

Museum of World Treasures

Ancient Greece Vocabulary List

- All entries pertain directly to artifacts or signs in our exhibits.

Helios- the ancient Greek god of the sun, represented as driving a chariot across the heavens

Alexander the Great- King of Macedonia from 336–323 BCE, conqueror of Greek city-states and of the Persian empire from Asia Minor and Egypt to India.

Minoans- A bronze-age civilization on the island of Crete

Mycenae- A military stronghold in southern Greece

Thera- An Island in the Aegean Sea; home to Minoans and a devastating volcanic eruption in the 2nd millennium BCE.

Athena- virgin deity of the ancient Greeks worshiped as the goddess of wisdom, fertility, the useful arts, and prudent warfare. At her birth she sprang forth fully armed from the head of her father, Zeus.

Athens- As an ancient Grecian city Athens was home to arts, learning, and philosophy. Athens is one of the worlds oldest cities.

Sparta- an ancient city in South Greece; the capital of Laconia and the chief city of the Peloponnesus, at one time the dominant city of Greece. Famous for strict discipline and training of soldiers.

Darius- ruled the Achaemenid (Persian) Empire at its height. Some of his accomplishments include making Aramaic the official language of Achaemenid, organizing a new monetary system, and dividing the empire into provinces.

Illyria- in the western Balkan peninsula, home to the Illyrian wars that suppressed piracy in the Aegean

Magna Graecia- the ancient colonial cities and settlements of Greece in Southern Italy.

Mediterranean – a sea almost completely enclosed by Europe, North Africa, Anatolia, and the Levant.

Black Sea - A European sea, the eastern edge of which marked the end of the known world for ancient Greece.

Aegean Sea - A part of the Mediterranean Sea, islands in this sea made travel easier for the Greeks.

Aphrodite - ancient Greek goddess of love and beauty.

Medusa - the only mortal of the three Gorgons. A snake-headed, hideous monster that could turn a person to stone just by looking at them. Slain by Perseus in Greek mythology.

Zeus - the supreme deity in ancient Greece; the father of men and many gods, ruled Mt. Olympus.

Nike- The goddess of victory.

Sherd- a historic or prehistoric piece of pottery found by archaeologists.

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