Social Studies Vocabulary!

1. culture – the way of life (food, language, art, beliefs, clothing, etc...) of a group of people
2. artifact – an object made by humans, which when found can give clues about culture
3. job – a piece of work, especially a specific task done as part of the routine of one's occupation or for an agreed price
4. career – an occupation or profession, especially one requiring special training, followed as one's life work
5. continent – one of the seven large, continuous land masses of the world: North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica
6. ocean – one of the five large bodies of water separating the continents: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern
7. sea – a large body of salt water, much smaller than an ocean, and typically partially enclosed by land
8. agora – an open area that served as both a market and a meeting place
9. colony – a settlement in a new area that keeps close ties with its homeland
10. peninsula – a body of land surrounded by water on three sides
11. acropolis – a fortified area at the top of a hill, sometimes used for religious worship
12. polis – a Greek city-state, which was like a tiny independent country
13. monarchy – a system of government with rule by a royal family
14. oligarchy – a system of government with rule by a small, rich, powerful group
15. citizen – a person that is legally recognized as a [member](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/member) of a [state](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/state) or country, with associated rights and obligations
16. democracy – a system of government with rule by its citizens
17. empire – a group of territories or nations under a single ruler, often called an emperor
18. helot – a person who was conquered and enslaved by the ancient Spartans
19. tyrant – a person who takes power by force and rules with total authority
20. ephor -- one of the five annually-elected judges in ancient [Sparta](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Sparta), who enforced the laws and oversaw the actions of Spartan kings
21. Zoroastrianism – the Persian religion founded by Zoroaster; taught that humans had the freedom to choose between right and wrong, and that goodness would triumph in the end
22. satrap – an official who ruled a state in the Persian Empire under Darius
23. philosopher – a thinker who seeks wisdom and ponders questions about life
24. representative democracy – a system of government in which citizens choose a smaller group to make laws and governmental decisions on their behalf
25. direct democracy – a system of government in which people gather at mass meetings to decide governmental matters
26. fable – a short tale that teaches a lesson
27. myth – a traditional story describing gods or heroes or explaining natural events
28. epic – a long poem that tells about legendary or heroic deeds
29. oracle – a sacred shrine where a priest or priestess spoke for a god or goddess
30. Socratic method – a way of teaching developed by Socrates that used question-and-answer format to force students to use their reason to see things for themselves
31. Sophist -- a professional teacher in ancient Greece; believed that people should use knowledge to improve themselves and developed the art of public speaking and debate
32. Epicureanism – a philosophy founded by Epicurus in Hellenistic Athens; taught that happiness through the pursuit of pleasure was the goal of life
33. Stoicism – a philosophy founded by Zeno in Hellenistic Athens; taught that happiness came not from following emotions, but from following reason and doing one’s duty
34. Hellenistic Era – the period when the Greek language and Greek ideas spread to the non-Greek peoples of southwest Asia
35. civilization – a complex society with cities, government, art, religion(s), agriculture, long-distance trade, a division of labor, and a writing system
36. plane geometry – a branch of mathematics that shows how points, lines, angles, and surfaces relate to one another
37. solid geometry – a branch of mathematics that studies spheres, cylinders, and other three-dimensional objects
38. astronomy – the study of stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies
39. polytheism – a belief in many gods and goddesses
40. monotheism – a belief in only one god