

# Eastern Hemisphere Vocabulary

(Updated 2014)

<b>A.D.</b>	<i>An abbreviation for Anno Domini, a Latin phrase which means "In the Year of Our Lord." It refers to the years of and since the birth of Jesus Christ.</i>
<b>abolish (v.)</b>	<i>To legally put an end to something.</i>
<b>absolute location (n.)</b>	<i>The exact position of a place on the earth's surface. It is expressed in terms of longitude and latitude coordinates.</i>
<b>absolute monarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A government ruled by a king or a queen. In it, the king or queen has total power over the people they rule.</i>
<b>acid rain (n.)</b>	<i>Rain with acid in it from the pollution in the air. The pollution comes from the smoke of coal-burning factories and plants. Acid rain can damage plant life and pollute water where it falls.</i>
<b>acculturation (n.)</b>	<i>Taking ideas from one culture and fitting them into some other culture.</i>
<b>adjacent (adj.)</b>	<i>The condition of being next to something.</i>
<b>aerial photograph (n.)</b>	<i>A picture of the earth's surface taken from an aircraft like a balloon or a plane.</i>
<b>agnosticism (n.)</b>	<i>A belief that the existence of God cannot be proved or disproved.</i>
<b>agriculture (n.)</b>	<i>The science, art, and business of farming. In it, plants and animals are raised for food, clothing, and other human uses.</i>
<b>alliance (n.)</b>	<i>An agreement between countries. In it, the allies pledge to help each other. This usually means they will help defend each other in times of war.</i>
<b>alluvial soil (n.)</b>	<i>Soil left by a river on a floodplain after it floods. Also known as alluvium, it is very often very rich and fertile.</i>
<b>anarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A state in which no government exists and the rule of law is absent in a region.</i>

<b>Antarctic Circle (n.)</b>	<i>The parallel that lies at approximately 66 degrees (66°) south of the equator. South of that line, polar or icecap climates exists. Furthermore, days are very long in the summer and nights are very long in the winter south of that line.</i>
<b>apartheid (n.)</b>	<i>A legal system in South Africa from 1948 to 1994. It separated blacks from the whites of that country. Under it, blacks had far fewer rights than whites.</i>
<b>aquaculture (n.)</b>	<i>The raising plants and animals from oceans, lakes, rivers, and seas on aquatic “farms.” They are raised for food, clothing, and other uses.</i>
<b>aqueduct (n.)</b>	<i>A structure that carries water from one place to another.</i>
<b>aquifer (n.)</b>	<i>A layer of rock that holds water like a sponge. It is held in porous rock, in cracks, and in the spaces between layers in stone.</i>
<b>archipelago (n.)</b>	<i>A chain or group of islands.</i>
<b>Arctic Circle (n.)</b>	<i>The parallel that lies at approximately 66 degrees (66°) north of the equator. North of that line, polar or icecap climates exists. Further, days are very long in the summer and nights are very long in the winter north of that line.</i>
<b>arid (adj.)</b>	<i>A region of very dry land. Very little precipitation falls there.</i>
<b>aristocracy (n.)</b>	<i>The social class that occupies the top level of a society.</i>
<b>aristocrat (n.)</b>	<i>A person who is a member of the aristocracy.</i>
<b>artesian well (n.)</b>	<i>A spring from which groundwater flows to the surface under natural pressure.</i>
<b>atheism (n.)</b>	<i>A belief that no gods exist.</i>
<b>atheist (n.)</b>	<i>A person who believes in atheism.</i>
<b>atmosphere (n.)</b>	<i>The layer of gasses that surround the earth.</i>
<b>atoll (n.)</b>	<i>A ring-shaped, coral island that surrounds a central lagoon.</i>

