Abbasids: group that took control of the Muslim empire from the Umayyads in 750.

Abd al-Malik: caliph in the 600s who imposed a common language in Muslim lands.

Abraham: shepherd who became the father of the Hebrew people.

absolute monarchs: kings or queens who had unlimited power and controlled all aspects of society.

absolute ruler: leader who has total power.

Acropolis: highest part of Athens, location of important buildings.

Aeneas: hero of the Trojan War who settled in Italy after Troy was destroyed.

Afonso I: king of Kongo whose rule began in 1506 and who was influenced by the Portuguese.

afterlife: a life believed to follow death.

agriculture: cultivation of soil to produce crops.

ahimsa: nonviolence.

AIDS: disease that attacks a person’s ability to fight off infections.

Akbar: Mughal emperor who showed wisdom in governing his empire.

Akkum: empire along the Red Sea that controlled much of northern Ethiopia from the first to the eighth century.

al-Andalus: Arabic name for Spain while under Muslim control.

Alexander the Great: King of Macedonia who conquered parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Alexandria: city in Egypt founded by Alexander in 332 B.C.

Allah: Arabic word for God.

Allied forces: World War I alliance of Great Britain, France, Russia, and others; World War II alliance of United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Canada, Australia, and other countries that fought the Axis powers.

Almoravids: North African Islamic dynasty in the 1000s and 1100s that tried to forcibly convert neighboring peoples.

alphabet: system of symbols representing sounds.

Anasazi: early culture of the Southwest who were the first pueblo dwellers.

anatomy: structure of living things.

Angkor Wat: temple complex built on the Indochinese Peninsula in the 1100s, the world’s largest religious structure.

apartheid: official policy of racial segregation practiced in South Africa from 1948 to 1991.

appeasement: meeting demands of a hostile power in order to avoid war.
Bastille  Paris prison seized by a revolutionary mob on July 14, 1789.
Berlin Conference  meeting in Berlin in 1884–1885 to divide up Africa.
Bishops  local church leaders within the Roman Catholic Church.
Bismarck, Otto von  Prussian prime minister who unified Germany.
Blitzkrieg  German “lightning war” tactics.
Boer War  war in South Africa between British and Dutch colonists known as Boers (1899–1902).
Bolívar, Simón  leader for independence in northern South America.
Bonaparte, Napoleon  military leader who created a vast French Empire after the French Revolution.
Brahmanism  early religion of the Aryans, who migrated to India.
Bubonic Plague  disease that struck western Eurasia in the mid-1300s, in an outbreak known as the Black Death.
Buddhism  religion that began in India and is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama.
Bureaucracy  system of departments and agencies that carry out the work of a government.
Byzantine Empire  eastern half of the Roman Empire that survived for a thousand years after the fall of Rome.

C

Caesar, Julius  Roman general, politician, and dictator.
Caliph  head of a Muslim community.
Calligraphy  art of fine handwriting.
Calvin, John  French leader of the Protestant Reformation.
Capitalism  economic system based on private ownership of resources and the use of those resources to make a profit.
Caravel  ship designed for long voyages.
Caste  social class that a person belongs to by birth.
Catapult  military machine used to hurl stones or spears at enemy forces and city walls.
Cataract  high waterfall or rapids.
Celadon  Korean ceramic pottery with a thin blue or green glaze.
Central Powers  World War I alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.
Charlemagne  king of the Franks who conquered much of Europe and spread Christianity.
Chasquis  runners who carried messages up and down the length of the Incan Empire.

