**Frescoes** - a painting done rapidly in watercolor on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling, so that the colors penetrate the plaster and become fixed as it dries.

**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 *Iliad*** *-* an ancient Greek **epic poem** written by **Homer**. Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the cityTroy by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles.

**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

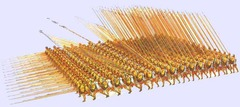
**Monarchy** - system of government in which one person reigns, usually a king or queen. The authority, or crown, in a **monarchy** is generally inherited. The ruler, or monarch, is often only the head of state, not the head of government.

**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

**Council of 500 (legislature)** –

represented the full-time government of Athens. It consisted of **500** citizens, 50 from each of the ten tribes, who served for one year

**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.

**Zeus ­-** the god of the sky and ruler of the Olympian gods

**Athena -**  Greek virgin goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature, patron Goddess of Athens

**Hades -** Greek God of the underworld

**Apollo** - God of music, and he is often depicted playing a golden lyre

**Ares** - God of War, patron God of Sparta

**Aphrodite** - Goddess of love, beauty, and desire

**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

**Battle of Marathon** -

Battle where Darius attacks, but Athens wins

**Thermopylae -**

Battle were Xerxes attacks. 300 Spartans fought, but the Greeks lost. "Most Glorious Defeat." Mountain pass stalls Perisans so Greeks can gather

**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

**Pythagoras**- a Greek philosopher, mathematician, a2 + b2 = c2.

**Archmiedes** - an Ancient Greek mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer. Although few details of his life are known, he is regarded as one of the leading scientists in classical antiquity.

**Euclid-** a Greek mathematician, often referred to as the "Father of Geometry" for his simple definitions, axioms, formed statements called theorems, and methods for logical proofs