<b>austerity measure (n.)</b>	<i>The cutting of spending programs by governments to reduce their deficits. Usually, social programs like pensions, healthcare and education are targeted.</i>
<b>authoritarian government (n.)</b>	<i>A government ruled by a single leader or small group of people. It has total control over the people living under it. As a result, they generally have few rights.</i>
<b>autonomy (n.)</b>	<i>The right of a nation to rule itself.</i>
<b>autonomous region (n.)</b>	<i>A part of a nation that has the ability to govern itself free from the control of the central government. The amount of freedom it has varies from autonomous region to region.</i>
<b>B.C.</b>	<i>An abbreviation for "Before Christ." It refers to the era before the birth of Jesus Christ.</i>
<b>B.C.E.</b>	<i>An abbreviation for "Before the Common Era" or "Before the Christian Era." It is the same era as "B.C."</i>
<b>bar scale (n.)</b>	<i>A chart which helps its reader estimate distance on a map.</i>
<b>barometer (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A device used to predict changes in the weather.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Anything that gives warning of change.</i></li> </ol>
<b>bay (n.)</b>	<i>A curved body of water that is partially surrounded by land. It is connected to a larger body of water. It is similar to a gulf, but smaller.</i>
<b>bedrock (n.)</b>	<i>The layer of rock that lies beneath the soil on the earth's surface.</i>
<b>bilingual (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to the ability to speak two languages.</i>
<b>biodiversity (n.)</b>	<i>The variety of flora and fauna in a given a given area.</i>
<b>birth rate (n.)</b>	<i>The number of children born alive every year in a given region. It is expressed in live births per 1,000 people.</i>
<b>blizzard (n.)</b>	<i>A storm with heavy snows and high winds.</i>

<b>bog (n.)</b>	<i>An area of wet and spongy ground. The water in it is very acidic. Grasses often grow on top of a bog. The plants that grow in the bog die and build up over time. This dead vegetation then becomes a mass of peat. Peat, once dried, can be burned as a source of fuel.</i>
<b>boycott (n.)</b>	<i>A form of protest in which consumers refuse to buy goods and services. This is in hopes a business or country will change its ways.</i>
<b>branch (n.)</b>	<i>A smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.</i>
<b>butte (n.)</b>	<i>A landform that is higher than the land that surrounds it, has a flat summit, and cliff-like sides. It is smaller than a mesa.</i>
<b>C.E.</b>	<i>An abbreviation for “the Common Era” or “the Christian Era.” It is the same as “A.D.”</i>
<b>campaign (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. A series of actions launched by the armed forces of a nation to achieve specific goals.</i></li> <li><i>2. Work done to achieve a specific goal, like a political campaign.</i></li> </ol>
<b>canal (n.)</b>	<i>A manmade waterway that connects two bodies of water.</i>
<b>canopy (n.)</b>	<i>The thick covering of leaves and branches at the top of a forest.</i>
<b>canyon (n.)</b>	<i>A narrow valley with rocky, vertical walls and a flat bottom. Typically, it is cut into the rock by a river. A gorge is smaller than a canyon.</i>
<b>cape (n.)</b>	<i>A narrow point or spit of land that juts into a body of water. Similar to a peninsula, but narrower.</i>
<b>capital (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. The key city in a region or nation, from which the area is governed.</i></li> <li><i>2. Money invested in a business or company.</i></li> </ol>
<b>capital crime (n.)</b>	<i>A crime that can be punished with the death penalty.</i>
<b>capital punishment (n.)</b>	<i>The legal killing of a person for a crime.</i>
<b>capitalism (n.)</b>	<i>A system in which private owners control a region’s trade and industry.</i>

