

abbess — civil service

A

- abbess** the director of a convent (p. 305)
- abbot** the head of a monastery (p. 304)
- absolutism** political system in which a monarch (or group) holds supreme, unlimited power or theory that supports such a system (p. 482)
- acupuncture** traditional technique of Chinese medicine using thin needles at vital body points (p. 232)
- age set** in traditional Africa, a group of males or females of similar age who learn skills and go through life stages together (p. 188)
- ahimsa** (uh•HIHM•sah) Hindu doctrine of nonviolence toward all living things (p. 207)
- alphabet** system of symbols or characters that represent the sounds of a language (p. 82)
- amphora** a tall, two-handled Greek vase (p. 131)
- animism** belief that spirits are found in both living and nonliving things (pp. 351, 476)
- anthropologist** (an•thruh•PAH•luh•jihst) scientist who studies physical and cultural characteristics of humans and their ancestors (p. 20)
- apprentice** person who works for a master to learn a trade, art, or business (p. 325)
- aqueduct** a channel built to carry water (p. 168)
- arabesque** (ar•uh•BEHSK) complex designs typical of Islamic art, combining intertwining plants and geometric patterns (p. 286)
- “Arabic numerals”** counting symbols (1-9) devised by mathematicians in Gupta India (p. 214)
- archaeologist** (ahr•kee•AHL•uh•jihst) scientist who studies earlier peoples and cultures (p. 20)
- archipelago** a group or chain of islands (p. 351)
- aristocrat** member of the nobility or the upper class (p. 113)
- armada** (ahr•MAH•duh) a fleet of warships (p. 483)
- artifact** a historic object made or used by humans, such as a tool, ornament, or pottery (p. 20)
- artisan** person skilled in a craft (p. 33)

B

- balance of power** the distribution of power among rival nations so that no one is dominant (p. 489)

- balance of trade** difference in value between what a nation imports and what it exports over a period of time (p. 448)
- bard** a poet who tells stories by singing (p. 108)
- baroque** (buh•ROHK) ornate, dramatic artistic style developed in Europe in the 1550s (p. 424)
- barter** a system of trade in which goods, not money, are exchanged (p. 82)
- bazaar** marketplace in an Islamic city (p. 284)
- bishop** a regional leader of the early Christian Church, with authority over a diocese and other clergy (p. 174)
- boyar** a landowning noble of early Russia (pp. 260, 499)
- bullion** gold or silver in the form of bars or plate (p. 448)
- bureaucracy** a group of government officials headed by an administrator (p. 48)

C

- caliph** (KAY•lih) supreme leader of Islam, chosen as the “successor” of Muhammad (p. 277)
- calligraphy** the art of beautiful handwriting (p. 286)
- cardinal** high-ranking official of Roman Catholic Church, appointed by the pope (p. 306)
- cartographer** person who makes maps (p. 436)
- cavalry** soldiers mounted on horseback (p. 221)
- charter** formal document granting the right of self-rule (p. 326)
- châteaux** (sing., chateau [Fr.]) castles (p. 413)
- chinampas** artificial islands built by the Aztecs for use as gardens (p. 388)
- chivalry** code of conduct for medieval knights, based on ideals of honor and courtesy (p. 301)
- chronicle** an account that records events in the order in which they happened (p. 288)
- circumnavigation** sailing completely around something, such as the world (p. 439)
- citizen** in ancient Greece, a person who took part in the government of a city-state (p. 112)
- city-state** an independent state consisting of a city and the surrounding land and villages (p. 59)
- civil service** system by which government offices are given on the basis of examinations (p. 224)

civilization highly organized society marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, arts, science, and often written language (p. 32)

clan group based on family ties (p. 342)

classical describing the artistic style of ancient Greece and Rome, characterized by balance, elegance, and simplicity (p. 130)

clergy persons, such as priests, given authority to conduct religious services (p. 249)

colony a settlement of people outside their homeland, linked with the parent country by trade and direct government control (pp. 82, 475)

comedy story or play intended to entertain and amuse, usually with a happy ending (p. 134)

common law body of English law based on tradition and court decisions, not specific laws (p. 309)

confederation a loose alliance or union of several states or groups (pp. 82, 378)

conquistador (kon•KEES•tuh•dohr) a Spanish “conqueror” or soldier in the Americas (p. 441)

constitution plan of government (p. 117)

consul in ancient Rome, one of two officials who headed the executive branch (p. 157)

cortes (KOR•tays) assembly of nobles, clergy, and town officials in medieval Spain; also, the parliament of modern Spain (p. 332)

count a noble who acted as a local official within the Frankish empire (p. 295)

covenant a solemn pledge or agreement (p. 83)

