



Terms & Definitions

Terms and Definitions



TERMS	DEFINITIONS
ALGORITHM	A procedure for solving a mathematical problem (as of finding the greatest common divisor) in a finite number of steps that frequently involves repetition of an operation; broadly: a step-by-step procedure for solving a problem or accomplishing some end especially by a computer
ALLAH	The Arabic word for God.
AMULET	This small talisman symbolizes beneficent power; it is traditionally worn for protection and strength.
ANALOGICAL	1. of, relating to, or based on analogy 2. expressing or implying analogy
ANAMORPHOSIS	A distorted two-dimensional image that assumes normal proportions when looked at from one side or in a curved mirror.
ANCHOR	An anchor is a device normally made of metal, that is used to connect a vessel to the bed of a body of water to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current.
ANIMA	1. (in Jungian psychology) the feminine part of a man's personality. 2. the part of the psyche which is directed inwards, in touch with the subconscious. "persona and anima switch roles and merge in slow, smooth ways"
ANKH	A cross that is shaped like a "T" with a loop at the top, this Ancient Egyptian symbol, meaning "eternal life", is often worn around the neck.
ANTHROPOMORPHIC	Having human form or human characteristics; man-shaped
APOLLO	Is the god of music, poetry, plague, oracles, sun, medicine, light and knowledge

APOSTLE	A missionary or disciple of the early Christian Church.
ARCHETYPE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the original pattern or model of which all things of the same type are representations or copies: prototype; also: a perfect example 2. idea 3. an inherited idea or mode of thought in the psychology of C. G. Jung that is derived from the experience of the race and is present in the unconscious of the individual
ART INFORMEL	A French term for a style of abstract painting popular in Europe during the 1940s and 1950s. The style was based on improvised (ie informal) techniques.
ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT	A broad movement in architecture and the decorative arts initiated by William Morris in 1861. It aimed to raise craftsmanship and design to the level of art.
ASANA	The four poses in which the Buddha appears seated, standing, walking, or reclining are referred to as asanas.
ASCETIC	This religious devotee renounces material comforts in favour of austere self-discipline.
ASSYRIA	An ancient nation and empire, Assyria covered the northern half of Mesopotamia, now part of Iraq.
AUSPICIOUS SYMBOL	In Buddhism there are eight auspicious symbols that each signify some aspect of the Buddha's teaching.
AVATAR	This Sanskrit word, meaning "descent" refers to an earthly incarnation of a Hindu deity.
AVOW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: to declare assuredly <she avowed her innocence> 2: to declare openly, bluntly, and without shame 3. <avowed their undying love for each other> <p>Related Words: announce, broadcast, proclaim; argue, rationalize, reason; confirm, justify, vindicate; defend, persevere, support, uphold; reaffirm, reassert</p>
BABYLONIA	The ancient kingdom of Babylonia was in Mesopotamia, set between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, now Iraq.
BAR/BAT MITZVAH	At 13, a Jewish boy is considered an adult, responsible for his moral and religious duties and is called a Bar Mitzvah, as is the ceremony that initiates and recognizes him as such. Bat Mitzvah is the female equivalent.

BARBARIAN	Refers to a person who is perceived to be uncivilized. The word is often used either in a general reference to member of a nation or ethnos, typically a tribal society as seen by an urban civilization either viewed as inferior, or admired as a noble savage. In idiomatic or figurative usage, a “barbarian” may also be an individual reference to a brutal, cruel, warlike, insensitive person.
BARBIZON SCHOOL	French landscape painters active from 1830 to 1870 and part of the Realist movement. The group took its name from the village of Barbizon, where the artists gathered.
BAROQUE	A style of art and architecture dominant from the early 17th to mid 18th century and characterized by extravagance, grand subject matter and rich, but sombre, colours
BIENNALE	A large international exhibition held every two years. The first and most famous was the Venice Biennale held in 1895.
BLACK MAGIC	This is practised for evil purposes, often in league with evil spirits.
BLAZE	This refers to the description of a coat of arms in heraldic terms.
BLAUE REITER, DER	German Expressionist group based in Munich from 1911 to 1914 and founded by a group of avant-garde artists led by Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc.
BODHI TREE	In Buddhism this is a fig tree under which the Buddha sat when he attained Enlightenment.
BODHISATTVA	A bodhisattva is one destined to attain Buddhahood, who serves as a guide to others or the path to enlightenment.
BRAHMA	A Hindu creator god, Brahma was a member of the triad, known as the Trimurti, that also included the gods Vishnu and Shiva.
BRILLE	A system of writing and printing for the blind or visually impaired, it comprises raised dots representing letters and numerals that are identified by touch.
BRIICKE, DIE	German Expressionist group formed in 1905 in Dresden and dissolved in 1913. The name means ‘bridge’ in German and may have been chosen to convey the idea of a bridge between the artist and the rest of the world.

