

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

abacus a tool for performing mathematical calculations by sliding counters along rods or in grooves

alliance an agreement between countries, groups, or people to work together in doing something

arable farmable land

archipelago a large group or chain of islands

artisan a person who is skilled in a particular craft

authoritarian favoring complete control over the will of others; domineering

barrier something that blocks the way

caste an unchangeable social group into which a person is born

censorship to control public information or free speech

convert to adopt a different religion or belief

descendent the offspring of an ancestor

Vocabulary

- diverse** unlike or different
- efficient** able to get the desired results without
wasting time, money, or effort
- famine** a great lack of food
- feudalism** a system in which the people owed
loyalty to the wealthy landowners in
exchange for protection
- heir** one who inherits property, rank; one
who assumes rights and responsibilities
- hierarchy** a system of ranks
- karma** the Hindu belief that all actions affect a
person's fate in the next life
- khan** the leader of a group of Mongols
- merge** join together and become one
- monotheistic** believing in only one God
- mosque** Muslim house of worship
- negotiator** a person who deals or bargains with
others
- nirvana** the Buddhist belief that the soul merges
with the universe, reaches the perfect
state of blessedness, and is released
from the cycle of rebirth

Vocabulary

nomadic moving from place to place in search of food

polytheistic believing in many gods

productivity amount created

reincarnation the Hindu belief in rebirth of the soul in another bodily form

righteous living by a moral code of conduct; acting in a good and honest fashion

seize to take control of; capture

stability continuing without change

subcontinent large area of land smaller than a continent

tributary state independent state that must acknowledge the supremacy of another state and pay tribute to its ruler

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

tradition customs, beliefs, or other common knowledge passed down from parents to their children

typhoon a tropical hurricane; a violent storm

unify to bring together as a whole