

Key Era Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this era. For each word, you will find the definition, part of speech, word forms (plurals/tenses), synonyms, and examples of how the word, or forms of the word, are used in a sentence.

administrative

- of or pertaining to administration or management

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	administration, administratively
Synonyms:	managerial, bureaucratic
In a sentence:	Whether or not to hire more workers is an administrative decision.

antiquity

- ancient times, generally prior to c. 500 CE

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	antique
Synonyms:	ancient times, classical times
In a sentence:	He believed that art from antiquity was superior to art from the Middle Ages.

aristocracy

- a high-ranking social class, having special privileges and influence

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	aristocracies
Synonyms:	nobility, elite
In a sentence:	She was born into the aristocracy and was expected to marry someone of her own class.

autonomous

- free and independent, as a state or an organism; self-governing

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	autonomously
Synonyms:	free, independent, self-governing
In a sentence:	Once governed by its powerful neighbor, the small region is now autonomous.

barbarian

- a person in a culture believed by those in another culture to be savage, primitive, or uncivilized

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	barbarians, barbaric
Synonyms:	primitive, savage
In a sentence:	The Romans fought the barbarians to the north.

bureaucrat

- an official in a government office, especially one who follows rules and routines rather than personal judgment

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	bureaucrats, bureaucratic
Synonyms:	official, politician, civil servant
In a sentence:	The government bureaucrat hosted a public forum to hear from citizen's about how the new healthcare law could affect them.

canal

- a man-made waterway for transportation or irrigation

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	canals
Synonyms:	waterway, aqueduct
In a sentence:	The two lakes are connected by a canal.

caravan

- a band of people traveling together for safety, especially across a desert

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	caravans
Synonyms:	convoy, procession
In a sentence:	The travelers rejoiced as their caravan neared the oasis.

catastrophe

- a disaster with widespread effects

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	catastrophic, catastrophically
Synonyms:	calamity, cataclysm, disaster
In a sentence:	An earthquake represents a catastrophe not only for humans but for all forms of life.

chronology

- the order of events in time

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	chronological, chronologies
Synonyms:	chronicle, calendar
In a sentence:	She tried to remember the chronology of these various incidents in order to help the police solve the crime.

clergy

- the group or body of people authorized to conduct religious services, such as ministers, priests, or rabbis

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	clergies
Synonyms:	ministry
In a sentence:	Nuns were an important part of the clergy.

collapse

- to fall down or give way; to stop functioning or end suddenly; fail

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	collapses, collapsing, collapsed
Synonyms:	break down, fail, crumble
In a sentence:	After the recent bombings, the peace talks collapsed.

crusades

- any of the several attempts of medieval European Christians to recover and then defend the Holy Land in and around Jerusalem from the Muslims

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	Crusaders
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Pope Urban II encouraged the Crusades by urging Christians to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslims.

decline

- a falling off or loss, a movement downward

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	declines, declined, declining, declination
Synonyms:	deterioration, drop, loss, drop-off
In a sentence:	The rapid decline in population was due to the spread of the plague.

diffusion

- the spreading or wide scattering of something

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	diffusional
Synonyms:	dispersion, spread
In a sentence:	The diffusion of new technologies increased as trade routes expanded.

feudalism

- a system of economic and political organization, as in Europe in the Middle Ages, in which one person would pledge to support another person; for example, a knight might pledge to fight when needed in exchange for land from the king

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	feudal, feudalistic, feudalist
Synonyms:	manorialism, manor system
In a sentence:	Serfs were among the lowest class during the age of feudalism.

ghetto

- a part of a town or city in which members of a particular religion, nationality, ethnic group, or race are forced by law, social, or economic pressures to live

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	ghettos
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Jews of Warsaw, Poland were compelled to live in ghettos established by the Germans beginning in 1940.

hajj

- the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim is expected to make at least once during Dhul al-Hijjah

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	pilgrimage
In a sentence:	One of the Five Pillars of Islam is the hajj, or the journey to Mecca.

immunity

- the state or condition of being immune (resistant) to a disease

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	immunities
Synonyms:	resistance, exemption
In a sentence:	I get the flu shot each year in hopes of building my immunity against the virus.

imperial

- of or pertaining to an empire or its ruler

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	imperially
Synonyms:	royal, sovereign
In a sentence:	The imperial army fought hard for their emperor.

influx

- a continuous coming in of things or people

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	influxes
Synonyms:	torrent, avalanche
In a sentence:	Every fall there is an influx of students in our town.

Monsoon Marketplace

- a network of Indian Ocean trade routes that connected people, goods, and ideas

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The mapping of the monsoon trade winds in the Indian Ocean allowed merchants to participate in the monsoon marketplace.

monsoon

- predictable winds that indicated the arrival of the rainy season, facilitating fast sailing and assisting maritime travelers

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	monsoons
Synonyms:	deluge, rainstorm
In a sentence:	Reoccurring monsoons allowed sailors to predict the direction of winds across the Indian Ocean.

mosque

- a Muslim place of worship

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	mosques
Synonyms:	temple, church, place of worship
In a sentence:	The Muslim family made their way to the neighborhood mosque when they heard the call to prayer.

patronage

- the support, guardianship, or sponsorship provided by patrons, as of artistic endeavors, museums, and the like

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	patron
Synonyms:	aegis, backing, sponsorship
In a sentence:	The sculptor would have little hope of carrying out his work without the patronage of the countess.

Pax Romana

- Roman Peace; a 200-year-long period in Roman history in which it experienced relative peace

Part of speech:	proper noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The Pax Romana allowed Rome to regularly trade overseas.

province

- the administrative divisions of a country or empire

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	provinces
Synonyms:	county, domain, territory
In a sentence:	The western province supplies most of the country's food source.

religious pluralism

- an acceptance of religious diversity

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The country adopted policies that favored religious pluralism in hopes of minimizing violence and conflict amongst the many different religious groups.

restructure

- to change the structure or organization of

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	restructuring, restructured, restructures
Synonyms:	reorganize
In a sentence:	After James filed for bankruptcy, he was forced to restructure his business and make his financial decisions more transparent to investors.

societal collapse

- a big decrease in population numbers, or in standard of living over a large area for a long time

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Societal collapse is not inevitable, the success of a society is determined by its response to problems.