

Unit 4

Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand
GRADE 3

Core Knowledge Language Arts®



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civilization

civilization—a group of people living together, often in cities, with the same laws, leaders and form of government, language and writing system (**civilizations**)

Etruscan

Etruscan—a person who was part of a civilization to the north of Rome who the Romans defeated (**Etruscans**)

conquer

conquer—to take control of something
by force (**conquered**)

Mediterranean

Mediterranean—the sea around which the Romans created their empire; an important body of water for trade, war, and transportation

Jesus

Jesus—a religious teacher born in in the Palestine region of the Roman Empire, also called Jesus Christ; Christianity is based on his teachings.

BC/BCE

BC/BCE—Before Christ (Jesus);
Before the Christian Era or Before the
Common Era

empire

empire—a group of nations or territories ruled by the same leader, an emperor or empress; like a kingdom

historian

historian—a person who writes about
history (**historians**)

Romulus

Romulus—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He killed his brother Remus in a fight over where to build the city and then built Rome and named it after himself.

Remus

Remus—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He was killed by his brother Romulus in a fight over where to build the city.

threat

threat—someone or something that is
or may be dangerous

she-wolf

she-wolf—a female wolf

taunt

taunt—to tease or make someone upset by making fun of or being mean to the person

legendary

legendary—well-known or stemming from an old story passed down from long ago that is usually not true

immortal

immortal—able to live forever

Mount Olympus

Mount Olympus—the home of the Roman gods and goddesses

marriage

marriage—the committed partnership between two people to make a home and raise a family

trident

trident—Neptune's magical,
three-pronged spear that was shaped like
a fork

rough

rough—not calm

messenger

messenger—someone who delivers
messages back and forth

beautiful

beautiful—very pretty, lovely

mission

mission—a very important job

blacksmith

blacksmith—a person who molds hot iron into metal objects

shrine

shrine—a place where people pray to or worship gods and goddesses

priestess

priestess—a woman who performs special duties to honor and communicate with the gods

wisdom

wisdom—knowledge and good
judgment gained over time

satyr

satyr—a creature who was half man,
half goat and was often found with
Bacchus (**satyrs**)

jealousy

jealousy—wanting what someone else has, wanting complete attention
(**jealous**)

do his mother's bidding

do his mother's bidding—follow
orders from his mother

prick

prick—to make a small hole with something sharp (**pricked**)

curious

curious—wanting to know more

depart

depart—to leave

eager

eager—showing great interest in
something

confident

confident—sure, certain

laugh

laugh—to giggle or chuckle at something that is funny

aid

aid—to offer help

underworld

underworld—underground place where
dead people's spirits go

beauty

beauty—being pretty

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pity

pity—to feel sorry or unhappy for
someone

ambrosia

ambrosia—the drink of the gods;
Those who drank it became immortal.

Damocles

Damocles—a friend of Dionysius who wanted to be king and have Dionysius's life

Dionysius

Dionysius—the king of Syracuse, a part of the Roman Empire, and friend of Damocles

envy

envy—to want what someone else has
(**envied**)

banquet

banquet—a large feast to celebrate something

dangle

dangle—to hang loosely (**dangling**)

conduct

conduct—to carry out, such as an
activity

advisor

advisor—a person who offers advice and help

downfall

downfall—a sudden fall from power

republic

republic—a kind of government
in which people are elected as
representatives to rule

govern

govern—to rule or control (**governed,**
government)

tyrant

tyrant—a ruler who is mean, harsh,
and acts without regard for laws or rules

cruel

cruel—mean, causing pain on purpose

monarchy

monarchy—a kind of government in which a king or queen rules and selects who will rule after his/her death, usually the oldest son

elect

elect—to choose through votes
(**elected**)

official

official—a person who holds an office
and has authority (**officials**)

Senate

Senate—a group of men (senators) who were elected to represent the people who voted for them and met to make decisions and pass laws for the Roman republic; American government today also has a Senate (and senators). (**senators**)

consul

consul—one of two top officials elected to govern the Roman republic (**consuls**)

honor

honor—a privilege or special
opportunity to do something

democracy

democracy—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives freely and equally by all people of voting age

patrician

patrician—a person from an old, wealthy, powerful family in the Roman republic who held government positions
(**patricians**)

plebeian

plebeian—an ordinary person who was poor and had little education or power in the Roman republic (**plebeians**)

Founding Fathers of the United States

Founding Fathers of the United States—men who played important roles in creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington

Hannibal

Hannibal—general from Carthage who led the fight against Rome during the Second Punic War; He won many battles but lost the war.

