

# Vocabulary Builder Activity

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## The Ancient Greeks

### A. Content Vocabulary

**Directions** Select a vocabulary term from the box that best answers each question below. More than one term may answer a question. Write the term(s) in the blank. Some terms may be used more than once.

peninsula  
phalanx  
democracy  
representative  
democracy  
satrapy  
colony

polis  
tyrant  
helot  
philosopher  
satrap  
bard

agora  
oligarchy  
ephor  
direct democracy  
Zoroastrianism

**1.** Which of these is

- a. an enslaved person in Sparta? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. a gathering place? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. a settlement in a new territory ? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. a storyteller? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. a formation of armed soldiers \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Which of these is

- a. an absolute ruler? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. a government by the people? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. a religion? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. a government in which a small group has control? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. a province in ancient Persia? \_\_\_\_\_

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**3.** Which of these is

- a. a person who searches for wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. a Greek city-state? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. land nearly surrounded by water? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. governor of a Persian province? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. an elected council member in  
Sparta's government? \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** In which type of government do

- a. citizens participate first-hand in the  
decision-making process? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. citizens elect officials to govern on  
their behalf? \_\_\_\_\_

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### B. Academic Vocabulary: Word Family Chart

Many English words can be changed into different parts of speech. A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. Examples include bards and satraps. A verb is a word that is used to describe an action, experience, or state of being. Examples include invade or trade. An adjective answers the question what kind, how many, or which one. Examples include excellent and latest. Sometimes the base of a word can be changed slightly to make a noun, verb, or adjective. Look at the example below:

Noun: isolation

Verb: isolate

Adjective: isolated

**Directions** Complete the chart below with the correct word forms. You may use a dictionary to help you.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
1.	2.	Economic
stability	3.	4.
5.	conclude	6.
7.	emphasize	8.
9.	10.	sufficient
11.	dominate	12.

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### C. Combined Vocabulary Reinforcement

**Directions** Complete the following sentences by selecting the content or academic vocabulary term that best fits. You may need to change the form of the word to fit the sentence. Not all terms will be used.

tyrant  
ephor  
military  
direct democracy  
obtain

philosopher  
colony  
democracy  
Zoroastrianism  
satrapies

communities  
polis  
helots  
satraps  
peninsula

1. Each Greek city-state or \_\_\_\_\_ was affected by the fact that Greece was a \_\_\_\_\_, and surrounded by water on three sides.
2. Sparta emphasized a strong \_\_\_\_\_ and did not evolve into a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. All city-states had enslaved people who could not \_\_\_\_\_ their freedom. In Sparta, enslaved people were called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The government of Athens changed over time from rule by \_\_\_\_\_ to rule by a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Persian ruler Darius divided his empire into provinces called \_\_\_\_\_ and appointed governors called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Pericles supported the arts and intellectual thinking by encouraging bards and \_\_\_\_\_.