Crusades military expeditions by European Christians in the 11th–13th centuries to regain the Holy Land from the Muslims (p. 318)

cultural diffusion the exchange of goods, ideas, and customs among different cultures (p. 34)

culture the way of life of a given people at a given time, including language, behavior, and beliefs (p. 24)

cuneiform (kyoo•NEE•uh•fawrm) Sumerian system of writing using wedge-shaped markings (p. 60)

czar (from “caesar”) title taken by rulers of Russia beginning in the late 1400s (p. 264)

D

daimyo (DY•mee•oh) a powerful local noble in feudal Japan (p. 363)

datus local rulers in the Philippines (p. 475)

deity a god or goddess (p. 31)

democracy form of government in which the citizens hold power (p. 114)

dharma duties and rights of members of each class in traditional Hindu society (p. 205)

Diaspora (dye•AS•pur•uh) term for the scattering of communities of Jews outside their original homeland after the Babylonian captivity (p. 86)

dictator in ancient Rome, a leader given temporary absolute power during a crisis (p. 157)

disciple an active follower of a teacher (p. 172)

divine right political theory that a ruler derives his or her power directly from God and is accountable only to God (p. 482)

doge (DOHJ) the elected leader of the republic in the city-states of Venice and Genoa (p. 408)

domain territory held by a ruler (p. 142)

domesticate to tame animals or plants to serve human needs (p. 30)

dворяние (dvoh•ree•YAH•nee•yuh) new class of Russian landed nobility established by Peter the Great (p. 501)

dynasty a line of rulers who belong to the same family (p. 47)

E

economy system by which goods and services are produced and distributed to meet people’s needs (p. 33)

empire group of territories or nations ruled by a single ruler or government (p. 49)

entrepreneur person who undertakes risks to establish a business (p. 448)

epic long poem celebrating the deeds of a legendary or historical hero (p. 203)

ethics a system of moral principles that guide behavior (p. 225)

excommunication formal exclusion from membership or participation in a church (p. 306)

exodus the departure of a large group of people (p. 84)

extended family family group including several generations as well as other relatives (p. 229)

feudalism – justification by faith

F

feudalism medieval political system in which monarchs and lesser nobles made alliances based on exchanging land grants for loyalty (p. 298)

fief under feudalism, an estate with its peasant workers granted to a noble in exchange for loyalty and military help (p. 298)

filial piety children’s respect for their parents, an important principle in Confucian ethics (p. 226)

friar member of a Catholic order who preached in towns and practiced poverty (p. 307)

G

geisha Japanese woman trained as a professional entertainer (p. 472)

gentry in Elizabethan England, the social group including minor nobility and landowners (p. 488)

ghana title of the ruler of a region in ancient Africa, later applied to the kingdom (p. 189)

grand jury in English law, group of people who decide whether the evidence of a crime justifies bringing a person to trial (p. 309)

grand vizier (vih•ZEER) prime minister to the sultan of a Muslim country (p. 457)

guild medieval business association of merchants or craftsmen (p. 324)

H

haiku (HY•koo) Japanese poetry form with 17 syllables, usually in three lines (p. 472)

hajj pilgrimage to Makkah that every able-bodied Muslim is expected to make at least once (p. 276)

heresy disagreement with or denial of the basic teachings of a religion (p. 306)

hierarchy group of people organized according to levels of rank or importance (pp. 228, 389)

hieroglyphics ancient Egyptian writing system using picture symbols for ideas or sounds (p. 52)

homage formal ceremony establishing feudal ties between a lord and a vassal (p. 299)

hominid (HAH•muh•nihd) member of the group that includes human beings and earlier human-like creatures (p. 20)

humanism Renaissance movement based on the literature and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome, such as the worth of each individual (p. 404)

hygiene the science of good health (p. 138)

I

icon a Christian religious image or picture (p. 249)

iconoclast (“image breaker”) an opponent of the use of icons in Byzantine churches, who thought they encouraged the worship of idols (p. 250)

illuminated manuscript book page decorated by hand with elaborate designs, beautiful lettering, or miniature paintings (p. 253)

imam (ih•MAM) a Muslim prayer leader (p. 276)

indemnity payment for damages or losses (p. 160)

individualism emphasis on the dignity and worth of the individual person (p. 404-05)

indulgence pardon sold by the Catholic Church to reduce one’s punishment for sins (p. 416)

inflation situation in which prices rise quickly while the value of money decreases (pp. 176, 484)

intendant an agent representing the king of France in local government (p. 491)