Chivalry  code of conduct of knights, focusing on bravery, honor, and respect toward women and the weak.
Churchill, Winston  British Prime Minister during World War II.
Cicero  Roman consul, speaker, and opponent of Caesar.
Circumnavigate  to sail completely around.
Citizen  person who owes loyalty to a country and receives its protection.
City-state  political unit made up of a city and its surrounding lands.
Civil disobedience  nonviolent refusal to obey laws.
Civilization  advanced form of culture that developed in cities.
Civil war  armed conflict between groups in the same country.
Clans  groups of people who share an ancestor.
Clergy  people with priestly authority in a religion.
Clovis  founder of a Frankish kingdom in the former Roman province of Gaul.
Code of Law  written rules for people to obey.
Codex  type of book used by early Mesoamerican civilizations to record important historical events.
Cold War  conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II.
Colosseum  Roman stadium where Romans watched gladiator fights.
Columbian Exchange  movement of plants and animals between the Eastern and Western hemispheres after Columbus’ voyages to the Americas.
Columbus, Christopher  Italian explorer in the service of Spain who reached America in 1492.
Comedy  humorous dramatic work that makes fun of politics, important people, or ideas.
Common law  system of law based on court decisions and local customs.
Communism  political system in which the government controls and plans the economy with the goal of common ownership of all property.
Confucianism  belief system based on the teachings of Confucius, a Chinese scholar.
Congress of Vienna  series of meetings in Vienna, Austria, in 1814–1815 to reestablish peace and order in Europe after Napoleon’s defeat.
Constantine  Roman emperor who made Christianity one of the empire’s legal religions.
Consuls  people who led the executive branch in ancient Rome.
Containment  policy to stop the spread of communism.
Córdoba  capital of Muslim Spain.
Corporations  businesses owned by investors who buy parts of them through shares of stock.
**creed** statement of beliefs.

**Crimean War** war on the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, Great Britain, and France (1853–1856).

**Crusades** series of military expeditions from Christian Europe to Palestine between the 1000s and 1200s.

**cultural diffusion** spread of cultural practices and customs to other areas of the world.

**Cuneiform** first known writing system, which used wedge-shaped symbols.

**D**

daimyo Japanese noble who had large landholdings and a private army.

**Dai Viet** independent kingdom established by the Vietnamese after they drove the Chinese from the Indochinese Peninsula in the 900s.

**Daoism** Chinese belief system said to have begun with Laozi, a philosopher in the 500s B.C., based on the idea of natural order in the world.

**Darwin, Charles** English naturalist (scientist who studies plants and animals) who developed theory of evolution.

**David** king of the Israelites who won control of Jerusalem around 1000 B.C.

**D-Day** Allied invasion of France during World War II, on June 6, 1944.

**Declaration of Independence** document that declared American independence from Great Britain.

**Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** document written by leaders of the French Revolution.

**Delian League** league of Greek city-states formed for mutual protection.

**delta** triangle-shaped deposit of rich soil at a river’s mouth.

**democracy** government in which citizens make political decisions, either directly or through elected representatives.

**dharma** collective teachings of the Buddha, often represented by a wheel.

**Diaspora** movement of the Jews to other parts of the world.

**Diocletian** Roman emperor who restored order to the empire and divided it into eastern and western parts.

**direct democracy** form of government in which all citizens participate.

**disciples** closest followers of Jesus.

**divan** imperial council that advised the sultan of the Ottoman Empire.

**domesticate** to adapt or breed plants or animals for human use.

**domino theory** belief that if a country fell to communism, nearby countries would follow.

**drama** written work performed by actors.

**drought** long period of little or no rainfall when it is difficult to grow crops.

**Duomo** domed cathedral in Florence.

**dynastic cycle** pattern of the rise and fall of dynasties in China.

**dynasty** family or group that rules for several generations.

**Eastern Orthodox Church** branch of Christianity that developed in the Eastern Roman Empire.

**economic depression** long slump in business, in which many workers lose their jobs.

**Edison, Thomas** inventor who developed the light bulb, phonograph, and motion picture camera.

**Elizabethan Age** period of English history named after Queen Elizabeth I, who ruled from 1558 to 1603.

**embalm** to preserve a body after death.

**embassy** office of one country’s government in another country.

**emperor** person who rules an empire.

**empire** group of territories and peoples brought together under one supreme ruler.

**enlightened despots** absolute rulers who tried to use power in a just and enlightened way.

**Enlightenment** philosophical movement in the 1600s and 1700s that was characterized by the use of reason and the scientific method.

**epic** long poem about a hero’s adventures.

**Epistles** letters that became part of the New Testament.

**ethnic cleansing** removing an ethnic or religious group from an area by force or the mass killing of members of such a group.

