

Reader Glossary

A

abscesses, *n.* inflammations caused by bacteria

access, *v.* approach; use

acknowledge, *v.* accept; recognize

agitated, *adj.* upset

air, *n.* appearance

algebra, *n.* a branch of mathematics

alternately, *adv.* switching regularly and repeatedly

ambiguity, *n.* uncertainty of meaning or intention

arbiter, *n.* a person with the authority to settle disputes

arcades, *n.* covered passageways

arches, *n.* openings or gateways that are curved on top (**arch**)

architectural, *adj.* relating to the design and construction of buildings (**architecture**)

arid, *adj.* very dry

arrogance, *n.* showing extreme pride or self-importance

ascended, *v.* rose; went upward

assassinated, *v.* killed on purpose

astronomy, *n.* the study of stars and planets

authority, *n.* a source of information that people believe is correct

avenge, *v.* to get revenge

awe, *n.* a feeling of being very impressed

B

barracks, *n.* housing for soldiers

bathhouses, *n.* buildings for bathing

Bedouins, *n.* Arabic people who live in the desert

beset, *v.* attacked; surrounded

bewildered, *adj.* confused

blasphemy, *n.* words or actions that are offensive to a religion

bleaching, *v.* making white by exposing to the sun or a chemical

bleak, *adj.* hopeless; depressing

blow, *n.* a sudden attack

brocade, *n.* a cloth woven with an elaborate design

bustling, *v.* hurrying; moving fast and with purpose

C

caliph, *n.* an Islamic spiritual and religious leader claiming succession from Muhammad

campaign, *n.* multiple military actions

canon, *n.* a collection of rules and knowledge

caravans, *n.* groups of merchants traveling together

cavalry, *n.* soldiers riding horses

chivalry, *n.* a code of honor often connected to European knights of the Middle Ages

communal, *adj.* shared by a community

compiled, *v.* put different texts together into a book

comrades, *n.* friends