

abbot-

the head of a monastery

abdicate-

to give up power (usually royal power)

absolutism-

the political theory that power
should be held by a single
authority (one leader or one
group)

Acid rain

rain that carries pollution-especially acid (see the Earth Science definition)

the Acropolis-

a complex of buildings in the center of Athens- field for the people

the Age of Enlightenment-

having to do with learning- age of
reason- 18 century

imperialism-

More powerful countries take over
less powerful countries

alloys-

mixed metals

Alluvial Soil

silt washed down by running water

ancestor worship-

praying to one's ancestors
and believing that they have
power, because they are
still part of the community

assimilation

to be absorbed by another culture

autonomy—

home rule; self rule

Autocratic

Having unlimited power (autocrat
—dictator with unlimited power)

Balance of Power

in international politics, no one nation has all the power

baptism—

Christian rite, in which water is poured or dripped on a person (or in which a person is put into a body of water) to symbolize being reborn as a new person

barter—

direct exchange of goods and services,
without money (barter economy—an
economy with barter instead of money)

biodiversity—

millions of plant/animal species in
balance in their environment

bureaucracy—

a corps of administrators, clerks, and other officials who carry out laws, policies, and programs of a government or business

Caliph

leader who is Muhammed's
successor as leader of Islam (also
calif, khalifa)

capital—

sums of money, economic assets
measured as money

Absorption

Passing of a substance through a surface

Aerobic bacteria

Bacteria that need oxygen to live

Anaerobic bacteria

Bacteria that do not need oxygen
to live