<b>cardinal direction (n.)</b>	<i>One of the four directions (north, south, east and west) on a compass rose.</i>
<b>cash crop (n.)</b>	<i>A crop which farmers grow to sell on the market for a profit.</i>
<b>caste system (n.)</b>	<i>A social ranking system in the Hindu religion. People are born into certain jobs in this class system. They cannot change their caste during their lifetimes.</i>
<b>cataract (n.)</b>	<i>A set of steep rapids or a large waterfall on a river. They usually are a barrier to the passage of ships and boats.</i>
<b>century (n.)</b>	<i>A period of 100 years.</i>
<b>c. or ca.</b>	<i>Short for the Latin word, circa, which means “around.” It is put in front of a year to show that something happened around that year, but not exactly during that year.</i>
<b>citizen (n.)</b>	<i>A person who has all of the rights a society offers. In return, that person is required to perform the duties it demands.</i>
<b>city-state (n.)</b>	<i>A single city that is also a sovereign nation.</i>
<b>civil engineering (n.)</b>	<i>The construction of improvements which change the countryside. They include roads, bridges, and dams.</i>
<b>civil war (n.)</b>	<i>A war between opposing factions within the same country.</i>
<b>civilization (n.)</b>	<i>A culture that has urban centers like towns and cities. It also has a system of social classes and an organized government. Finally, it may have writing, art, architecture, and religion.</i>
<b>clan (n.)</b>	<i>A collection of families that have the same ancestor.</i>
<b>cliff (n.)</b>	<i>A high, vertical or nearly-vertical wall of rock.</i>
<b>climate (n.)</b>	<i>The prevailing weather in a given area over a long time.</i>
<b>coast (n.)</b>	<i>The strip of land that borders an ocean or sea.</i>
<b>codify (v.)</b>	<i>To write something down. Written laws are codified, therefore.</i>

<b>collective farm (n.)</b>	<i>A large farm in a communist country. It is created by collecting many small, private farms into a large one. It is controlled by the government, including the crops and livestock the farm raises.</i>
<b>colonial power (n.)</b>	<i>A strong nation which takes over other countries and regions, making them colonies.</i>
<b>colonization (n.)</b>	<i>The process of a foreign power taking over a region and governing it as its own. It may or may not include large-scale settlement of the region by people of the foreign power. The foreign power exploits the region for raw materials and labor. It also uses it as a market for the goods it makes.</i>
<b>colonize (v.)</b>	<i>To take over a foreign country and govern it. Colonizing a region may or may not include large-scale settlement of the region. When a nation colonizes a region, it exploits it for raw materials and labor. It also uses the region as a market for the goods it makes.</i>
<b>colony (n.)</b>	<i>A nation or region ruled by a foreign power. The colony or may not be subject to large-scale settlement of the region by the foreign power. It is exploited by the foreign power for raw materials and labor. It is also used as a market for the goods the foreign power makes.</i>
<b>commercial area (n.)</b>	<i>A part of a town or city where business is done. Shops, offices, and industries are located there.</i>
<b>commercial farmer (n.)</b>	<i>A farmer who raises mostly cash crops and livestock to sell on the market to make a profit.</i>
<b>commercial farming (n.)</b>	<i>Farming conducted for main purpose of making a profit.</i>
<b>commune (n.)</b>	<i>A large farm owned by a group of people. They work the land and live together on it.</i>
<b>communism (n.)</b>	<i>An economic system in which the state runs the economy of a nation. This includes the goods the economy makes and what people do for a living. Under this system, all property is owned by the public. Religion is often banned in a communist state. The government of a communist state is often authoritarian in nature.</i>

<b>communist (n., adj.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A person who lives under or promotes communism.</li> <li>2. Anything to do with communism. For example, a nation that adopts communism is a communist state.</li> </ol>
<b>compass rose (n.)</b>	A chart that shows the directions on a map.
<b>compulsory payroll tax (n.)</b>	A tax which is taken from business owners and their employees to pay for certain government programs.
<b>confluence (n.)</b>	The meeting point between two or more rivers or streams.
<b>coniferous tree (n.)</b>	An evergreen tree that grows cones instead of seeds and has needles instead of leaves. Also known as a conifer.
<b>constitution (n.)</b>	A plan of government. It defines the powers and limits of the government.
<b>constitutional monarchy (n.)</b>	A government in which the powers of the ruling king, queen, or emperor are limited by a constitution.
<b>consumer (n.)</b>	A person who buys the goods and services an economy has to offer.
<b>continent (n.)</b>	A large landmass surrounded by oceans and seas.
<b>continental climate (n.)</b>	A pattern of weather that has hot summers and cold winters.
<b>continental drift (n.)</b>	The continents' movement over the face of the earth on tectonic plates.
<b>continental shelf (n.)</b>	The part of a continent that extends into the shallower parts of the sea around it. Past it, the sea floor drops to much deeper depths in the open ocean.
<b>coordinates (n.)</b>	A set of numbers used to describe exact location of a place on the earth's surface. EX: Paris, France is located at 48° N, 2° E.
<b>copse (n.)</b>	A small grove of small trees.
<b>coral (n.)</b>	A stone-like substance made by tiny marine creatures. It forms reefs in warm oceans and seas.
<b>core (n.)</b>	The center of the earth. It is made up of the molten outer core and the solid inner core.

