

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.

divine

Connected to or like a god.

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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.

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god

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

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hero

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

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hoplite

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

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hydria

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

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invasion

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

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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.

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kantharos

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

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krater

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

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kylix

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

labyrinth

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

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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.

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lekanis

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

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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.

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meander

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

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minotaur

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

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mortal

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

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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.

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Pandora’s box

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

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papyrus

Paper made from a tall, aquatic plant.

peltast

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

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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.

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psiloi

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

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sceptre

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

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skyphos

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

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synchronise

To happen at the same rate or time.

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temple

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

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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.

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volute krater

An egg-shaped vase with special, curved handles.

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warrior

A soldier who is usually skilled and experienced at fighting.