

Mr. Hartong
World History
Greek Unit
Vocabulary Words

Objective: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to the Greeks.

1. polis - Greek word for an independent self-governing city-state which developed around a central fort

sentence: Throughout Greece, there are dozens of city-states that are protected by a fort that was often built on a hill. These city-states were independent from one another, with their own governments and militaries like a country today.

image: It shows the hill, the fort, temples, the harbor, and resources like the trees and some farmland needed by the polis.



2. acropolis - a hill or mountain in Greece that included a fort as well as temples and other public buildings

sentence: It was typical for each city-state (polis) to be built with an acropolis for protection, but it also served as their “downtown” with public buildings, temples, and places for people to meet and discuss issues.

image: It shows The Acropolis in Athens, Greece, and the main temple The Parthenon, a temple to Athena. Notice how hard it would be to attack this hill.



3. **colony** - a distant area away from home under full or partial control politically by another area, often used for settlement or resources that the homeland lacks

sentence: The Greeks had colonies in Asia Minor across the Aegean Sea that they used for agricultural products because the homeland in Greece was not suitable for growing large amounts of grain.

image: All the green areas and little black dots represent the colonies belonging to the Greeks. This is land away from home that they settle to acquire resources like grains.



4. **monarchy** - a government ruled by a king or queen with absolute power (authority) that is often inherited through the family

sentence: In a monarchy, an authoritarian ruler would hand his rule directly to the oldest son/daughter upon death.

image: A key difference between a democracy and a monarchy is the role of the people. In a monarchy, the people lose personal freedoms and don't get to vote for their leader.



Democracy



Monarchy

5. **democracy** - a government ruled by the people that can be elected by the other people of the country

sentence: In our democracy, we can elect leaders who make decisions for our country. If we don't like those decisions, we can elect someone else. This gives power to the people.

image: Voting is an important part of protecting a democracy. If you don't vote, then your leaders won't listen.



6. **theocracy** - a government ruled by religious leaders claiming a god's authority ("God gave me the authority to do this!")

sentence: In a theocracy, people are governed by religious leaders and religious laws.

image: The image is saying that even if the citizens have the right to vote in a theocracy, the laws and decisions come from the dominant religion's god, which likely means a type of authoritarian government rules, limiting personal freedom.



7. **philosophy** - the study of basic questions of reality and human existence

sentence: The Greeks invented the study of philosophy and enjoyed questioning the world around them.

image: Think about whether a tree that falls in a forest makes any sound if nobody is there. Think about it. That's philosophy!!



8. **specialization** - the art of being really good at something, such as a job or producing a resource that is abundant

sentence: The Greeks specialized in grapes and olives (wine and olive oil) because their land did not allow them to specialize in items like grains, which they got from their colonies in Asia Minor.

image: It shows a woman carrying either olive oil or wine in a type of vase that the Greeks also specialized in.