Carthage

Carthage—city on the coast of Africa that Romans saw as a rival city
(**Carthaginians, Carthaginian**)

rival

rival—an enemy

Punic War

Punic War—one of the three wars fought between the Romans and the Carthaginians over control of the Mediterranean (**Punic Wars**)

invade

invade—to attack or enter a place in order to take control of it

avalanche

avalanche—snow, ice, and rocks
that suddenly fall down the side of a
mountain (**avalanches**)

counter-attack

counter-attack—a military response to an attack

confront

confront—to meet face-to-face
(**confronted**)

victorious

victorious—having won a battle, war,
or contest

Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar—a Roman general who conquered many lands and expanded the Roman republic; After serving as a consul, he decided he did not like the way the republic was run. He became a dictator, was then seen as a threat, and was killed.

ransom

ransom—money paid to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped

talent

talent—a unit of measurement in ancient Rome, equal to about 71 pounds, used to measure gold and silver (**talents**)

barbarian

barbarian—a person who is wild,
sometimes violent, and does not behave
the right way (**barbarians**)

establish

establish—to gain recognition for
doing something well (**established**)

revolt

revolt—riot or revolution against a ruler
or government

Veni, vidi, vici

[wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]

Veni, vidi, vici [**wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE**]**—**I came, I saw, I conquered,
Julius Caesar's report about his efforts in
Asia

Latin

Latin—the language of ancient Rome

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Rubicon

Rubicon—the river Julius Caesar crossed even though the Roman senators warned him not to, leading to a civil war

traitor

traitor—someone who is not loyal

civil war

civil war—a war between groups
within the same country

defeat

defeat—to win a victory over (**defeated**)

Cleopatra

Cleopatra—the Queen of Egypt; She became queen with help from Julius Caesar.

dictator

dictator—a person who rules a country with total control, often in a cruel way; A dictator is not elected. (**dictators**)

unusual

unusual—rare

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conspirator

conspirator—a person who has secretly planned to do something harmful
(**conspirators**)

Augustus

Augustus—Julius Caesar's adopted son who changed ancient Rome from a republic to an empire by becoming the emperor

tradition

tradition—custom (traditions)

reform

reform—to change the way things are done to make them better (**reformed**)

magnificent

magnificent—impressive and beautiful

reign

reign—period of time during which a ruler is in charge

Pantheon

Pantheon—a temple built to honor all of the Roman gods

architecture

architecture—design or style of
buildings

Colosseum

Colosseum—a huge arena in Rome where people would go to watch events, mainly gladiator fights, that is one of the most recognizable buildings from the Roman Empire

ruins

ruins—the remains of something that has fallen or been destroyed

chariot

chariot—a cart with two wheels and no seats that is pulled by horses; The driver stands up in the cart to hold the horses' reins.

Circus Maximus

Circus Maximus—a large stadium
where chariot races were held

aqueduct

aqueduct—a stone structure built to carry water from the country into the city (**aqueducts**)

gladiator

gladiator—a man trained to fight people and animals for entertainment, often resulting in death (**gladiators**)

crouch

crouch—to stoop or squat (**crouched**)

vicious

vicious—dangerous, violent, mean

arena

arena—the area of a stadium where the events actually take place

befriend

befriend—to become friends with
(**befriended**)

emperor

emperor—the male ruler/head of an
empire

Christianity

Christianity—a religion based on the teachings of Jesus (**Christian**)

miracle

miracle—an amazing event with no explanation, believed to be an act of God (**miracles**)

subjects

subjects—people who are ruled by a
king or emperor

trial

trial—a meeting in court to determine if someone has broken the law

divine

divine—relating to God

religion

religion—the belief in a god or many gods

faith

faith—strong religious beliefs

Constantine

Constantine—the Emperor who ended the war between the Romans and Christianity; the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity

Justinian

Justinian—great emperor of the Eastern Empire who built the Hagia Sophia and organized laws into Justinian's Code

illegal

illegal—against the law

Byzantium

Byzantium—ancient city in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, later called Constantinople

Constantinople

Constantinople—new name for the city of Byzantium and Constantine’s favorite city, which he wanted to turn into a “new Rome”

pillar

pillar—a column that supports a building or a supporting part of something (**pillars**)

collapse

collapse—to suddenly fail (**collapsed**)

Western Empire

Western Empire—the western half of the Roman Empire

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Eastern Empire

Eastern Empire—the eastern half of the Roman Empire

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Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia—a large Christian church with a magnificent dome built by Justinian in Constantinople

scholar

scholar—a person with a lot of
knowledge about a certain subject
(**scholars**)

Justinian's Code

Justinian's Code—the laws organized
and published by Justinian

mosaic

mosaic—art made by putting small pieces of glass or tile together to form a picture (**mosaics**)

Pompeii

Pompeii—a city in the Roman Empire that was wiped out when Mount Vesuvius erupted

Mount Vesuvius

Mount Vesuvius—a volcano that erupted in AD 79 and wiped out the city of Pompeii

volcano

volcano—a mountain with openings through which melted rock, ash, and hot gases explode

plume

plume—a cloud of smoke that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape

pumice

pumice—gray volcanic rock

preserve

preserve—to save in its original form so that it remains the same (**preserved**)

Horatius

Horatius—a Roman soldier who became a hero by fighting the Etruscan army with two other men so that the other Romans could escape; He jumped in the river during the fight and drifted downstream to Rome.

hew

hew—to cut something with a sharp
tool

ye

ye—old fashioned way of saying “you”

foe

foe—an enemy

yon

yon—distant

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thou

thou—old fashioned way of saying
“you”

armor

armor—a protective covering, usually made of metal, worn by soldiers in battle

valiantly

valiantly—in a brave and courageous
manner