaking body

monarchy government in which a king or queen exercises central power

monotheistic believing in one God

Neolithic Revolution transition from nomadic life to settled farming that brought dramatic changes to the way of life

nomad person who moves from place to place to find food

oligarchy government in which ruling power belongs to a few people

adobe mixture of clay and plant fibers that hardens as it dries in the sun; used to construct buildings

anthropology study of the origin and development of people and their societies

archaeology study of past people and cultures

aristocracy rule by a hereditary landholding elite

artifact object made by humans

bureaucracy different job functions and levels of authority within a system of government

assimilate absorb or adopt another culture

caste in traditional Indian society, unchangeable social group into which a person is born

martyr person who suffers or dies for his or her beliefs

mercenary soldier serving in a foreign army for pay

patrician member of the landholding upper class in ancient Rome

phalanx in ancient Greece, a massive formation of heavily armed foot soldiers

pharaoh Egyptian king

chinampas artificial islands made of earth piled on reed mats anchored to a shallow lake bed

clergy group of people who conduct Christian services

consul in ancient Rome, official from the patrician class who supervised the government and commanded the armies

cultural diffusion spread of ideas, customs, and technologies from one people to another

democracy government in which the people hold ruling power

republic system of government in which officials are chosen by the people

scribe in ancient civilizations, specially trained person who knew how to read, write, and keep records

culture societal way of life that is handed down from one generation to the next by learning and experience

domesticate tame animals and crops for the purpose of cultivation

dynastic cycle rise and fall of Chinese dynasties according to the Mandate of Heaven

dynasty ruling family

plebeian member of the lower class in ancient Rome, including farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders

polis city-state in ancient Greece

polytheistic believing in many gods

prehistory period of time before writing systems were invented

shrine altar, chapel, or other place that is sacred

surplus extra or excess

tribute payment that conquered peoples were forced to make to their conquerors

acculturation process in which members of one cultural group adopt the beliefs and behaviors of another group

ethics moral standards of behavior

feudalism loosely organized system of government in which local lords governed their own lands but owed military service and other support to a greater lord

Alexander the Great son of Philip; took control of much of Persian empire; reached Babylon but died suddenly of fever

Confucius great Chinese philosopher; lived in late Zhou period and expounded on ways to restore social order; instead of religious matters, focused on a philosophy dealing with secular goals

Pericles statesman who brought a golden era to Athens; economy thrived and government became more democratic; 460–429 B.C. became known as the Age of Pericles

Hammurabi king of Babylon about 1790 B.C.; brought much of Mesopotamia under his control; codified the first written law code

Homer blind Greek poet who lived about 750 B.C.; is credited with the epic poems *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

Plato a student of Socrates; emphasized the importance of reason

inflation economic cycle that involves a rapid rise in prices linked to a sharp increase in the amount of money available

Trojan War war between the Mycenaeans and Trojans about 1250 B.C.

Augustus Exalted One; title given to Octavian, making him first citizen of Rome over which he exercised absolute power from 31 B.C. to A.D. 14

Julius Caesar Roman military commander who forced the senate to make him a dictator

Constantine first Christian emperor; granted toleration to Christians; built a new Roman capital, Constantinople

Pachacuti proclaimed himself emperor of the Incas and set out to conquer; established an immense empire

Hatshepsut female monarch of the New Kingdom who exercised all the rights of a pharaoh; developed trade with Mediterranean lands and Red Sea coast

Siddhartha Gautama founder of Buddhism

Socrates an outspoken critic of the Sophists; an Athenian stonemason and philosopher; developed the Socratic method of questioning and answering

Athens Greek city-state in Attica; glorified the individual and extended more rights to citizens

Cuzco capital of the Inca empire; located in a high mountain valley; known for the Great Temple of the Sun with interior walls lined with gold

Mesoamerica cultural area made up of Mexico and Central America; lies within the geographic region where North America and South America meet

Mesopotamia land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where the world's first civilizations developed

Fertile Crescent region of the Middle East that is known for rich soil and fields of golden wheat

Alexandria cultural capital of the Hellenistic world, located in Egypt

Sparta Greek city-state in the southern Peloponnesus; stressed military discipline

Sumer the world's first civilization, located in southwestern Mesopotamia

Tenochtitlán capital of the Aztec empire; founded in A.D. 1325 in the Valley of Mexico at Lake Texcoco, the location of present-day Mexico City