<b>coup d'état (n.)</b>	<i>The sudden, violent takeover of a government. In French, it means "stroke of state." Often, it is simply referred to as a "coup."</i>
<b>crater (n.)</b>	<i>The bowl-shaped depression at the summit of a volcano. Also a bowl-shaped depression left by the impact of a meteor.</i>
<b>crevasse (n.)</b>	<i>A deep fissure in glacial ice.</i>
<b>crust (n.)</b>	<i>The rocky outer shell of the earth. It is broken into many plates that float on top of mantle.</i>
<b>cuisine (n.)</b>	<i>A way of making food.</i>
<b>cultural diffusion (n.)</b>	<i>The exchange of ideas between ethnic groups or cultures.</i>
<b>cultural diversity (n.)</b>	<i>A variety of cultures or ethnic groups in a society.</i>
<b>cultural landscape (n.)</b>	<i>The way that different cultures have shaped the world around them.</i>
<b>cultural trait (n.)</b>	<i>A belief, idea, custom, or mannerism of a given group of people.</i>
<b>culture (n.)</b>	<i>A way of life for a given group of people. It includes their history, religion, language, and material culture.</i>
<b>currency (n.)</b>	<i>The printed money of a nation or a group of nations.</i>
<b>current (n.)</b>	<i>A stream of warm or cold water that flows in an ocean or sea. Also, a stream of warm or cold air that flows in the earth's atmosphere.</i>
<b>custom (n.)</b>	<i>The way of doing something in a given culture.</i>
<b>cyclone (n.)</b>	<i>Any storm that moves in spiral pattern. They include tornados, funnel clouds, hurricanes, and typhoons.</i>
<b>dam (n.)</b>	<i>A structure which blocks the course of a river. This is done to control flooding on the river or store water for future use. A reservoir forms as water collects behind it.</i>
<b>death rate (n.)</b>	<i>The number of people who die every year in a given region. It is expressed in deaths per 1,000 people.</i>



<b>decade (n.)</b>	<i>A period of 10 years.</i>
<b>deciduous tree (n.)</b>	<i>A tree that produces seeds and has broad leaves. In cooler regions, they lose their leaves in autumn and regrow them in the spring.</i>
<b>de facto (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to something that is in fact the case. Most often, it is not lawful or rightful.</i>
<b>de jure (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to something that is lawful or rightful. Most often, it is not in fact the case.</i>
<b>deficit (n.)</b>	<i>A state that happens when a government or business spends more than it collects in revenue.</i>
<b>deforestation (n.)</b>	<i>The destruction of forest in a given region.</i>
<b>delta (n.)</b>	<i>A landform at the mouth of a river that looks like a triangle. It is where a river dumps its load of sediment in a fan-like pattern before it enters the sea.</i>
<b>demilitarized zone (n.)</b>	<i>A place where troops are not allowed to be deployed by a nation's military. Often, such as the area between North Korea and South Korea, is known by its abbreviation, "DMZ."</i>
<b>demand (n.)</b>	<i>In economics, how much of a good or service that consumers want.</i>
<b>democracy (n.)</b>	<i>A type government in which people rule themselves. They do this by voting for representatives who make the decisions of government for them. Or they vote to make the decisions directly.</i>
<b>dependency (n.)</b>	<i>A region owned by another nation.</i>
<b>depression (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. A bowl-shaped landform whose bottom is lower than the land surrounding it.</i></li> <li><i>2. A severe and prolonged economic recession.</i></li> </ol>
<b>desert (n.)</b>	<i>An arid region that receives fewer than 10 inches of rainfall each year.</i>
<b>desertification (n.)</b>	<i>The destruction of fertile lands by a growing desert.</i>

