Social Studies Vocabulary!

1. Rome – capital city of Italy, situated on the banks of the Tiber River
2. Alps – a major mountain system of south central Europe
3. Pompeii – a [Roman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) town partially destroyed and buried under 4 to 6 m (13 to 20 ft.) of [ash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volcanic_ash) and [pumice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pumice) in the [eruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eruption_of_Mount_Vesuvius_in_79) of [Mount Vesuvius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Vesuvius) in AD 79
4. Jerusalem – capital of Israel and a holy city for Christians, Jews, and Muslims
5. Byzantine Empire – Eastern part of the Roman Empire that survived after the breakup of the western part of the empire in the AD 400s
6. Etruscans – the early (pre-Roman) inhabitants of Italy
7. legion – smaller unit of the Roman army made up of ~ 6,000 soldiers
8. veto – to reject, from the Latin for “*I forbid*”
9. plebeian – member of the common people of ancient Rome
10. patrician – wealthy landowner and member of the ruling class in ancient Rome
11. dictator – in ancient Rome, a person who ruled with complete power temporarily during emergencies
12. Forum – open space in Rome that served as a marketplace and public square
13. Twelve Tables – laws carved on bronze tablets and placed in the Forum for everyone to see (c.451 BC), applied the rule of law to all Roman citizens

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1. currency – system of money
2. aqueduct – human-made channel built to carry water
3. Pax Romana – Latin for “*Roman Peace*”, long era of peace and safety from about AD 27 – AD 180, beginning during the reign of Emperor Augustus
4. tax reform – the process of changing the way [taxes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxes) are collected or managed by the government
5. Colosseum – a huge arena that could seat ~ 60,000 people, built in AD 80, used for gladiator fights and other public games
6. economy – organized way in which people produce, sell, and buy goods and services
7. anatomy – the study of body structure
8. satire – a work of literature, art, or media that pokes fun at human weaknesses
9. fasces – a bundle of wooden sticks with an axe blade emerging from the center, symbolizing the authority of Roman leaders and the idea of "strength through unity"
10. inflation – period of rapidly increasing prices
11. plague – disease that spreads quickly and kills many people
12. Pantheon – a domed temple built to honor Rome’s gods
13. barter – to exchange goods without using money
14. mosaic – picture made from many bits of colored glass, tile, or stone
15. Judaism – the monotheistic religion of the Jewish (Israelite) people
16. Hebrew Bible – called the *Tanakh*, is a collection of written history and beliefs of the Jewish people, essentially the same book which is called the *Old Testament* of the *Christian Bible*
17. Zealots – a group of Jews who revolted against the Roman rule of Judaea, driving the Romans out of Jerusalem in AD 66
18. Old Testament – the first part of the *Christian Bible*, generally the same writings as the Hebrew Bible, but some Christians (Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, for example) also include other material as well
19. New Testament – the second part of the *Christian Bible*, a collection of works written in Greek by disciples of Jesus of Nazareth in the first and possibly second centuries AD
20. Christianity – a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus
21. messiah – savior or liberator of a people
22. parable – story that used events from everyday life to express spiritual ideas
23. resurrection – the concept of a living being coming back to life after death
24. disciple – close follower of Jesus
25. clergy – religious officials, such as priests, given authority to conduct religious services

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1. martyr – person willing to die rather than give up his or her beliefs
2. hierarchy – organization with different levels of authority
3. excommunicate – to declare that a person or group no longer belongs to a church
4. schism – separation
5. iconoclast – person who opposed the use of icons (religious images or pictures) in Byzantine churches, saying that icons encouraged the worship of idols
6. Latin Alphabet – by the time of the Roman Empire (27 BC) this alphabet contained all of the letters we use today except for J, U, and W
7. Cyrillic Alphabet – an alphabet based on Greek letters, still used today by 252 million people in Russia and many other countries in Europe and Asia:

а б в г д е ё ж з и й к л м н о п р с т у ф х ц ч ш щ ъ ы ь э ю я

1. Roman Catholic Church – branch of Christianity that by AD 600 was ruled by the authority of the Bishop of Rome, now called the Pope
2. Eastern Orthodox Church – branch of Christianity that did not accept the Pope’s authority, instead ruled by the emperor and patriarch of the Byzantine Empire
3. missionary – person who travels to carry the ideas of a religion to others