

#### Strayer 4: People places and things

**Ahura Mazda:** In Zoroastrianism, the good god who rules the world. (*pron.* ah-HOOR-a MAZ-dah)

**Alexander the Great:** Alexander III of Macedon (356–323 B.C.E.), conqueror of the Persian Empire and part of northwest India.

**Aryans:** Indo-European pastoralists who moved into India about the time of the collapse of the Indus Valley civilization; their role in causing this collapse is still debated by historians.

**Ashoka:** The most famous ruler of the Mauryan empire (r. 268–232 B.C.E.), who converted to Buddhism and tried to rule peacefully and with tolerance. (*pron.* ah-SHOKE-uh)

**Athenian democracy:** A radical form of direct democracy in which much of the free male population of Athens had the franchise and officeholders were chosen by lot.

**Caesar Augustus:** The great-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar who emerged as sole ruler of the Roman state at the end of an extended period of civil war (r. 31 B.C.E.–14 C.E.).

**Cyrus (the Great):** Founder of the Persian Empire (r. 557–530 B.C.E.); a ruler noted for his conquests, religious tolerance, and political moderation.

**Darius I:** Great king of Persia (r. 522–486 B.C.E) following the upheavals after Cyrus's death; completed the establishment of the Persian Empire. (*pron.* most commonly in American English DAHR-ee-us)

**Greco-Persian Wars:** Two major Persian invasions of Greece, in 490 B.C.E and 480 B.C.E, in which the Persians were defeated on both land and sea.

**Gupta Empire:** An empire of India (320–550 C.E.). (*pron.* GHOOP-tuh)

**Han dynasty:** Dynasty that ruled China from 206 B.C.E to 220 C.E., creating a durable state based on Shihuangdi's state-building achievement. (*pron.* hahn)

**Hellenistic era:** The period from 323 to 30 B.C.E in which Greek culture spread widely in Eurasia in the kingdoms ruled by Alexander's political successors.

**Herodotus:** Greek historian known as the "father of history" (ca. 484–ca. 425 B.C.E). His *Histories* enunciated the Greek view of a fundamental divide between East and West, culminating in the Greco-Persian Wars of 490–480 B.C.E (*pron.* hair- ODD-uh-tus)

**hoplite:** A heavily armed Greek infantryman. Over time, the ability to afford a hoplite panoply and to fight for the city came to define Greek citizenship.

**Ionian:** The territory of Greek settlements on the coast of Anatolia; the main bone of contention between the Greeks and the Persian Empire.

**Mandate of Heaven:** The ideological underpinning of Chinese emperors, this was the belief that a ruler held authority by command of divine force as long as he ruled morally and benevolently.

**Marathon, Battle of:** Athenian victory over a Persian invasion in 490 B.C.E

**Mauryan Empire:** A major empire (322–185 B.C.E.) that encompassed most of India.

**Olympic Games:** Greek religious festival and athletic competition in honor of Zeus; founded in 776 B.C.E and celebrated every four years.

**patricians:** Wealthy, privileged Romans who dominated early Roman society.

***pax Romana*:** The “Roman peace,” a term typically used to denote the stability and prosperity of the early Roman Empire, especially in the first and second centuries C.E. (*pron.* pox roh-MAHN-uh)

**Peloponnesian War:** Great war between Athens (and allies) and Sparta (and allies), lasting from 431 to 404 B.C.E. The conflict ended in the defeat of Athens and the closing of Athens’s Golden Age.

**Persepolis:** The capital and greatest palace-city of the Persian Empire, destroyed by Alexander the Great. (*pron.* per-SEP-oh-lis)

**Persian Empire:** A major empire that expanded from the Iranian plateau to incorporate the Middle East from Egypt to India; flourished from around 550 to 330 B.C.E

**plebeians:** Poorer, less-privileged Romans who gradually won a role in Roman politics.

**Punic Wars:** Three major wars between Rome and Carthage in North Africa, fought between 264 and 146 B.C.E, that culminated in Roman victory and control of the western Mediterranean.

**Qin dynasty:** A short-lived (221–206 B.C.E.) but highly influential Chinese dynasty that succeeded in reuniting China at the end of the Warring States period. (*pron.* chin)

**Qin Shihuangdi:** Literally “first emperor from the Qin”; Shihuangdi (r. 221–210 B.C.E.) forcibly reunited China and established a strong and repressive state. (*pron.* chin shee-hwang-dee)

**Solon:** Athenian statesman and lawmaker (fl. 594–560 B.C.E.) whose reforms led the Athenians toward democracy.

**Wudi:** Han emperor (r. 141–86 B.C.E.) who began the Chinese civil service system by establishing an academy to train imperial bureaucrats. (*pron.* woo-dee)

**Xiongnu:** Nomadic peoples to the north of the Great Wall of China who were a frequent threat to the stability of the Chinese state. (*pron.* shong-noo)

**Yellow Turban Rebellion:** A major Chinese peasant revolt that began in 184 C.E. and helped cause the fall of the Han dynasty.