BUDDHA	An enlightened, omniscient being, Buddha may refer to either the historical, mortal Buddha, Gautama Sakya-muni, or abstract manifestations of the supreme Buddha nature.
BYZANTINE WORLD	A reference to the Byzantine Empire and its distinctive architecture, art, and culture, which gradually emerged from the Roman Empire after 330ce when the capital of the empire was moved from Rome to Byzantium, now Istanbul.
CADENCY MARK	A heraldic system evolved to differentiate between sons who were also entitled to bear the family arms; each one had his own mark, and sons of sons added their own mark.
CADUCEUS	In Greek mythology this was a winged rod entwined with two snakes carried by the god, Hermes; it was later used as a physicians' symbol .
CATACOMBS	Catacombs are human-made subterranean passageways for religious practice. Any chamber used as a burial place is a catacomb, although the word is most commonly associated with the Roman Empire.
CESSPIT	Acovered well or pit for the drainage from sinks etc.
CENOTAPH	A monument without the interment is a cenotaph.
CHAKRA	According to yoga philosophy, the body has seven chakras", or centres of spiritual energy, relating to our physical, mental, and emotional states.
CHARGE	This is a heraldic image, such as an animal, object, or shape on a shield.
CHIAROSCURO	Italian term (meaning light-dark) referring to the balance of light and shade in painting.
CHRIST'S PASSION	The Passion of Christ represents suffering of Jesus at the Crucifixion.
CHTHONIC GOD	This is a god who is of, or relates to, the underworld.
CLASSICAL	Term that came into use in the 17th century to describe the art and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. It describes art that is created rationally rather than intuitively.
CLOISONNISM	A technique used by Post-Impressionist artists whereby flat colours are surrounded by strong dark outlines.
COMET	A celestial body traditionally seen as inauspicious, a comet symbolizes the coming of war or some other calamity.
COMPENDIUM	An abridgement; A brief comprehensive summary

CONSTRUCTIVISM	A branch of abstract art that emerged in Russia in c. 1917. Constructivists believed art should reflect the modern industrial world.
CONTRAPPOSTO	Italian term to describe the way in which a human figure is shown standing with most of its weight on one foot so the shoulders and arms twist away from the hips and legs.
CORNUCOPIA	A cone-shaped receptacle overflowing with fruit, flowers, and grain, a cornucopia symbolizes prosperity. It is associated with Greek mythology.
COSMIC OCEAN	This represents the primordial waters from which all life emerged.
COVERT	1: not openly shown, engaged in, or avowed: veiled <a covert alliance> 2: covered over: sheltered
CUBISM	Cubism is an early-20th-century avant-garde art movement that revolutionized European painting and sculpture, and inspired related movements in music, literature and architecture. Cubism has been considered the most influential art movement of the 20th century.
CULTURE HERO	A superhuman, human, or animal figure that is admired or revered, a culture hero is one who has benefited an entire culture through a heroic or compassionate deed; some are traditionally called upon for protection or guidance.
CUNEIFORM	The tablets of the Mesopotamians, Sumerians and Hittites
CYBERNETICS	The science of communication and control theory that is concerned especially with the comparative study of automatic control systems (as the nervous system and brain and mechanical-electrical communication systems)
DANCE MACABRE	In this medieval "dance of death", a skeleton symbolizing death leads a procession to the grave.
DARK AGES	The Dark Ages is a historical periodization used originally for the Middle Ages, which emphasizes the cultural and economic deterioration that supposedly occurred in Western Europe following the decline of the Roman Empire.
DARSHAN	This is a Hindu term meaning "a viewing", especially of a sacred image or holy person.
DHARMA WHEEL	An important symbol of the Buddha's teachings that is also known as the Wheel of Law.
DHARMACHAKRA MUDRA	This Buddhist hand gesture signifies the Wheel of Law being set in motion, as the Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining Enlightenment.

