

## GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

History is, quite simply, the study of people. In this course, you will look at people from around the world and across time. In learning about them, you will also learn why the study of history is important to us today. You will discover that there are connections among historical events in our world; connections that link all people together across time and space. Once you understand what the study of history is all about, you will be able to apply this knowledge as you examine the history of the world's people.

In this unit, you will look at world civilizations, including the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome. You will learn about the emergence of major religions, including Judaism and Christianity, and the influence of new technologies and cultural achievements.

### VOCABULARY

acropolis	citadel or fortification usually built on the top of a hill in a Greek city-state
agora	a public square
anarchy	absence of any system of government in a society
anthropomorphic	human form and behavior attributed to deities in mythology
anvil	a piece of iron on which heated metal is beaten into shapes
aristocracy	people of the highest social class or nobility
cataract	a series of rapids and waterfalls on a river
collective learning	the ability to learn and transfer knowledge to others
confederacy	an alliance of people or states
consonant	a speech sound other than a vowel
cosmogony	a story of origins
covenant	a solemn agreement between two or more parties
crucifixion	a form of execution where the victim is bound or nailed to a cross

cynicism	a philosophy that doubts the attitude, beliefs, or character of others
democracy	form of government allowing every citizen to participate
despot	a tyrant or ruler with absolute powers
diaspora	the scattering of a people from their homeland
doctrine	ideas that are taught as truth in a religion
dynasty	a succession of rulers from the same family
gospel	the teachings of Jesus Christ and the story of his life
heretic	someone who has beliefs that contradict a religion's doctrine
hierarchical	describes the formally ranked order of a group
hubris	excessive arrogance or ambition that leads to the downfall of a hero
imperator	a victorious military commander during the Roman Republic
imperium	use power of the state to enforce the law
inductive reasoning	reaching conclusions based on observation
indigenous	people groups that are native to a region
logographic	a system of writing in which signs or characters represent meanings, such as modern Chinese
mercenaries	professional soldiers paid to fight for a country other than their own
Messiah	someone regarded as a savior or liberator of a people
metallurgy	the study of metals and the process for refining and making things from them
metaphysical	the philosophical study of the nature of being and beings
monasticism	way of life where a person withdraws from society to devote self to prayer and solitude
monotheistic	describes a belief in one god controlling the universe

mythology	stories which are not necessarily true about ancestors, heroes, and gods
mythology	the body of sacred stories of a particular culture that explain origins, mysteries and the afterlife
oligarchy	a small group of people who together governs a nation
patrician	a member of an aristocratic family in Rome
philosophy	a particular system of thought or doctrine
plebeian	one of the ordinary citizens of Rome
polis	a City that functioned as its own independent, governing state in Ancient Greece
polytheistic	the doctrine that there are many gods and goddesses; a belief that many gods control the universe
protectorate	a region controlled and defended by a more powerful state
ratify	to give formal approval to an agreement
religion	beliefs concerning the existence, nature, and worship of a deity or deities
republic	form of government in which power resides in elected representatives not with a monarch
revenue	money that comes into a business from the sale of goods or services
satrap	a Persian provincial governor
savannah	large, flat grassland located in a tropical or subtropical region
skepticism	philosophy that believes true knowledge is not possible
smelting	the process of melting ore in order to get metal from it
Socratic Method	a means of arriving at truth by questioning, obtaining answers, and criticizing the answers

sophistry	method of argumentation that seems clever but is flawed or dishonest
steppe	a vast, semi-arid, usually grassy plain
syncretism	philosophy that attempts to combine different systems of beliefs or practices
trinity	the union of three persons in Christianity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
triumvirate	a group of three people who jointly share authority or power
Torah	the primary holy book of Judaism
tyranny	exercising power with cruelty and injustice
tyrant	a person who exercises power with cruelty and injustice
utopia	an ideal or perfect place where everyone lives in harmony
vassal	someone who shows loyalty to another in return for being allowed to occupy land
virtue	the state of being moral, good, or righteous