<b>developed nation (n.)</b>	<i>A nation that has a high standard of living. Its economy is based on manufacturing and services rather than farming.</i>
<b>developing nation (n.)</b>	<i>A nation that has a low standard of living. Its economy is based on farming rather than manufacturing and services.</i>
<b>dialect (n.)</b>	<i>A variation in the way a language is spoken in a given region.</i>
<b>dictator (n.)</b>	<i>A leader who has absolute power over the country he or she rules.</i>
<b>dictatorship (n.)</b>	<i>A government ruled by a single leader. He or she has absolute power over the country he or she rules.</i>
<b>direct democracy (n.)</b>	<i>A government in which citizens rule themselves by vote. In this case, every citizen must vote on every decision the state makes.</i>
<b>direct tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax which cannot be passed to someone else, like an income tax.</i>
<b>discriminate (v.)</b>	<i>To give a person poor treatment based on their race, sex, religion, or social standing.</i>
<b>diversify (v.)</b>	<i>To change something so that it has greater variety. In economics, it is a move to make more of a variety of products.</i>
<b>divide (n.)</b>	<i>A ridge of hills or mountains that makes rivers and streams flow in different directions.</i>
<b>domesticate (v.)</b>	<i>To take plants and animals from the wild and adapt them for human use; to tame.</i>
<b>domino theory (n.)</b>	<i>A phrase used during the Vietnam War. It expressed the belief that if one country fell to communism, others would soon fall just like a row of dominos.</i>
<b>double cropping (n.)</b>	<i>Using the same land to grow more than one crop during a growing season.</i>
<b>downstream (adj.)</b>	<i>In the direction that a river or stream flows.</i>
<b>downtown (n.)</b>	<i>The central commercial area of a town or city.</i>
<b>drainage (n.)</b>	<i>The runoff of water from a given region or area.</i>

<b>drift (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Dirt and stones piled in a mound by a glacier.</i></li> <li>2. <i>A mound of snow built up by blowing wind.</i></li> </ol>
<b>drought (n.)</b>	<i>A very long time without rain.</i>
<b>drumlin (n.)</b>	<i>A very long and narrow hill formed as a glacier pushes earth and rock before it.</i>
<b>dune (n.)</b>	<i>A mound of sand built up by blowing wind.</i>
<b>dynasty (n.)</b>	<i>A family of rulers.</i>
<b>e.g.</b>	<i>Short for the Latin phrase, exempli gratia. It means “for example.”</i>
<b>etc.</b>	<i>Short for the Latin phrase, et cetera. It means “and so forth.”</i>
<b>economic sanction (n.)</b>	<i>Actions taken to halt trade with a country to force it to give in to another nation’s demands.</i>
<b>economy (n.)</b>	<i>A system by which a region makes, buys, and sells goods and services.</i>
<b>elevation (n.)</b>	<i>The height of a place, expressed in feet or meters.</i>
<b>embargo (n., v.)</b>	<i>The halt of trade with another country, usually to force it to give in to another nation’s demands.</i>
<b>emigrate (v.)</b>	<i>To leave a country or region to go to a new country or region.</i>
<b>emigration (n.)</b>	<i>The process of moving to a new country or region.</i>
<b>emperor (n.)</b>	<i>The male ruler of an empire.</i>
<b>empire (n.)</b>	<i>A group of nations or regions ruled by a single monarch.</i>
<b>empress (n.)</b>	<i>The female ruler of an empire.</i>
<b>entrepreneur (n.)</b>	<i>A person who comes up with an idea of how to make money and then starts a business.</i>
<b>environment (n.)</b>	<i>All of the natural factors that affect living things on planet earth. It can include the air, water, minerals, and weather.</i>