DIWALI	The Hindu festival of lights, Diwali marks the beginning of winter.
DRUID	An Ancient Celtic priest, diviner, magician, and/or teacher.
DYNASTY	This represents a succession of rulers from the same family or line.
EFFIGY	A sculpture or model of a person.
EMOTICON	This symbol uses punctuation marks to convey feelings in a written message.
ENLIGHTENMENT	In Buddhism and Hinduism enlightenment is a blessed state in which an individual rises above desire and suffering and attains Nirvana.
EPITOME	A concise summary, abridgement; A compendium
ERMINE	Associated with royalty, white ermine fur is used to trim royal robes; the animals' black tail-tips are incorporated at regular intervals, accenting the white.
ESOTERIC	1a: designed for or understood by the specially initiated alone <a body of esoteric legal doctrine — B. N. Cardozo> b: requiring or exhibiting knowledge that is restricted to a small group <esoteric terminology>; broadly : difficult to understand <esoteric subjects> 2a: limited to a small circle <engaging in esoteric pursuits> b: private, confidential <an esoteric purpose> 3: of special, rare, or unusual interest <esoteric building materials>
EVIL EYE	Some cultures believe that certain people can curse victims by looking at them. People often wear amulets to avert the effects of the evil eye.
EXHIBITION	In the most general sense, is an organized presentation and display of a selection of items. In practice, exhibitions usually occur within museums, galleries and exhibition halls, and World's Fairs. Exhibitions include (whatever as in major art museums and small art galleries; interpretive exhibitions, as at natural history museums and history museums), for example; and commercial exhibitions, or trade fairs.
EXOTERIC	1a : suitable to be imparted to the public <the exoteric doctrine> — compare esoteric b : belonging to the outer or less initiate circle 2: relating to the outside : external

EXPOSÉ	1: An undesirable or embarrassing disclosure or exposure. 2: A revelation or disclosure of something to the public, as corruption, political graft, social injustice, etc. – adj. Given to exposing discreditable things: an exposé magazine.
EXPRESSIONISM	This early 20th-century art movement set out to portray the artist's often intense inner emotions; reality is distorted, colour is typically intense, and brushwork is loose, as in the work of Edvard Munch.
FENG SHUI	This Ancient Chinese practice of positioning objects or orientating buildings, is based on a belief that a good flow of "chi", or energy, promotes harmony, prosperity, and health.
FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM	These represent the five duties incumbent on every Muslim. The profession of faith in one God and in Mohammad as his Prophet, praying five times a day, fasting during the month of Ramadan, giving alms, and making hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca.
FLUXUS	A loosely organized international avant-garde group founded in 1960 by artist George Maciunas. The work recalled the anti-art sensibility of Dada and centred around 'happenings' and street art
FOUR ELEMENTS	In alchemy the four elements (fire, earth, air, and water) are represented by equilateral triangles.
FRATERNITY	A fraternity represents a group of men who have come together for a common purpose or interest, as in Freemasonry.
FREUDIAN	This describes specific attitudes, beliefs, or behaviour that relate or subscribe to the psychoanalytic theories of Sigmund Freud.
FUTURISM	Originating in Italy in the early 20th century, this art movement set out to express the dynamism of contemporary life, especially in its mechanization.
GENRE PAINTING	Painting that shows scenes from daily life. The style was popular in the Netherlands during the 17th century
GOACHE	Also spelled guache, is a type of paint consisting of pigment, a binding agent (usually gum arabic), and sometimes added inert material, designed to be used in an opaque method. It also refers to paintings that use this opaque method. The name derives from the Italian guazzo. Gouache paint is similar to watercolor but modified to make it opaque.

