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Glossary

amphora
An ancient Greek pot with two handles and a narrow neck that was used to store liquids and solids.

anoint
To pour aromatic oil over a person's head or body during a religious ceremony, to make them holy.

artefact
An object made by a person, such as a decoration or tool, which is of historical interest.

cavalry
Soldiers who ride on horseback to fight.

city-state
An ancient city and the surrounding area with an independent government, such as Athens, in ancient Greece.

conquer
To take control or possession of a place or people, by force.

council
A group of people, representing a larger group of people, who have been selected to meet regularly and to make decisions, offer advice on a specific subject, or manage the affairs of a particular area or organisation.

decoy
A person or thing intended to trick and confuse people or lure them into a trap.

deity
A god or goddess.

displacement
According to Archimedes' principle, the volume or weight of a liquid that is forced out of position by an object floating in or on it.

discus
A heavy disk that is thrown by an athlete as part of a sports event, dating back to the ancient Greek games.

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divine
Connected to or like a god.

formation
A specific arrangement of people or things. In military terms, a tactical arrangement of soldiers and transport that allows one army to better attack or defend against another army.

god
A worshipped immortal being or spirit who is believed to have supreme power over some part of the universe or life.

hero
A person who is admired for their bravery, strength, combat skills, achievements or qualities.

hoplite
A heavily armoured non-professional foot soldier of ancient Greece, often lacking military training.

hydria
An ancient Greek pot with three handles, used to carry water.

invasion
An occasion when an army from one area uses force to enter and take control of another area.

jury
A group of people chosen to listen to factual evidence during a trial in a court of law and to give a verdict based on this evidence.

kantharos
An ancient Greek pot with tall handles, used as a type of drinking cup.

krater
A large ancient Greek pot with a wide mouth, used to mix water with wine.

kylix
A wide, shallow ancient Greek pot, used as a type of drinking cup.

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labyrinth
A confusing set of complicated connecting passages and blind alleys that make it easy to get lost.

legend
A very old story from the past about a famous person or event. Legends are believed by some to be true to an extent, although this cannot be checked.

lekanis
An ancient Greek bowl with a lid and two handles, used to store jewellery, trinkets and cosmetics.

marathon
A long-distance running race of slightly over 26 miles, named after Marathon, the site of an ancient Greek battlefield, the scene of a great victory of the Greeks over the Persians in 490 BC.

meander
A patterned border found on ancient Greek pottery. The pattern continues in a straight line and the design is repeated.

minotaur
In Greek mythology, a monster shaped half like a man and half like a bull who lived at the centre of a labyrinth.

mortal
Living things that are unable to live forever and have to die.

Olympic Games
A series of international sports competitions, held in a different country each time, that happen once every four years. Originally, an ancient Greek festival held every four years and including music and literature contests as well as sports.

Pandora's box
An artefact in Greek mythology said to contain all the evils of the world, but also hope.

papyrus
Paper made from a tall, aquatic plant.

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peltast
An ancient Greek foot soldier who carried a javelin – a long stick with a sharp, pointed end that is thrown at the enemy.

phalanx
A rectangular military formation made up of heavily armoured soldiers, such as hoplites, who gathered together closely with their shields touching and long spears overlapping.

psiloi
The poorest soldier in ancient Greece who fought on foot and wore little armour.

sceptre
An ornamental staff carried by a queen or king as a symbol of their authority during certain official ceremonies.

skyphos
A deep pot with two handles, used to drink wine.

synchronise
To happen at the same rate or time.

temple
A building that is used, in some religions, to worship a god or gods.

trial
The formal hearing and judgement of evidence, in a court of law, to decide if a person is innocent or guilty of a crime.

volute krater
An egg-shaped vase with special, curved handles.

warrior
A soldier who is usually skilled and experienced at fighting.

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