**exile** forced removal from one’s homeland, often to lands far away.

**Exodus** migration of the Israelites from Egypt.

**fable** short story that usually involves animals and teaches a moral.

**factories** buildings that house enormous machines in which hundreds of laborers work.

**fascism** political philosophy that promotes blind loyalty to the state and a strong central government controlled by a powerful dictator.

**federalism** sharing of power between an organization and its members.

**fertile** favorable for the growth of crops and other plants.
**Fertile Crescent** region stretching from the Persian Gulf northwest up the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and west over to the Mediterranean Sea.

**feudalism** political and social system of the Middle Ages in Europe, in which lords gave land to vassals in exchange for service and loyalty.

**filial piety** respect for one’s parents and ancestors, an important teaching of Confucianism.

**floodplain** flat land bordering the banks of a river.

**Forbidden City** group of walled palaces built for the Chinese emperor in the capital city of Beijing.

**Four Modernizations** Chinese policy to modernize aspects of the economy.

**Gandhi, Mohandas** 20th-century Indian who helped lead his country to independence by using nonviolent resistance to colonial rule.

**Garibaldi, Giuseppe** Italian soldier who helped unify Italy.

**Gautama, Siddhartha** founder of Buddhism also known as the Buddha, or “enlightened one.”

**Genghis Khan** Mongol leader who united the Mongol tribes and began a campaign of conquest.

**Gentiles** non-Jewish people.

**geocentric theory** belief that the earth is the center of the universe.

**Ghana** kingdom that existed from the 700s to the 1000s in the region between the Sahara and the forests of southern West Africa.

**gladiators** trained Roman warriors.

**global economy** economy in which buying and selling occurs across national borders.

**global warming** increase in the average temperature of the earth’s atmosphere.

**golden age** period during which a society attains prosperity and cultural achievements.

**Gospels** four written accounts of the life of Jesus.

**government** organization set up to make and enforce rules for a society.

**Great Depression** serious and worldwide economic decline of the 1930s.

**Great Plains** cultural region located in the vast grassland in central North America extending from south-central Canada southward to Texas.

**Great Schism** division in the Roman Catholic Church from 1378 to 1417, which occurred when the Church’s two centers of power elected different popes.

**Great Wall** wall built by Shi Huangdi to link smaller walls and keep invaders out of China.

**Great Zimbabwe** central settlement of the Shona empire in Africa.

**Griots** storytellers in African civilizations.

**guilds** associations of people sharing a trade or craft, intended to control the quality and quantity of their production and to protect their interests.

**Gutenberg, Johann** German inventor of the printing press.

**habeas corpus** right of people not to be imprisoned unlawfully.

**haiku** Japanese form of poetry that has 17 syllables arranged in lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

**Han Dynasty** Chinese dynasty begun in 202 B.C. by Liu Bang, who reunified China.

**Harappan civilization** ancient civilization that developed along the Indus River.

**harmony** agreement in feeling.

**Hatshepsut** woman pharaoh who strengthened Egypt through trade.

**heliocentric theory** belief that the sun is the center of the universe.

**Hellenistic** culture made up of parts of Greek, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian styles and customs.

**helots** enslaved people of Sparta.

**Hidalgo, Father Miguel** priest who took the first step toward Mexico’s independence.

**hieroglyphs** pictures that stand for words or sounds.

**Hijrah** move of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Yathrib in A.D. 622.

**Himalayas** the highest mountains in the world, which stretch along northern India, separating India from China and the rest of Asia.

**Hindu-Arabic numerals** numerals we use today that originated in India and were brought to the West by Arab trade.

**Hinduism** modern name for the major religion of India, which developed from Brahmanism.

**Hindu Kush** mountain range to the northwest of India.

**Hitler, Adolf** German head of state from 1933 to 1945.

**Holocaust** systematic murder of millions of Jews and others by the Nazis during World War II.

**humanism** way of thought that focuses on human beings and their potential for achievement.

**human rights** people’s rights to life, liberty, equality, health care, and other rights essential to human well being.