J

jaguar spotted wild cat of Mesoamerica (p. 380)

janissary member of an elite corps of soldiers in the Ottoman Empire (p. 457)

jati groups based on occupation formed within larger social classes (varna) in ancient India, each with its own rules and customs (p. 204)

jihad (jih•HAHD) Muslim struggle to introduce Islam to other lands (p. 278)

joint-stock company trading venture that sold shares to divide costs and profits (p. 447)

journeyman craftsworker who has finished an apprenticeship and works for pay (p. 325)

junk a Chinese sailing ship (p. 464)

justification by faith Martin Luther’s concept that faith alone is enough to bring salvation (p. 415)

K

- karma** in Hinduism, the idea that one's actions in life determine one's destiny and future (p. 207)
khan an absolute ruler of the Mongols (p. 344)

L

- labor-intensive farming** agriculture that relies on human labor, not animals or machines (p. 466)
labyrinth a complex, confusing series of connected passages (p. 107)
laity church members who are not clergy (p. 249)
lay investiture medieval practice in which secular rulers appointed and inaugurated church officials such as bishops (p. 306)
line of demarcation imaginary line in the Atlantic Ocean, drawn by the pope in 1493 to divide the world's lands between Spain and Portugal (p. 439)
logic the science of reasoning and establishing proof for arguments (p. 135)

M

- madrasa** Muslim school of theology and law (p. 283)
maize corn native to the Americas (p. 374)
mandarin member of the elite class of civil servants in Chinese government (pp. 224, 348)
mandate in ancient China, authority granted by heaven to deserving rulers, called the Mandate of Heaven (p. 71)
manorialism medieval economic system linking nobles and the peasants on their land (p. 301)
martyr person who suffers and dies for a belief (p. 173)
master skilled artisan who owned a shop and employed other craftworkers (p. 325)
matrilineal tracing family descent through the mother and her ancestors (p. 187)
mayor of the palace Frankish official who, by A.D. 700, held real power in government (p. 294)
mercantilism economic policy of European nations in the 1600s, equating wealth and power (p. 448)
mercenary a soldier who serves a foreign country for pay (p. 124)

- meritocracy** system in which people gain success on the basis of ability and performance (p. 347)
messiah in Judaism, a savior promised by the Hebrew prophets, who would bring peace (p. 171)
metsuke group of officials who gathered information for the Tokugawa shoguns (p. 469)
middle class class of society that originally fell between nobility and peasants, earning their income from business and trade (p. 310)
Middle Passage middle section of the triangular trade, in which enslaved Africans were brought by ship to the Americas (p. 445)
millet community of non-Muslims within the Ottoman Empire (p. 458)
missionary person who travels to carry the ideas of a religion to others (p. 254)
monarchy rule by a king or a queen (p. 47)
monastery a community of men who have taken religious vows (p. 254)
money economy economic system in which money (not barter) is used to buy and sell (p. 323)
monopoly control of all (or almost all) trade or production of a given good (p. 194)
monotheism belief in one God (pp. 83, 189)
monsoon seasonal wind that affects climates and ways of life in southern Asia (p. 66)
mosaic picture made up of tiny pieces of colored glass, tile, or stone set in mortar (p. 253)
mosque a Muslim house of worship (pp. 191, 276)
multicultural representing several different cultural and ethnic groups (p. 195)
myth a traditional story that explains natural events (p. 35)

N

- nirvana** in Buddhism, a state of oneness with the universe, the end of the cycle of rebirth (p. 210)
nomad member of a group of people with no fixed home, who travel constantly to find food and water (p. 22)
nuclear family family group consisting only of parents and children (p. 229)

obsidian – secular

O

- obsidian** black volcanic glass (p. 383)
oligarchy form of government in which a small group holds political power (p. 114)
oral tradition the legends and history of a culture preserved by word of mouth (p. 184)

P

- paleontologist** (pay•lee•ahn•TAH•luh•jihst) scientist who studies fossil remains (p. 20)
patriarch in the early Christian Church, one of five powerful bishops in major cities (p. 174)
patrician a member of the wealthy aristocratic class of ancient Rome (p. 156)
perspective an artistic technique for showing relationships and space between objects (p. 131)
petit jury group of people who determine the guilt or innocence of a person on trial (p. 309)
phalanx in ancient Greece, a military formation in which foot soldiers stood so that their shields overlapped (p. 114)
pharaoh title of rulers of ancient Egypt (p. 49)
philosopher a thinker or lover of wisdom (p. 135)
pilgrimage journey to a holy place (p. 334)
plateau a relatively flat region of land higher than the surrounding area (p. 185)
plebeian (plih•BEE•uhn) a citizen of ancient Rome who was not an aristocrat (p. 156)
polis city-state of ancient Greece (p. 112)
polytheism worship of many gods (p. 52)
pope the bishop of Rome, later the head of the Roman Catholic Church (p. 174)
potlatch feast held by Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest to display their wealth (p. 376)
pragmatic sanction decree issued by a ruler on an important question (p. 495)
predestination doctrine of John Calvin that each person's fate is predetermined by God (p. 419)
prehistory time before written history (p. 20)
principality territory ruled by a prince (p. 260)
prophet a person who preaches or interprets what are thought to be messages from God (p. 83)

