Ancient Greece, Persia and Rome

1. agora – an open area that served as both a market and a meeting place
2. acropolis – a fortified area at the top of a hill, sometimes used for religious worship
3. polis – a Greek city-state, which was like a tiny independent country
4. monarchy – a system of government with rule by a royal family
5. oligarchy – a system of government with rule by a small, rich, powerful group
6. citizen – a person that is legally recognized as a [member](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/member) of a [state](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/state) or country, with associated rights and obligations
7. democracy – a system of government with rule by its citizens
8. empire – a group of territories or nations under a single ruler, often called an emperor
9. helot – a person who was conquered and enslaved by the ancient Spartans
10. tyrant – a person who takes power by force and rules with total authority
11. ephor – one of the five annually-elected judges in ancient [Sparta](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Sparta), who enforced the laws and oversaw the actions of Spartan kings
12. Zoroastrianism – the Persian religion founded by Zoroaster; taught that humans had the freedom to choose between right and wrong, and that goodness would triumph in the end
13. satrap – an official who ruled a state in the Persian Empire under Darius
14. philosopher – a thinker who seeks wisdom and ponders questions about life
15. representative democracy – a system of government in which citizens choose a smaller group to make laws and governmental decisions on their behalf
16. direct democracy – a system of government in which people gather at mass meetings to decide governmental matters
17. fable – a short tale that teaches a lesson
18. myth – a traditional story describing gods or heroes or explaining natural events
19. epic – a long poem that tells about legendary or heroic deeds
20. oracle – a sacred shrine where a priest or priestess spoke for a god or goddess
21. Socratic method – a way of teaching developed by Socrates that used question-and-answer format to force students to use their reason to see things for themselves
22. Sophist -- a professional teacher in ancient Greece; believed that people should use knowledge to improve themselves and developed the art of public speaking and debate
23. Epicureanism – a philosophy founded by Epicurus in Hellenistic Athens; taught that happiness through the pursuit of pleasure was the goal of life
24. Stoicism – a philosophy founded by Zeno in Hellenistic Athens; taught that happiness came not from following emotions, but from following reason and doing one’s duty
25. Hellenistic Era – the period when the Greek language and Greek ideas spread to the non-Greek peoples of southwest Asia
26. civilization – a complex society with cities, government, art, religion(s), agriculture, long-distance trade, a division of labor, and a writing system
27. plane geometry – a branch of mathematics that shows how points, lines, angles, and surfaces relate to one another
28. solid geometry – a branch of mathematics that studies spheres, cylinders, and other three-dimensional objects
29. astronomy – the study of stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies
30. polytheism – a belief in many gods and goddesses
31. monotheism – a belief in only one god
32. Rome – capital city of Italy, situated on the banks of the Tiber River
33. Alps – a major mountain system of south central Europe
34. Pompeii – a [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) town partially destroyed and buried under 4 to 6 meters (13 to 20 ft.) of [ash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_ash) and [pumice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumice) in the [eruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eruption_of_Mount_Vesuvius_in_79) of [Mount Vesuvius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vesuvius) in AD 79
35. Jerusalem – capital of Israel and a holy city for Christians, Jews, and Muslims
36. Byzantine Empire – Eastern part of the Roman Empire that survived after the breakup of the western part of the empire in the AD 400s
37. Etruscans – the early (pre-Roman) inhabitants of Italy
38. legion – smaller unit of the Roman army made up of ~ 6,000 soldiers
39. veto – to reject, from the Latin for “*I forbid*”
40. plebeian – member of the common people of ancient Rome
41. patrician – wealthy landowner and member of the ruling class in ancient Rome
42. dictator – in ancient Rome, a person who ruled with complete power temporarily during emergencies
43. Forum – open space in Rome that served as a marketplace and public square
44. Twelve Tables – laws carved on bronze tablets and placed in the Forum for everyone to see (c.451 BC), applied the rule of law to all Roman citizens
45. currency – system of money
46. aqueduct – human-made channel built to carry water
47. Pax Romana – Latin for “*Roman Peace*”, long era of peace and safety from about AD 27 – AD 180, beginning during the reign of Emperor Augustus
48. tax reform – the process of changing the way [taxes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxes) are collected or managed by the government
49. Colosseum – a huge arena that could seat ~ 60,000 people, built in AD 80, used for gladiator fights and other public games
50. economy – organized way in which people produce, sell, and buy goods and services
51. anatomy – the study of body structure
52. satire – a work of literature, art, or media that pokes fun at human weaknesses
53. fasces – a bundle of wooden sticks with an axe blade emerging from the center, symbolizing the authority of Roman leaders and the idea of "strength through unity"
54. inflation – period of rapidly increasing prices
55. plague – disease that spreads quickly and kills many people
56. Pantheon – a domed temple built to honor Rome’s gods
57. barter – to exchange goods without using money
58. mosaic – picture made from many bits of colored glass, tile, or stone
59. Judaism – the monotheistic religion of the Jewish (Israelite) people
60. Hebrew Bible – called the *Tanakh*, is a collection of written history and beliefs of the Jewish people, essentially the same book which is called the *Old Testament* of the *Christian Bible*
61. Zealots – a group of Jews who revolted against the Roman rule of Judaea, driving the Romans out of Jerusalem in AD 66
62. Old Testament – the first part of the *Christian Bible*, generally the same writings as the Hebrew Bible, but some Christians (Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, for example) also include other material as well
63. New Testament – the second part of the *Christian Bible*, a collection of works written in Greek by disciples of Jesus of Nazareth in the first and possibly second centuries AD
64. Christianity – a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus
65. messiah – savior or liberator of a people
66. parable – story that used events from everyday life to express spiritual ideas
67. resurrection – the concept of a living being coming back to life after death
68. disciple – close follower of Jesus
69. clergy – religious officials, such as priests, given authority to conduct religious services
70. martyr – person willing to die rather than give up his or her beliefs
71. hierarchy – organization with different levels of authority
72. excommunicate – to declare that a person or group no longer belongs to a church
73. schism – separation
74. iconoclast – person who opposed the use of icons (religious images or pictures) in Byzantine churches, saying that icons encouraged the worship of idols
75. Latin Alphabet – by the time of the Roman Empire (27 BC) this alphabet contained all of the letters we use today except for J, U, and W
76. Cyrillic Alphabet – an alphabet based on Greek letters, still used today by 252 million people in Russia and many other countries in Europe and Asia:

 а б в г д е ё ж з и й к л м н о п р с т у ф х ц ч ш щ ъ ы ь э ю я

1. Roman Catholic Church – branch of Christianity that by AD 600 was ruled by the authority of the Bishop of Rome, now called the Pope
2. Eastern Orthodox Church – branch of Christianity that did not accept the Pope’s authority, instead ruled by the emperor and patriarch of the Byzantine Empire
3. missionary – person who travels to carry the ideas of a religion to others