

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 building 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 core of administrators, clerks, and other officials who carry out laws, policies, and programs of a government

# Caliph

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

capital—

sums of money, economic assets  
measured as money