<b>equator (n.)</b>	<i>A line on a map or globe that cuts the world into two parts—the northern and southern hemispheres.</i>
<b>equilibrium (n.)</b>	<i>The balance between market forces such as supply and demand.</i>
<b>equinox (n.)</b>	<i>One of two days on which the sun is directly overhead at the equator. On these days (March 21 and September 23), day and night are equal in length worldwide.</i>
<b>erosion (n.)</b>	<i>The wearing down of soil and rock by wind, water, ice, and chemical reactions.</i>
<b>escarpment (n.)</b>	<i>A cliff that divides a lower area of flatland from a higher area of flatland.</i>
<b>esker (n.)</b>	<i>A long, thin ridge of sand, gravel, and rocks left by a stream flowing through or beneath a glacier.</i>
<b>estuary (n.)</b>	<i>The part of that drains into an ocean or a sea. It is affected by the tides of the ocean or sea.</i>
<b>ethics (n.)</b>	<i>A moral code that defines what is good and bad, right and wrong for a society.</i>
<b>ethnic group (n.)</b>	<i>A group of people who share the same cultural background.</i>
<b>ethnocentrism (n.)</b>	<i>The belief that one group of people is superior to another group.</i>
<b>excise tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax on the sale or use of specific products or transactions.</i>
<b>euro (n.)</b>	<i>The money the European Union uses. They are similar to American dollars and cents. Its symbol is “€.”</i>
<b>exodus (n.)</b>	<i>The mass migration of a group of people away from a place where they are ill-treated or under stress.</i>
<b>export (n., v.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A good or service sent to another country for sale.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To send a good or service to a country for sale.</i></li> </ol>
<b>extended family (n.)</b>	<i>A family that includes the mother, the father, and the children. It also includes aunts, uncles, and cousins. Finally, it includes grandparents.</i>

<b>exurb (n.)</b>	<i>A residential area that lies outside a city and beyond its suburbs. Generally, the houses of wealthy people are built there. Homes there are widely-spaced in these areas.</i>
<b>faction (n.)</b>	<i>A group within a government which is combative with all other groups.</i>
<b>fall line (n.)</b>	<i>A zone along a river course where a river drops from higher to lower ground. It does this at waterfalls, cataracts, or rapids.</i>
<b>famine (n.)</b>	<i>A widespread and disastrous lack of food in a given area or region. They can be caused by natural disasters or through manmade means.</i>
<b>fault (n.)</b>	<i>A massive crack in the earth's crust.</i>
<b>fauna (n.)</b>	<i>The animals in a given area.</i>
<b>fertile (n.)</b>	<i>Land that is able to support the growth of crops.</i>
<b>feudalism (n.)</b>	<i>An economic system based on farming in which kings and other lords owned the land and the serfs who worked it. They gave the land and its serfs to vassal lords, who promised to obey them and fight for them when called.</i>
<b>fishery (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A fish farm or hatchery.</i></li> <li>2. <i>The business of fishing.</i></li> </ol>
<b>fissure (n.)</b>	<i>A thin crack in rock or ice.</i>
<b>fjord (n.)</b>	<i>A canyon-like branch of the sea ringed by steep, rocky cliffs. They are made by glaciers.</i>
<b>flat tax (n.)</b>	<i>An income tax that takes the same percentage from everyone, no matter how much money they make. Also known as a proportional tax.</i>
<b>floodplain (n.)</b>	<i>The flat area around a river that floods when the river bursts its banks.</i>
<b>flora (n.)</b>	<i>The plant life in a given area.</i>
<b>foreign minister (n.)</b>	<i>A civil servant who handles the dealings of foreign countries for his nation's government.</i>