**Hundred Years’ War** series of wars between England and France that took place between 1337 and 1453.

**hunter-gatherers** people who hunt animals and gather plants for food.
I

Iberian Peninsula southwestern tip of Europe; present location of Spain and Portugal.

ideal perfected form.

Ignatius of Loyola Spaniard who founded the religious order of Jesuits.

imperial relating to an empire or emperor.

imperialism policy by which stronger nations extend their economic, political, or military control over weaker nations.

Indochinese Peninsula large area of land located to the south of China.

indulgence relaxation of earthly penalty for sin.

Industrial Revolution economic changes of the late 1700s, when large-scale manufacturing replaced farming as the main form of work.

inflation an increase in prices and a decrease in the value of money.

Inquisition Roman Catholic court established to find and punish those who had strayed from the Roman Catholic faith.

iron curtain division between Communist Eastern Europe and non-Communist Western Europe.

Iroquois Confederacy Native American group formed about 1450 and made up of the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca tribes.

irrigation watering dry land by using ditches, pipes, or streams.

Islam monotheistic religion based upon submission to God’s will and the teachings of the Qur’an, the Muslim holy book.

Isthmus strip of land that connects two landmasses.

J

Jahangir Akbar’s son, who allowed his wife to control the Mughal Empire after he took the throne.

Janissaries members of an elite fighting force in the Ottoman Empire made up mainly of slaves.

Jefferson, Thomas colonial leader from Virginia who wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Jesuits religious order also called the Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius of Loyola.

Jesus Jewish teacher whose life and teaching became the basis of Christianity.

Joan of Arc French peasant girl who led the French to victory over the English at Orléans in 1429.

Judaism monotheistic religion of the Jews, based on the writings of the Hebrew Bible.

justice fair treatment of all the people, based on the law.

Justinian emperor who expanded the Byzantine Empire.

Justinian Code uniform code of law based on Roman law.

K

Kalidasa one of India’s greatest writers.

karma in Hinduism, the consequences of a person’s actions in this life, which determine his or her fate in the next life.

Kenyatta, Jomo leader of Kenya’s independence movement and the country’s first president.

khanate one of the parts of the Mongol Empire.

Khayyam, Omar master of the poetic form called the quatrain, popular in Persia.

Khmer Empire empire that began in the 500s and had gained control of much of mainland Southeast Asia by the 800s.

Khufu pharaoh who ordered the construction of the largest pyramid ever built.

Kilwa ancient city-state on the eastern coast of Africa, settled by people from Arabia and Persia.

KING highest-ranking leader of a group of people.

King John king of England who signed the Magna Carta in 1215.

Kongo a Bantu-speaking kingdom that arose in the 1300s in the Congo River region along Africa’s western coast.

Koryo kingdom on the Korean Peninsula, established in the 900s, from which present-day Korea takes its name.

Kublai Khan grandson of Genghis Kahn who took power and gained control over all of China.

Kush Nubian kingdom that conquered all of upper and lower Egypt in the 700s B.C.
lord powerful landowner in medieval Europe.
Luther, Martin German theologian, born in 1483, who was a leader of the Reformation.

