



### City-state

A city-state is an independent city that includes villages and farmland. Early city-states had their own language and government. They were usually ruled by priests. Two of the most famous city-states were Athens, a learning center known for its education, and Sparta, which was known for its military strength.

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### Civilization & Culture

A civilization is an advanced society of people with a stable food supply, workers, a government, and a highly developed culture. A culture consists of the behaviors, beliefs, customs, and attitudes of a group of people.

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### Delian League

The Delian League was the first form of democracy in Greece. It had representatives from each city-state who met to make decisions for all of Greece.

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### Epic Poem

An epic poem is a long poem that tells a story about the deeds of a legendary or historic hero. Early epics tell of conquering and expanding civilizations.

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### Etruscans

(Eh-trus-cuns)

The Etruscans were a group of ancient people who built one of the first civilizations in Italy, called Etruria. They took over Rome in 575 BC and ruled over them for 66 years. They taught the Romans many things to help advance their culture.

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### Hyksos

*Hyksos* (hik-sohs) means foreign chieftains or shepherd kings. These people came from Asia after drifting across the desert and began controlling much of the Delta. They had more advanced weapons than the Egyptians. They ruled over Egypt for more than a hundred years.

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### Hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphics are the ancient Egyptian writing system in which pictures and symbols stand for words or sounds. Jean-Francois Champollion (Cham-pole-ee-un) first decoded hieroglyphics from the Rosetta Stone, which was found in 1799. Hieroglyphics have more than 700 symbols.

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### Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia was a region where one of the world's first civilizations began, located between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. A region within Mesopotamia, called Sumer, is where the world's first cities began. The Sumerians were creative people who invented writing and the wheel.

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## EXPERT WORD CARDS

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### Myths, Legends, & Religions

Myths are traditional stories that explain the origin and history of a people. Legends are popular stories handed down from the past that may not be historically accurate. Religions are organized systems of beliefs centering on a belief in a god or many gods.

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### The Nile River, Delta, & Cataract

The Nile River is the longest river in the world. It flows north for over 4,000 miles into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile Delta area is very rich farmland, created by the predictable flooding of the Nile, making irrigation easier. A cataract is a waterfall and rapids. There are six along the Nile River.

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### Olympic Games

The Olympic Games are an athletic festival of ancient Greece which began in 776 BC and took place in Olympia every four years. Each city-state was represented in a pentathlon that included five tests of strength and skill.

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### Pax Romana

Pax Romana was the name given to the 200 years of peace Rome experienced from 27 BC to 180 AD when Roman culture reached its peak in achievements. The Empire was united and its provinces surrounded the Mediterranean. *Pax Romana* means Peace of Rome.

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### Persian Empire

The Persian Empire began in 550 BC with Cyrus the Great. One of the largest Empires in history, it expanded from North Africa to India. The Empire developed many trade routes as well as advancements in mathematics and astronomy. The Persian expansion ended by Alexander the Great in 331 BC.

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### Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of truth and the meaning of life. It comes from the Greek word meaning love of wisdom. The ancient Greeks are famous for their early philosophers.

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### Punic Wars

The Punic Wars were a series of three wars from 264 to 146 BC between Rome and the people of Carthage. The Romans had to create a better navy to fight the Carthaginians, who were great fighters on the sea and controlled much of the Mediterranean.

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### Pyramids

Pyramids were structures built as tombs for the kings. The oldest were made of mud-brick and were flat on top. The step pyramids that followed were made of stone appearing like steps and flat on top. The latest were triangle in shape rising to a point. The Pyramid of Khufu is the largest pyramid in Egypt.

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## EXPERT WORD CARDS

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### **Republic**

The Roman Republic was a form of government in which the people elected their leaders and voted on decisions made by the consuls and the Senate. The Roman Republic lasted from 509 to 46 BC and ended with the start of the Roman Empire.

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### **Senate & Consuls**

The Senate helped make laws and advised the king, consuls, and emperor on important decisions. They were voted in for life. Consuls were the two chief leaders during the Roman Republic who were elected for a one-year term. They replaced the kings from earlier times.

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