

frescoes

pictures painted on either wet or dry fresh lime plaster (especially on a wall) so that the pigments are absorbed into the plaster

griffin

a mythical animal, usually with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion

holocaust

great destruction of life

Iliad

epic poem by Homer about the Trojan War

infra-red photography

photography using highly sensitive film

isotope

a form of an element whose atomic number and atomic weights are different because of additional neutrons present in the element's atomic nucleus

lignin

an organic substance that with cellulose forms the chief part of woody tissue

master sequence

a long, continuous chronology for an area or region established by counting, matching and overlapping the growth rings in a number of trees of the same species, but different ages

Miocene

a period in Earth's history

Palaeolithic

the earliest or oldest period of the Stone Age

Parthenon

a 5th-century BC temple of Athena, situated on the Athenian acropolis

Ptolemaic

the last period of dynastic rule in Egypt between 323 to 331 BC, establish by Ptolemy, one of the Generals of Alexander the Great, who occupied Egypt; Cleopatra was the last Ptolemaic ruler

radiocarbon dating

an absolute-dating method that measures the decay of the radioactive isotope of carbon in organic material

relative dating

determining chronological sequence by the relationship of objects to each other either in excavation or by typography or sequence comparisons; the dates thus obtained are approximate, not absolute

relief

a carving on stone or plaster; it may either be sunk (with figures cut out of the surface) or raised (with the background cut out)

repository

a place where things
are stored

sated

satisfied

scoured

to have searched for
something

sinkhole

a hole formed in
soluble rock

stalemate

a draw or deadlock

strainers

filters for liquids

stratigraphical
sequence

the principle that the age of strata can be determined by their position relative to each other (lower strata being older)

stratigraphy

the method of identifying the ages and limits of various layers in the soil on the basis that the latest in date are usually at the top and the oldest at the bottom

subjugate

to conquer

tanner

one who cures animal
hides

temperate

of moderate and mild
temperature

terrestrial

relating to the Earth

urns

vases for holding ashes
of the dead after
cremation