GOTHIC (UNICODE BLOCK)	A collection of Unicode characters of the Gothic alphabet
GOTHIC ALPHABET	One of the alphabets used to write the Gothic language
GOTHIC LANGUAGE	An extinct East Germanic language, spoken by the Goths
GOTHIC PEOPLE	The ethnonym of a group of East Germanic tribes
GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE	Gothic architecture is a style of architecture that flourished during the high and late medieval period. It evolved from Romanesque architecture and was succeeded by Renaissance architecture.
GRAND MANNER	Grandiose style of painting that flourished in the 18th century and was influenced by academia, ancient history and mythology, painted in an idealized and formulaic style.
GRANTHI	This literally translates as “the keeper and the reader of the Sikh scripture”.
GRIMOIRE OF HONORIUS	A manual for black magic, this can be used for invoking demons and spirits.
GRIM REAPER	This mythological figure is a personification of death, and is portrayed as a skeleton carrying a scythe, and wearing a black gown, robe, or hooded cape.
GUNPOWDER PLOT	This foiled attempt by English Catholics in 1605 to blow up the Houses of Parliament, is commemorated annually on 5 November.
GURDWARA	A Sikh temple, the gurdwara is the focal point of religious life for Sikhs and a symbol of worship.
GURU	A term meaning “spiritual teacher”, used in Sikhism, Tibetan Buddhism, and Hinduism.
HAZCHEM	This is an acronym for “Hazardous Chemicals”.
HENNA	A reddish-brown dye obtained from the leaves of <i>Lawsonia inermis</i> , it is used as a body adornment and hair dye and symbolizes good luck on festive occasions such as weddings.
HEPTAGRAM	A seven-pointed star believed to have magical properties, this has various associations, ranging from Kabbalah to a symbol for warding off evil.
HERETICAL	This describes beliefs or behaviour that go against established doctrine.

HEXAGRAM	The geometric symmetry of this six-pointed star made it a popular spiritual or magical symbol in many cultures. a plane figure that has the shape of a 6-pointed star, that consists of two intersecting congruent equilateral triangles having the same point as center and their sides parallel, and that can be formed by constructing external equilateral triangles on the sides of a regular hexagon — compare solomon's seal
HIEROGLYPH	A character in any of a number of pictorial writing systems; the best-known system and one of the oldest is that of Ancient Egypt.
HOBO	A drifter or migrant worker who moves aimlessly from place to place, a hobo has no permanent home or job.
HOMONYM	A homonym is a word that sounds or looks like a word with another meaning; for example, the word for four in China and Japan also sounds like their word for "death", so it is considered to be unlucky.
HOPE	Hope is the state which promotes the desire of positive outcomes related to events and circumstances in one's life or in the world at large.
HYPOTHESIS	1a : an assumption or concession made for the sake of argument b : an interpretation of a practical situation or condition taken as the ground for action 2: a tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical or empirical consequences 3: the antecedent clause of a conditional statement
HUNNIC ERA	Also known as the Huns. They were a group of nomadic people who first appeared in Europe from east of the Volga River, region of the earlier Scythians, with a migration intertwined with the Alans. They were first mentioned as Hunnoi by Tacitus.
I CHING	An Ancient Chinese system of divination based on a book of Taoist philosophy, I Ching is expressed in hexagrams chosen at random and then interpreted to answer specific questions and offer guidance. There are 64 hexagrams in total, each composed of two groups of three lines that may be broken or solid.

ICONOGRAPHY	This is the art or representation by pictures or images of a chosen subject; Christian iconography ranges from representations of angels to saints.
INCARNATION	This term refers to the bodily manifestation of a divine being, an idea common in religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism.
LNUIT	An indigenous word meaning “the people”, Inuit is the collective name for a widely scattered group of people living in the Canadian Arctic and Greenland
JAINISM	a religion of India originating in the sixth century b.c. and teaching liberation of the soul by right knowledge, right faith, and right conduct.
JUDAISM	1: a religion developed among the ancient Hebrews and characterized by belief in one transcendent God who has revealed himself to Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew prophets and by a religious life in accordance with Scriptures and rabbinic traditions 2: conformity to Jewish rites, ceremonies, and practices 3: the cultural, social, and religious beliefs and practices of the Jews 4: the whole body of Jews : the Jewish people
JUNGIAN	A devotee of the psychological doctrines of Swiss psychologist and psychiatrist, C.G. Jung, Jungian theory stresses the contribution of cultural and racial inheritance to an individual's psychology, and maintains that there are two basic types of people, introverts and extroverts.
KA'BA	Islam's most sacred shrine, the Ka'ba, is in the Holy Mosque in Mecca.
KACHINA	The Native American Hopi believe in supernatural beings called Kachinas-rain-bringers and spiritual messengers that also intercede in village life and mete out punishment. Kachina dolls, called tithu, are given to girls and brides on dance days to teach them about the different Hopi Kachinas.
KAMI	These are nature spirits that are worshipped in Shintoism.
KINETIC ART	Art that incorporates movement or gives the illusion of movement.
LABYRINTH	A complicated arrangement or structure of interconnecting paths, passageways, or tunnels, also known as a maze, in which it is easy to become confused and lost.
LIBATION VESSEL	This is a drinking vessel that is traditionally horn or cup shaped.