M

Magna Carta list of rights written by England’s nobility and signed by King John in 1215.
Mali West African empire of the Malinke people between the 1200s and 1500s.
Manchu people from northeast of China who conquered the Ming and began the last dynasty (the Qing) in Chinese history.
Mandate of Heaven ancient Chinese belief that a good ruler had the gods’ approval.
Mandela, Nelson leader of the movement of black South Africans to gain equal rights.
manor noble’s house and the villages on his land where the peasants lived.
Marathon plain near Athens.
maritime relating to the sea.
Masada Jewish fortress overlooking the Dead Sea in Israel.
matrilineal descent family identity that is based on the mother’s family, rather than the father’s.
Maya Mesoamerican civilization that reached its height between A.D. 250 and 900.
mercantilism economic policy based on the idea that a nation’s power depends on its wealth.
mercenary soldier for hire.
Mesoamerica region that includes the central and southern part of Mexico and much of Central America.
Mesoopotamia land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
Messiah Hebrew word that means an “anointed one” charged with some task or leadership.
Michelangelo Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, and architect.
Middle Ages period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, lasting from about A.D. 500 to 1450.
migration process of relocating to a new region.
missionary person sent to do religious work in another place.
Mongols fierce nomadic warriors who lived in the plains northwest of China.
monotheism belief in one God.
monsoon seasonal wind system that produces a wet or dry season in a region, sometimes with heavy rainfall.
Montezuma II last Aztec emperor, who ruled from A.D. 1502 to 1520 and was overthrown by the Spanish.
mosaic picture made by placing small, colored pieces of stone, tile, or glass on a surface.
Moses according to the Bible, the prophet who led the Israelites from Egypt.
mosque Muslim house of worship.
mother culture culture that shapes and influences the customs and ideas of later cultures.
Mount Olympus highest mountain in Greece; home of the Greek gods, according to myth.
movable type small block of metal or wood with a single raised character, used for printing texts.
Mughals Muslims from central Asia who conquered northern India in the 1500s.
multinational corporation company that operates in more than one country.
mummy body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice.
Munich Conference conference held in Munich, Germany, at which Great Britain and France agreed that Germany could have the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia.
Musa, Mansa leader of the Mali empire from 1312 to about 1337.
Muslims followers of Islam.
Mussolini, Benito fascist leader of Italy.
myth story that people tell to explain beliefs about their world.

