Vocab 4

1. Ahura Mazda- In Zoroastrianism, the good god who rules the world.
2. Alexander the Great- Alexander III of Macedon (356-323 BCE) conqueror of the Persian Empire and part of NW India.
3. Aryans- Indo-Europeans pastoralists who moved into India about the time of the collapse of the Indus Valley civilization; their role in causing this collapse is still debated by historians.
4. Ashoka- The most famous ruler of the Mauryan Empire (r. 268-232 BCE) who converted to Buddhism and tried to rule peacefully with tolerance.
5. Athenian Democracy- A radical form of direct democracy in which most of the free male population of Athens had the franchise and officeholders were chosen by lot.
6. Battle of Marathon- Athenian victory over a Persian invasion in 490 BCE.
7. Caesar Augustus- The great-nephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar who emerged as sole ruler of the Roman state at the end of an extended period of civil war (r. 31 BCE-14 CE)
8. Cyrus the Great- Founder of the Persian Empire (r. 557-530 BCE); a ruler noted for his conquests, religious tolerance, and political moderation.
9. Darius I- Great king of Persia (r. 522-486 BCE) following the upheavals after Cyrus's death; completed the establishment of the Persian Empire.
10. Greco-Persian Wars- Two major Persian invasions of Greece in 490 BCE and 480 BCE in which the Persians were defeated on both land and sea.
11. Gupta Empire- An empire of India (320-550 CE)
12. Han Dynasty- Dynasty that ruled China from 206-220 BCE creating a durable state based on Shihuangdi's state-building achievement.