LINGA	Also called lingam, a linga is a stylized phallus worshipped by Hindus as a symbol of the god Shiva.
LOGO	This is a symbol, name, or trademark designed for easy and immediate recognition.
LUTHERAN	Of or relating to the Protestant movement based on the principles of the German reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). Lutheran theology was founded in Germany at the start of the Reformation in the 16th century and had as its original goal the reformation of the western Catholic Church.
MAGIC SQUARE	This is a square containing numbers that are arranged in equal rows and columns, such that the sum of each row, column, and sometimes diagonal is the same. Found in many cultures, engraved on metal or stone, or worn as talismans, they are believed to have divinatory and astrological qualities associated with longevity and good health.
MANDALA	A symbolic design representing the Universe, the mandala is used in Buddhism and Hinduism as a meditation tool.
MANDORLA	This almond-shaped halo surrounds the entire body and signifies holiness or the Holy Spirit. In art it often surrounds the image of Christ or the Virgin Mary.
MANTRA	Traditionally, a mantra is a sacred word or phrase repeated in prayer, meditation, or incantation associated with Hinduism and Buddhism.
MARTYR	A martyr is an individual who dies for his or her religious principles.
MASONIC	Of relating to, or characteristic of Freemasons or Freemasonry
MAUSOLEUM	It is an external free-standing building constructed as a monument enclosing the interment space or burial chamber of a deceased person or people. A mausoleum may be considered a type of tomb or the tomb may be considered to be within the mausoleum. A Christian mausoleum sometimes includes a chapel.
MEDIEVAL TIMES	Also known as the Middle Ages, this period of European history is often dated from 479 to 1453cr
MEDITATION	This is the practice of focusing on something specific, such as an object, sound, or visualization, to heighten awareness of the moment, reduce stress, and enhance spiritual growth. It features in many eastern religions.

MESO-AMERICA	This describes the geographical and cultural area of Central America that spreads from Mexico to El Salvador.
MESOPOTAMIA	This region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is now known as Iraq.
METHODOLOGY	1: a body of methods, rules, and postulates employed by a discipline : a particular procedure or set of procedures 2: the analysis of the principles or procedures of inquiry in a particular field
MILKY WAY	Illuminating the night sky, this galaxy includes the Sun and the Solar system.
MING DYNASTY	This Chinese imperial dynasty lasted from 1368 to 1644cr.
MINIMALISM	A form of abstract art that developed in the United States in the latter half of the 1960s. It celebrated simplistic forms: painted works used mainly monochrome and primary colours and three-dimensional works used modern, industrial materials.
MODERNISM	Emerged in the second half of the 19th century under the premise that art should reflect modern times. Used as an umbrella term to encompass other modern artistic movements that have since flourished.
MONARCHY	This term refers to a state ruled or headed by a monarch (a king or queen).
MONOTHEISTIC FAITH	Based on the belief in one god, such faiths include Christianity and Islam.
MORSE	This is a telegraph code in which numbers and letters are represented by strings of dots and dashes.
MOTHER GODDESS	Found in many cultures, the idea of the Mother Goddess goes back to earliest times in which a nurturing female deity represented the Earth, and was associated with creation and fertility.
MUMMIFICATION	This is the process of preserving a dead body and wrapping it according to Ancient Egyptian practices. The viscera and brain were removed and reserved in special funerary jars; the body was then dried out with sodium carbonate before being wrapped in bandages.
MYSTICISM	This philosophy is based on the belief that absolute knowledge of God or the spiritual truth can be reached through spiritual intuition that is believed to transcend ordinary sensory experiences or understanding.