N

nationalism feeling of pride, loyalty, and protectiveness toward one’s country.
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a military alliance that originally included Canada, the United States, and ten European nations.
natural rights rights to life, liberty, and property that many believe people are born with.
Nazi Party party that developed a German form of fascism.
Nehru, Jawaharlal India’s first leader after independence.
nirvana in Buddhism, a state of wisdom that ends reincarnation.
Nkrumah, Kwame leader of Ghana’s independence movement.
omads members of a group of people who have no set home but move from place to place.
Nur Jahan Jahangir’s wife, who held the true power in Mughal India while her husband was the emperor.
obelisk  pillar-shaped stone monument.
oligarchy  a government ruled by a few powerful individuals.
Olmec  earliest major Mesoamerican civilization, which flourished from 1200 to 400 B.C.
Olympics  games held in ancient Greece every four years.
oracle bones  animal bones or shells used by the Shang kings to communicate with the gods.
oratory  art of public speaking.
Osman  founder of the Ottoman Empire in Asia Minor in the early 1300s.
Ostracize  in ancient Greece, to send someone away from the city-state for ten years.
Pachacuti  ninth Inca ruler, who came to power in A.D. 1438 and expanded the Incan Empire.
papyrus  paperlike material made from the stems of the papyrus reed.
parables  stories with morals, often told by Jesus.
parliament  group of representatives with some powers of government.
Parthenon  temple for Athena on the Acropolis.
partition  division of a country into two or more separate parts.
patricians  wealthy landowners who held high government positions in ancient Rome.
patrons  wealthy or powerful people who provide money, support, and encouragement to an artist or a cause.
Paul  apostle and early leader of the Christian church.
Pax Romana  Latin phrase meaning “Roman Peace,” referring to the peace and stability of the Roman Empire.
Peace of Westphalia  treaty that recognized the religious division of western Europe.
Pearl Harbor  U.S. naval base in Hawaii attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941.
pediment  triangular space between the top of a colonnade and the roof.
Peloponnesian War  conflict between Athens and Sparta from 431 to 404 B.C.
Peloponnese  peninsula that forms the southern part of Greece.
peninsula  body of land nearly surrounded by water.
Pericles  leader of Athens from 460 to 429 B.C.
perspective  technique used by artists to give the appearance of depth and distance.
pharaoh  ruler of ancient Egypt.
philosophers  French thinkers who applied the scientific method to social problems.
philosophy  logical study of basic truths about knowledge, values, and the world.
Phoenicians  people of Southwest Asia who began to trade around 1100 B.C.
pictographs  pictures or drawings that represent a word or an idea.
pilgrimage  journey to a sacred place or shrine.
Piye  king of Kush around 750 B.C., who gained control of Egypt, becoming pharaoh and uniting Egypt and Kush.
plague  disease that spreads easily and usually causes death.
planned cities  cities built according to a design.
plebeians  commoners who were allowed to vote but not to hold government office in ancient Rome.
plunder  to loot, or to take things by force.
polis  Greek word for city-state.
Polo, Marco  Italian traveler in China.
polytheism  belief in many gods and goddesses.
pope  bishop of Rome and the most important bishop in the Catholic Church.
porcelain  hard white ceramic material, often called china.
potlatch  ceremony where gifts and property are given away to show the giver’s wealth and status.
primary source  document or artifact created by a person who witnessed a historical event.
printing press  device that mechanically printed pages by pressing inked forms onto paper; invented in about 1455.
prophets  spiritual leaders who were thought to have a special ability to interpret God’s word.
Protestant  member of a Christian group that broke away from the Catholic Church.
provinces  governmental divisions like states.
psychology  study of the human mind and behavior.
pueblos  villages made up of multistoried adobe or stone dwellings.
pyramid  ancient Egyptian structure, built over or around a tomb.
Q
Qin  state of ancient China.
Qur’an  Muslim holy book.
rabbis Jewish leaders and teachers.
racism belief that some people are inferior because of their race.
Raj Great Britain’s rule of India from the 1850s until 1947.
Ramses II pharaoh who ruled Egypt for 66 years and greatly expanded the Egyptian empire by conquering surrounding territories.
rationalism use of reason to understand the world.
Reconquista series of campaigns, ending in 1492, by which Christian armies drove Muslim rulers out of Spain.
Reformation movement in the 1500s to change practices in the Catholic Church.
Reign of Terror period in which anyone considered an enemy of the French Revolution was executed.
reincarnation the rebirth of a soul in another body.
religion worship of God, gods, or spirits.
religious order group of people who live according to a set of religious rules.
Remus twin of Romulus, the legendary hero who founded Rome.
Renaissance rebirth of creativity, literature, and learning in Europe from about 1300 to 1600.
republic government in which citizens elect representatives to rule in their name.
reunification merging of East Germany and West Germany into one country in 1990.
reunify to bring something that has been separated back together.
Roman Catholic Church Christian church based in Rome.
romanticism artistic movement in the early 1800s that emphasized emotion, individual freedom, and nature.
Romulus legendary hero who founded Rome.
Royal Road road used for government purposes in ancient times.
savannas flat grasslands in the tropics or subtropics with few, scattered trees.
scholar-official educated person who worked in China’s government.
scientific method way to understand the world that involves observation and experimentation.
Scientific Revolution major change in European thinking in the mid-1500s that led to the questioning of old theories.
scribes people who specialized in writing and record keeping.
secondary source work produced about a historical event by someone who was not actually there.
Senate powerful body of 300 members that advised Roman leaders.
Sepoy Mutiny rebellion in 1857 by Indian soldiers, or sepoys, against the British.
sers people who lived and worked on the manor of a lord or vassal.
Shah Jahan Jahangir’s son, who became the emperor of the Mughal Empire in 1628.
Shakespeare, William English playwright and poet of the late 1500s and early 1600s.
Shi’a branch of Islam that resisted the rule of the Umayyads.
Shi Huangdi Chinese ruler who came to power in 221 B.C. and unified and expanded China by ending internal battles and conquering rival states.
Shinto Japan’s original religion; involves worshiping gods believed to be found in nature.
shogun leader of a military government of Japan beginning in 1192.
Shona Bantu-speaking culture that was thriving by 1000 in what is now Botswana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.
Silk Roads overland trade routes along which silk and other Chinese goods passed to Mesopotamia and Europe.
silt fine, fertile soil carried by rivers and deposited on nearby lands.
slash-and-burn agriculture type of agriculture in which land is prepared for planting by cutting down and burning natural vegetation.
Smith, Adam economist who wrote that economic freedom would lead to economic success in his most important work, The Wealth of Nations.
social class group of people with similar customs, backgrounds, training, and income.
Solomon David’s son, who became the third king of Israel about 962 B.C.
Songhai West African people whose leaders built a giant empire in the 1400s and 1500s.

