

# Vocabulary

## Vocabulary

*Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.*

- artisan** ..... a person who is skilled in a particular craft
- city-state** ..... a city and the surrounding lands that rules itself like an independent country
- covenant** ..... a promise or an agreement
- cultural diffusion** ..... the spreading of ideas or products from one culture to another
- cuneiform** ..... a system of writing with wedge-shaped symbols invented by the Sumerians
- deport** ..... to remove a person or a group of people from their homeland
- Diaspora** ..... the scattering of the Hebrew people from their homeland in Palestine
- epic** ..... a long poem that describes the deeds of legendary heroes
- ethics** ..... code of right or wrong conduct
- exile** ..... separation from your homeland
- famine** ..... a great lack of food
- Fertile Crescent** ..... an area of land that stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea

# Vocabulary

**liberated** ..... to be freed or released

**Mesopotamia** ..... the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; early civilizations began in this region

**monotheism** ..... belief in only one God

**moral** ..... good, honest, and truthful

**polytheistic** ..... believing in many gods

**prophet** ..... a religious leader who is believed to be able to interpret God's will

**satrap** ..... governor of a province in the Persian Empire

**scribes** ..... people in ancient times who kept records

**silt** ..... a thick layer of mud

**stylus** ..... a sharp, pointed tool used for writing on clay tablets

**Torah** ..... the first five books of the Hebrew Bible

**tribute** ..... payment that conquered peoples were forced to pay to their conquerors

**ziggurat** ..... a pyramid-shaped building that was used as a temple to worship Sumerian gods