MYTH	A traditional story a myth usually involves gods and heroes and typically sets out to explain the origins of a cultural practice or natural phenomena.
NABIS	From the Hebrew word for 'prophet', the Nabis was a group of Post-Impressionist painters active from 1888 to 1900. The style is characterized by flat patches of colour, bold contours and simplified drawing.
NEO-EXPRESSIONISM	Term used from about 1980 to denote the revival of painting in an Expressionist manner. Neo-Expressionists created dramatic figurative paintings often with distorted subject matter.
NEO-IMPRESSIONISM	Characterized by a divisionist technique whereby colours were placed separately on the canvas (rather than mixed in the palette) in small dabs so they would become optically mixed in the viewer's eye.
NEO-PLASTICISM	Term coined by Piet Mondrian to denote his geometrical abstract painting style.
NIRVANA	The ultimate state of Buddhist bliss and freedom from the cycle of birth, rebirth, and union with the universal, it is only attainable after all attachment and desire has been extinguished.
NOUVEAU RÉALISME	French movement established in 1960 by critic Pierre Restany that aimed to bring life and art closer together. As well as painting, Nouveau Realistes made use of collage, assemblage, happenings and installation.
OMEN	This is a phenomenon or prophetic sign believed to herald good or evil.
ORDINARY	In heraldry an ordinary is a basic shape on a shield design, such as a bar.
ORIGINAL SIN	In Christian doctrine Original Sin is the condition of sin into which every human is born, as a result of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit.
ORPHISM	Term used to denote the Cubist-influenced work of Robert Delaunay and his wife Sonia. Their abstract work featured overlapping planes of colour.
ORTHODOX CHURCH	A community of Christian Churches that has its roots in the Byzantine Empire and acknowledges the honorary primacy of the Patriarch of Constantinople, rather than the pope.
OVERT	open to view : manifest <overt hostility>

PAGAN GOD	Any god who is not associated with Christianity, Judaism, or Islam, is viewed by followers of these religions as a pagan god.
PARADIGM	1: example, pattern; especially : an outstandingly clear or typical example or archetype 2: an example of a conjugation or declension showing a word in all its inflectional forms
PASSOVER	This Jewish festival commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt.
PENTAGRAM	A five-pointed star, the pentagram has magical associations and was symbolically important in Ancient Greece and Babylonia. In Christianity it represents the five wounds of Christ.
PETROGLYPH	This is an image carved into rock, and is associated with prehistoric art.
PICTOGRAM	A form of visual language, pictograms use symbols or images to convey information, such as the hieroglyphs on an Ancient Egyptian tomb, or male and female figures on a door to represent a public lavatory.
PICTOGRAPH	This is an image drawn or painted on to a rock face.
PORTENT	Another word for an omen, this is a sign or happening that is interpreted as symbolic of a significant event to come.
PRIMITIVISM	Art inspired by the so-called 'primitive' art that fascinated many early modern European artists. It included tribal art from Africa and the South Pacific, as well as European folk art.
PRIMORDIAL WATERS/OCEAN	The primordial waters are the waters from which all life emerged, and refer to the time before creation, when the cosmos was a place of chaos.
PSYCHIC POWERS	This refers to the ability to use extra-sensory perception to see things that are hidden from the senses (including the past and future); such powers were traditionally used by witches and seers.
PSYCHOPOMP	A psychopomp is a guide of souls to the underworld, such as Charon or Hermes.
PTOLEMAIC UNIVERSE	The model for the Universe according to the Ancient Greek astronomer, Ptolemy, in which the Earth took centre-stage and the Sun, the Moon, planets, and stars revolved around it.

