**Near East**

**Akkadians -** the first ancient Semitic-speaking empire of Mesopotamia, centered in the city of Akkad; built by the king Sargon the Great (who ruled **2334-2279** **BCE**) who unified Mesopotamia under the rule of his Akkadian Empire and set the standard for future forms of government in Mesopotamia

**Empire -** a group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, or other powerful sovereign or government: usually a territory of greater extent than a kingdom

**Patriarchal-** a system of society or government controlled by men

**Babylonians -** the most famous city from ancient Mesopotamia whose ruins lie in modern-day Iraq 59 miles (94 kilometers) southwest of Baghdad; the "holy city" of Mesopotamia around the time Amorite king Hammurabi created the first short lived **Babylonian** Empire in the 18th century BC.(**1800 to 1600 BCE**)

**Code of Hammurabi**

a well-preserved Babylonian law code of ancient Mesopotamia, dating back to about 1754 BC (Middle Chronology). It is one of the oldest deciphered writings of significant length in the world.

**Nubia –** Kings of **Nubia** ultimately conquered and ruled Egypt for about a century. Nubia is traditionally divided into two regions. The southern portion was called Kush under the 18th-dynasty pharaohs of ancient Egypt and was called Ethiopia by the ancient Greeks.

**Assyrians-** kingdom of northern Mesopotamia that became the center of one of the great empires of the ancient world through absolute rulers and organized leadership and trade. Short lived because of their harsh rule **(700 B.C. – 612 B.C.)**

**Persians –** a series of imperial dynasties centered in Persia. The first of these was established by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC with the conquest of Media, Lydia and Babylonia. the largest Empire that had ever been established. The Persian Empire spanned from Egypt in the west to Turkey in the north, and through Mesopotamia to the Indus River in the east.

**Satraps-** a provincial governor in the ancient Persian empire.

**Zoroastrianism o**ne of the world's oldest monotheistic religions. It was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago

**Greece**

**Homer** - best known as the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey. He was believed by the ancient Greeks to have been the first and greatest of the epic poets. Author of the first known literature of Europe,

**Epic poems** - An epic poem is a long, narrative **poem** that is usually about heroic deeds and events that are significant to the culture **of the poet**.

**The *Odyssey*** - one of two major ancient Greek **epic poems** written by **Homer.**

The poem mainly centers on the Greek hero Odysseus and his journey home after the fall of Troy. It takes Odysseus ten years to reach Ithaca after the ten-year Trojan War.

**City-state** - a city that with its surrounding territory forms an independent state.

**Polis** - a city state in ancient Greece, especially as considered in its ideal form for philosophical purposes.

### Acropolis - literally high (acro) city (polis); it's the big hill in the center of Athens with the temple complex on top

**Monarchy** -  system of government in which one person reigns, usually a king or queen. The authority, or crown, in a **monarchy** is generally inherited. The ruler, or monarch, is often only the head of state, not the head of government.

**Aristocracy** - a form of government in which power is held by the nobility

**Oligarchy** - rule by a few (such as a council)

**Democracy** - A system of government in which power is vested in the people, who rule either directly or through freely elected representatives.

**Tyranny** - a state ruled by a tyrant or absolute ruler who is oppressive or harsh

**Phalanx** - a military formation where soldiers make a "wall" of shields and move together

**Sparta** - a prominent city-state in ancient Greece which honored military strength above education

**Athens** - the center of Greek civilization for some 4,000 years; ancient city state focused on education and philosophy

**Mount Olympus** –

an actual mountain in Greece, the highest in the country. Some stories of the gods have them living on the mountain. Other stories have them living in a mysterious region above it.

**Greco-Persian Wars** –

a series of conflicts between the Persian Empire and Greek city-states that started in 499 BC and lasted until 449 BC.

**Xerxes** - King of Persia; Son of Darius I; attacked Greece 10 yrs after Marathon; Defeated 300 Spartans but lost war at Salamis

**Delian League** -

an association of Greek city-states, under the leadership of Athens, whose purpose was to continue fighting the Persian Empire after the Greek victory at the end of the Second Persian invasion of Greece.

**Peloponnesian League -**

the Spartan Alliance, military coalition of Greek city-states led by Sparta, later fought the Delian League in the Peloponnesian War.

**Peloponnesian War -**

War between the two Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta;

Sparta won

**Parthenon** - the temple of the goddess Athena; sits atop the Acropolis in Athens

**Socrates (the Socratic method)** –

a classical Greek philosopher credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy. His method is form of inquiry and discussion between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to illuminate ideas.

**Plato** – a philosopher and mathematician in Classical Greece, and the founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the Western world

**Aristotle** - ancient Greek philosopher and scientist, one of the greatest intellectual figures of Western history