

Name _____

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Reference Aids

Definition

Reference aids are tools that help readers locate information, understand unfamiliar terms, or verify facts in texts. These resources provide organization and additional context to support reading comprehension.

Example

Reference Aid	Purpose	Found In
Glossary	A list of specialized terms with definitions	End of textbooks, specialized publications
Index	An alphabetical list of topics with page numbers	End of nonfiction books
Dictionary	A resource providing word definitions and pronunciations	Stand-alone book or online resource
Thesaurus	A resource listing synonyms and antonyms	Stand-alone book or online resource
Bibliography	A list of sources referenced in a text	End of research papers, nonfiction books

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Reference Aids

PART 1: Choose the Best Reference Aid

For each research question about the Sassanian Persian Empire, select the most appropriate reference aid to find the information.

1. You need to find the meaning of the term "Shahanshah" as used in Sassanian Persia.

- a) Dictionary
- b) Glossary
- c) Index
- d) Bibliography

2. You want to locate all mentions of the Zoroastrian priesthood in your history textbook.

- a) Thesaurus
- b) Glossary
- c) Index
- d) Dictionary

3. You need alternative words to describe the "nobility" when writing an essay about Sassanian social classes.

- a) Bibliography
- b) Dictionary
- c) Thesaurus
- d) Index

4. You're looking for a list of scholarly sources about Sassanian Persian social hierarchies.

- a) Bibliography
- b) Glossary
- c) Dictionary
- d) Index

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PART 2: Match the Reference Aid

Match each reference aid entry with the type of reference aid it represents.

1. ____ "Dehqan: Landowners who formed the backbone of Sassanian provincial administration and military."
2. ____ "Arteshtar (warriors), 45-48; duties of, 47; relationship to monarchy, 46"
3. ____ "Christensen, Arthur. L'Iran sous les Sassanides. Copenhagen: Ejnar Munksgaard, 1944."
4. ____ "aristocracy (n): the highest class in certain societies, typically comprising people of noble birth"
5. ____ "elite: nobility, aristocracy, upper class, privileged class, high society"

- a) Dictionary
- b) Thesaurus
- c) Glossary
- d) Index
- e) Bibliography

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PART 3: Using an Index

Use this index to answer the questions.

Ardashir I (founder), 12-15, 18, 42-43
Arteshtar (warrior class), 45-48, 72, 98-99
Asturan (priests), 37-44, 65-68, 102
Dehqan (landowners), 49-54, 73-75
Magi (Zoroastrian priests), 39-42, 67, 103
Social hierarchy, 25-30, 33-36
Four estates system, 33-35
King of kings (Shahanshah), 12-18
Mobility between classes, 35-36
Vastryosh (commoners), 55-60, 76
Zoroastrianism, 37-42, 65-70, 102-105

1. On which pages would you find information about the founder of the Sassanian Empire?
2. Which page range contains information specifically about the "Four estates system"?
3. To learn about the commoner class in Sassanian society, which pages should you check?
4. If you want to compare the roles of priests and warriors in Sassanian society, which page ranges would be most helpful?
5. On which pages might you find information about whether people could move between social classes?

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PART 4: Using a Glossary

Use this glossary to answer the questions.

Arteshtar: The warrior and military noble class in Sassanian society, second in rank only to the priests.

Asturan: The priestly class in Sassanian society, including the Zoroastrian clergy (Magi) who held significant political influence.

Ctesiphon: The capital city of the Sassanian Empire, located near modern-day Baghdad.

Dehqan: Landed gentry who served as local governors and tax collectors, forming a lower aristocracy beneath the great noble houses.

Magi: Zoroastrian priests who performed religious ceremonies, interpreted sacred texts, and advised the Shahanshah.

Shahanshah: "King of Kings," the title used by Sassanian monarchs to emphasize their rule over multiple kingdoms.

Vastryosh: The commoner class, primarily consisting of farmers, merchants, and artisans who paid taxes and provided labor.

1. According to the glossary, which social class ranked highest in Sassanian society?
2. What was the role of the Dehqan in Sassanian society?
3. What does the title "Shahanshah" mean?
4. Which term refers to the Zoroastrian clergy specifically?
5. Which social class included merchants and artisans?

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PART 5: Creating Reference Aids

Create appropriate reference aid entries based on the information given.

1. Create a glossary entry for "Eran-spahbod":

The military commander who led the Sassanian imperial army, appointed directly by the king.

Eran-spahbod:

2. Create an index entry for information about "Tax collection" that appears on pages 54-57, 63, and 80-82:

Tax collection:

3. Create a thesaurus entry for the word "monarch":

monarch:

4. Create a bibliography entry for this source:

Author: Richard N. Frye

Title: The History of Ancient Iran

Published in: Munich by C.H. Beck in 1984

5. Create a dictionary entry for "Azatan":

The free nobility of the Sassanian Empire who served as knights and lesser officials in the government.

Azatan:

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Reference Aids – Answer Key

ANSWER KEY

PART 1: Choose the Best Reference Aid

1. b) Glossary
2. c) Index
3. c) Thesaurus
4. a) Bibliography

PART 2: Match the Reference Aid

1. c) Glossary
2. d) Index
3. e) Bibliography
4. a) Dictionary
5. b) Thesaurus

PART 3: Using an Index

1. 12-15, 18, 42-43
2. 33-35
3. 55-60, 76
4. Priests: 37-44, 65-68, 102; Warriors: 45-48, 72, 98-99
5. 35-36

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Reference Aids – Answer Key

PART 4: Using a Glossary

1. Asturan (the priestly class)
2. Local governors and tax collectors who formed a lower aristocracy
3. "King of Kings"
4. Magi
5. Vastriosh

PART 5: Creating Reference Aids

1. Eran-spahbod: The supreme military commander of the Sassanian imperial army who was appointed directly by the king.
2. Tax collection: 54-57, 63, 80-82
3. monarch: ruler, sovereign, king, queen, emperor, crown, royal, potentate
4. Frye, Richard N. The History of Ancient Iran. Munich: C.H. Beck, 1984.
5. Azatan (n.): The free nobility of the Sassanian Empire who served as knights and lesser officials in the government.