PYTHAGORAS	A Greek philosopher considered to be the first true mathematician, Pythagoras (c580-500bce) theorized that numbers contained the essence of all natural things.
REALM	It is a community or territory over which a sovereign rules; it is commonly used to describe a kingdom or other monarchical or dynastic state.
REINCARNATION	In Asian religions reincarnation is the rebirth of the soul in another body.
RENAISSANCE	A revival of the Classical arts, the Renaissance began in Italy in the 14th century and spread throughout Europe until the end of the 16th century.
RESURRECTION	Anglicized from Latin resurrectio. It is the concept of a living being coming back to life after death. It is a religious concept, where it is used in two distinct respects: a belief in the resurrection of individual souls that is current and ongoing (Christian idealism, realized eschatology), or else a belief in a singular "Resurrection of the Dead" event at the end of the world.
RIVER STYX	In Greek mythology the River Styx was a river in Hades across which the dead were ferried to the underworld.
ROBESPIERRE	Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre was a French lawyer and politician, and one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution
ROMANESQUE	A style of European art and architecture that dominated the 10th and 11th centuries. It took its inspiration from the ancient Roman Empire.
RUDRA/SHIVA	Meaning "howler", Rudra is the malignant Vedic god of storms and winds. As Hindu beliefs developed, Rudra's name changed to Shiva.
SADHU	In Hinduism a sadhu is a wandering holy man who has renounced the material comforts and earthly pleasures of the world.
SAINT	In Christianity a saint is someone who has been officially recognized by the Church, especially through canonization, as being entitled to public worship, and capable of intervening for people on Earth.

SAMSARA	In Hindu and Buddhist tradition samsara represents the endless cycle of birth and rebirth dictated by karma (an individual's destiny as determined by their conduct during life). Release from samsara only comes with the attainment of true knowledge.
SAMURAI	This is the Japanese military feudal aristocracy or a professional warrior belonging to this class.
SARCOPHAGUS	A term describing a stone coffin, a sarcophagus is located above ground and is often elaborately decorated.
SATYR	In Greek mythology a satyr is a woodland deity with the head and trunk of a man, and the pointed ears, horns, and hind legs of a goat. Satyrs have a tendency for lechery and revelry.
SEAL OF SOLOMON	Depending on context, the Seal of Solomon is either a six-pointed star, or hexagram, believed to possess magical powers; a Jewish symbol called the "Star of David"; or any one of 25 species of flowering plants from the genus Polygonatum.
SELIROTIC TREE	In Kabbalah, the Sefirotic Tree of Life comprises ten primal numbers and 22 paths representing the forces behind creation. These numbers are shown as circles called Sefirot, which make up a tree form. The Sefirotic Tree is also associated with Tarot cards.
SEMAPHORE	This is a visual system for signalling information using two flags, one in each hand; it employs an alphabetic code based on the position of the signaller's arms.
SEMI-GOD	Part-human, part-god, a semi-god is sometimes also a heroic figure, such as Hercules in Greek mythology.
SHAMAN	A priest within certain tribal societies, a shaman acts as a medium between the human and spirit worlds, and practises magic for healing or divination purposes, or to control natural events. Both men and women can be shamans.
SHAPESHIFTER	In mythology or fiction, a shapeshifter is someone or something that can change from one form into another; a well-known example is that of a human changing into a werewolf.
SHOU	The Taoist character for longevity, Shou is often depicted as a circular symbol. In China it is sometimes paired with other symbols of long life.

SOCIALIST REALISM	A style of art, literature, and music, established in the Soviet Union in the 1930s, Socialist Realism sought to promote the development of Socialism, and typically portrayed workers and other members of a Communist society in a heroic or idealized manner.
SPIRIT HELPER	A spirit acting as an ally or servant of a shaman, a spirit helper is subservient to, rather than the protector or teacher of, the person it assists.
STOMACHER	A former ornamental article of dress for the breast and stomach.
STUPA	Originally an ancient burial mound, a stupa is a dome-shaped monument. After the Buddha's death stupas were erected to house his relics. Important stupas became places of pilgrimage, around which worshippers walk in a clockwise direction.
SUFISM	A mystical Islamic movement, Sufism seeks the Truth - divine love and knowledge through the direct experience of God.
SUPREMATISM	An expression coined by Kasimir Malevich in 1913 to denote Russian abstract art that encompassed elements of Cubism. The style used geometric shapes and treated the empty spaces on a canvas as an artistic medium in their own right.
SURREALISM	A 20th-century art movement that aimed to express the workings of the subconscious mind, Surrealism is typically characterized by dream-like imagery and the unexpected juxtaposition of subject matter. Salvador Dali was a Surrealist artist.
SYMBOLISM	Late 19th-century movement in which artists focused on subjective, personal representations of the world. It was fuelled by new psychological subject matter that was often mystical and erotic.
SYNTHETISM	Term used by Paul Gauguin, Emile Bernard and their circle at Pont-Aven, Brittany, in the 1880s. It denoted their philosophy that art should synthesize subject matter with the emotions of the artist rather than with observed reality.
T'AI CHI CIRCLE	This double spiral is a symbol of life and represents the relationship between Yin and Yang, the interdependent elements of Taoist philosophy that combine to create a balanced whole.