S

Sahara large desert in Northern Africa.
Saladin military leader who united Muslims to fight the Christians in Palestine in the 1100s.
salons gatherings in Europe of thinkers and artists to discuss the important issues of the day.
samurai professional soldiers of Japan.
San Martín, José de leader for independence in southern South America.
satraps governors of provinces in the Persian Empire.
Sparta city-state of ancient Greece, noted for its militarism.
specialization skill in one type of work.
sponsor someone who gives money for an undertaking, such as a voyage.
stabilize to keep from changing.
stalemate situation in which neither side can win.
standing army fighting force maintained even in times of peace.
step pyramid type of pyramid with sides that rise in giant steps.
Stock Market Crash of 1929 plunge in stock market prices that marked the beginning of the Great Depression.
stocks shares or pieces of a corporation that people own, giving them rights of ownership.
Stoic originally, a Greek philosophy that stressed the importance of virtue, duty, and endurance in life.
subcontinent large landmass that is part of a continent but is considered a separate region.
succession order in which members of a royal family inherit a throne.
Suez Canal waterway linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
Suleyman I sultan of the Ottoman Empire in the 1500s who organized an effective legal code.
Sundiata ruler of the Malinke people in the 1200s who greatly expanded Mali’s empire.
Sunnah teachings and practices of Muhammad used as guides for living.
Sunnis members of the branch of Islam that accepted the selected caliphs as successors of Muhammad and did not resist the Umayyads.
surplus amount produced in excess of what is needed.
sustainable growth economic development that meets current needs in ways that conserve resources and preserve the environment.
Swahili African language that blends Bantu and Arabic elements.
synagogues places for Jewish prayer and worship.

Taj Mahal beautiful tomb in India built by Shah Jahan to honor his wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
technology people’s application of knowledge, tools, and inventions to meet their needs.
Ten Commandments basis of the law of the Israelites; according to the Torah, given by God to Moses.
terrorism use of violence for political ends.
theory of evolution theory that species change over generations through natural selection.
Timbuktu city of Mali, developed by Sundiata in the 1200s as a center of trade and culture.
toleration practice of allowing people to keep their traditions and beliefs.
Toussaint L’Ouverture leader of Haiti’s movement for independence from France.
tragedy serious drama that presents the downfall of an important character.
trans-Eurasian involving the continents of Europe and Asia.
Treaty of Tordesillas 1494 treaty between Spain and Portugal that gave Portugal control over land that is now Brazil.
Treaty of Versailles 1919 treaty that ended World War I.
trench warfare warfare in which soldiers dug deep trenches across the battlefield.
triangular trade exchange of goods and slaves across the Atlantic Ocean between Africa, the Americas, and Europe.
tribute payment made in return for protection.
Trinity Christian belief in the union of three divine persons—Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit—in one God.
tropical having a warm and rainy climate.
true agreement to stop fighting.
tyrant in ancient Greece, a ruler who took power illegally.

U
Umayyads dynasty that ruled the Muslim empire from 661 to 750.
United Nations international peacekeeping body founded by 50 nations after World War II.
universal gravitation force of attraction that acts on all objects throughout the universe.

V
vassal person in feudal society who received land and protection from lords in return for loyalty.
vaults arches that form a ceiling or a roof.
vegetation zone region that, because of its soil and climate, has distinctive types of plants.
vernacular a person’s native language.

W
Warsaw Pact alliance of the Soviet Union and its allies in Central and Eastern Europe.
Wilson, Woodrow President of the United States during World War I.
**wood-block printing**  printing system developed by the ancient Chinese, in which wood blocks were carved with enough characters to print entire pages.

**woodcut**  image produced from a wood carving.

**Y**

**Yucatán Peninsula**  area of dense jungle in southeastern Mexico, extending into the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

**Z**

**Zealots**  group of Jews who led a rebellion against Roman authority.

**Zen**  form of Buddhism that focuses on self-discipline, simplicity, and meditation.

**Zeus**  ruler of the Greek gods.

**Zheng He**  Chinese admiral whose voyages greatly expanded China's foreign trade and reputation.

**ziggurat**  temple built atop a series of increasingly smaller platforms.

**Zionists**  Jews who wanted a Jewish national homeland in Palestine.