Q

- queue** (KYOO) single braid of hair at the back of the head (p. 466)
quinoa grain grown in the Andes (p. 390)

R

- radiocarbon dating** modern scientific method for telling the age of once-living material by measuring the amount of radioactive carbon remaining in it (p. 21)
rajah an Aryan tribal chief in ancient India; later the ruler of an Indian state (p. 202)
regent person who acts as a temporary ruler (p. 251)
reincarnation the rebirth of the soul or spirit in different bodies over time (p. 206)
republic a government in which citizens elect the leaders (p. 156)
revelation a vision of divine truth, such as those attributed to Muhammad (p. 272)
rhetoric art of effective public speaking (p. 119)

S

- sacrament** one of the established formal rituals of the Roman Catholic Church, such as baptism, holy communion, or matrimony (p. 303)
samurai class of landowning warriors in feudal Japan, who pledged loyalty to a daimyo (p. 363)
sanctuary building used for worship (p. 130)
sankin-kotai ("alternate attendance") in feudal Japan, system in which a daimyo had to spend every other year at the shogun's court (p. 469)
satrap governor of a Persian province (p. 91)
savanna a flat grassland, with few trees, in tropical or subtropical regions (p. 185)
schism (SIH•zuhm) the division of the Christian Church in 1054 that separated the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church (p. 250)
scholasticism medieval school of thought that tried to bring together Aristotle's philosophy and the teachings of Church scholars (p. 326)
sect a subgroup with distinct beliefs within a larger religious group (p. 171)
secular worldly, not overtly or specifically religious (p. 404)

- seminary** school for educating priests, as ordered by the Council of Trent (p. 423)
- serf** a peasant laborer legally bound to the lands of a noble (pp. 302, 501)
- shamanism** belief that spirits inhabit living and nonliving things, communicating with humans through priests called shamans (p. 358)
- shari'ah** (shuh•REE•uh) Islamic code of law that includes rules for all aspects of life (p. 275)
- sheikh** (SHAYK) chief of a bedouin tribe (p. 271)
- shogun** military ruler of feudal Japan (p. 363)
- shogunate** government established by a shogun's family and followers in feudal Japan (p. 363)
- simony** the selling of official positions in the medieval Roman Catholic Church (p. 335)
- slash-and-burn farming** farming method in which land for crops is cleared by cutting and burning trees to fertilize the soil (p. 380)
- sonnet** poetry form with 14 lines and a fixed pattern of rhyme and meter (p. 405)
- steppe** wide, grassy, semiarid plains of Eurasia, from the Black Sea to the Altai Mountains (p. 258)
- stupa** a dome-shaped Buddhist shrine built over relics or bones of a holy person (p. 210)
- subcontinent** landmass that is part of a continent but distinct from it, such as India (p. 66)
- sultan** political leader with absolute authority over a Muslim country (p. 457)
- symposium** in ancient Athens, a gathering of men that featured eating, drinking, entertainment, and intellectual discussions (p. 123)

T

- technology** the skills and knowledge used by people to make tools and do work (p. 24)
- theocracy** government headed by religious leaders or a leader regarded as a god (pp. 48, 418)
- theology** study of religious questions (p. 251)

- tournament** medieval sport in which knights competed to show their fighting skills (p. 299)
- tragedy** story or play in which the central character struggles against destiny but meets an unhappy end (p. 132)
- triangular trade** three-directional trade route between Europe, Africa, and America in the 1600s (p. 444)
- tribune** in ancient Rome, an official who represented the plebeians (p. 157)
- triumvirate** in ancient Rome, a three-person ruling group (p. 162)
- troubadour** poet-musician of the Middle Ages, who traveled from court to court (p. 327)
- tyrant** in ancient Greece, a person who seized power and established one-man rule (p. 114)

U V

- varna** one of four main social classes in Aryan society of ancient India (p. 203)
- vassal** in feudalism, a noble who held land from and served a higher-ranking lord (p. 299)
- vernacular** the language of everyday speech, not of scholars, in a country or region (p. 328)
- vocation** a calling from God to take up certain work (p. 417)

W X Y Z

- weir** net or trap placed across a river to catch fish (p. 376)
- yasa** Mongol law code of Genghis Khan (p. 344)
- yeoman** (YOH•mun) in English society, a farmer who owned land (p. 488)
- yin and yang** in Chinese thinking, the opposing principles present in all nature (p. 227)
- yurt** large, round, portable tent used by nomads of central Asia (p. 343)