TAROT	A means of divination using Tarot cards, these comprise a set of 78 playing cards, including 22 cards portraying vices, virtues, and elemental forces.
TECHNO	electronic dance music that features a fast beat and synthesized sounds usually without vocals or a conventional popular song structure
THE DREAMING	In Australian Aboriginal tradition, The Dreaming refers to either the time of creation, or to an individual or group's set of beliefs or spirituality
TOTEM	An animal, plant, or natural object – or a representation of one * a totem is an emblem of a tribe, clan, or family; it is sometimes worshipped as an ancestor, guardian, or creator figure.
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE	This is the biblical Tree of Knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden; its forbidden fruit was eaten by Adam and Eve, resulting in their Fall from Grace and exile from Eden.
TREE OF LIFE	The mythical Tree of Life grew in paradise and its fruit, if consumed, bestowed immortality.
TRIGRAM	A figure made up of three solid or broken parallel lines, a trigram is typically used in Chinese philosophy or divination according to the I Ching.
TRIMURTI	Hindus worship the Trimurti, or triad, of the gods Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.
TRINITY	In Christianity the Holy Trinity symbolizes the Father the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
UDJAT	Depicted as a forward-facing human right eye and eyebrow, the udjat was worn as an amulet. It is also known as the wadjet or the Eye of Horus.
VANDALS	The Vandals were an East Germanic tribe who in 429 under king Genseric entered Africa and by 439 established a kingdom which included the Roman Africa province, besides the islands of Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Malta and the Balearics.
VANITAS	A type of symbol-laden, sombre still-life painting, popular in Flanders and the Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries, vanitas ad serves as a reminder of the brevity of life, the futility of pleasure, and the inevitability of death. Common vanitas symbols include hourglasses and rotten fruit.

VEDIC	This refers to anything belonging to or relating to the Veda or Vedas (see above), the type of Sanskrit in which they are composed, or the Hindu culture from which they came.
VEIL	A veil is an article of clothing or cloth hanging that is intended to cover some part of the head or face, or an object of some significance. It is especially associated with women and sacred objects.
VEVER	In voodoo each vever is a symbolic design of a specific spirit. It is made on the ground by sprinkling powder, such as cornmeal, prior to or during a ceremony. It serves as a focal point for invocation and as an altar for offerings.
YANG	According to Ancient Chinese philosophy, Yang is one part of two complementary forces or principles that underlie and control all nature. It is masculine and positive.
YANTRA	Derived from a Sanskrit word meaning “to sustain”, a yantra is a geometric design traditionally used by Hindus to focus on as an aid to concentration during meditation.
YIN	In Ancient Chinese philosophy, Yin is passive, moist, and feminine; it is the opposite of Yang.
YUGA	A yuga is one of the four ages of the Hindu world cycle.
ZEN	A school of Mahayana Buddhism that originated in China, Zen Buddhism maintains that enlightenment can be attained only through meditation and the development of mental and spiritual discipline, rather than through worship. It is practised mainly in China, Japan, Korea, and Vretnam.
ZOHAR	A school of Mahayana Buddhism that originated in China, Zen Buddhism maintains that enlightenment can be attained only through meditation and the development of mental and spiritual discipline, rather than through worship. It is practised mainly in China, Japan, Korea, and Vretnam.
ZOROASTRIAN	A member of a religion founded in Persia by Zoroaster around the early second millennium bce; modern-day devotees include the Parsees of India.