<b>forest (n.)</b>	<i>An area densely covered with trees and undergrowth.</i>
<b>forestry (n.)</b>	<i>The science of managing forests. Through it, trees are raised and harvested for human use as a renewable resource.</i>
<b>fork (n.)</b>	<i>The place where two or more streams flow together. Also, a place where a river divides into two or more branches.</i>
<b>fossil fuel (n.)</b>	<i>A fuel formed from the remains of plants and animals over millions of years. They include coal, natural gas, and petroleum.</i>
<b>free enterprise system (n.)</b>	<i>A system in which people have economic freedom. They may choose the jobs they do. They may produce the goods that they want to produce. They may invest in and own businesses, from which they may make a profit. Finally, they may own property.</i>
<b>gasoline excise tax (n.)</b>	<i>A type of tax that consumers pay when they buy gasoline.</i>
<b>geographic grid (n.)</b>	<i>A pattern of crisscrossing lines of longitude and latitude drawn on a globe or map. It is used to give the exact location of a place on the face of the earth.</i>
<b>geographic poles (n.)</b>	<i>The spots on the globe where all meridians meet, both in the northern and southern hemispheres. These spots can be found at 90 degrees (90°) north and south latitude. These terms are also known as the true north and south poles. It is a different place from the magnetic north pole.</i>
<b>geographic information system (n.)</b>	<i>A computer database that stores facts and data about the world around us. It allows its users to study the data, analyze it, and present it.</i>
<b>geography (n.)</b>	<i>The study and the description of the world around us.</i>
<b>geopolitical map (n.)</b>	<i>A map that shows the borders and capitals of nations. It also shows the natural features within their borders.</i>
<b>geyser (n.)</b>	<i>A spring that erupts with heated water and steam from beneath the earth's surface.</i>
<b>glacier (n.)</b>	<i>A thick layer of ice that covers a continent or other large landmass. It can also be a slowly-moving river of ice that flows down a valley from mountains and other highlands.</i>

<b>globe (n.)</b>	<i>A three-dimensional model of the earth shaped like a ball or a sphere.</i>
<b>goods (n.)</b>	<i>Things made or harvested by human hands that fulfill a human need.</i>
<b>gorge (n.)</b>	<i>A narrow ravine with vertical, rocky walls and a stream or river running through its bottom. Similar to a canyon, but narrower.</i>
<b>government (n.)</b>	<i>A political system that makes laws for its citizens. It also ensures that the people living under it obey them.</i>
<b>gross domestic product (n.)</b>	<i>The value of all the goods and services created by a nation or region. Abbreviated as "GDP."</i>
<b>groundwater (n.)</b>	<i>Water that exists beneath and within the rock and soil of the earth's surface.</i>
<b>gulf (n.)</b>	<i>A body of water that is partially surrounded by land. It is connected to a larger body of water. It is similar to a bay, but larger.</i>
<b>headwaters (n.)</b>	<i>The point where a river system begins.</i>
<b>hemisphere (n.)</b>	<i>Half of the globe. It is split into its northern and southern hemispheres by the equator at 0° latitude. It is split into its eastern and western hemispheres by the meridians at 0° and 180° longitude.</i>
<b>heritage (n.)</b>	<i>The history and customs of a culture that are passed from one generation to the next.</i>
<b>heterogeneous society (n.)</b>	<i>A society which is made up of a variety of different cultures.</i>
<b>hierarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A system of ordering people into social ranks.</i>
<b>high island (n.)</b>	<i>A small island created when a volcano erupts from the seafloor and breaks above the surface of the sea. It makes a rocky, volcanic mountain as part of the island.</i>
<b>high latitudes (n.)</b>	<i>The region above the Arctic Circle. Also, the region below the Antarctic Circle.</i>

<b>hill (n.)</b>	<i>A landform that is higher than the land around it. It has a rounded top, and rises less than 1,000 feet above the surrounding land.</i>
<b>homogenous society (n.)</b>	<i>A society made up of a single, uniform culture.</i>
<b>human-environment interaction (n.)</b>	<i>A concept that explores the ways people change their environment. It also explores how the environment changes the people who live in it.</i>
<b>humid (adj.)</b>	<i>A condition of the air having a lot of moisture in it.</i>
<b>humidity (n.)</b>	<i>Dampness or moisture in the air.</i>
<b>humus (n.)</b>	<i>The dark-brown or black part of the soil that is rich in the decomposed remains of plants and animals.</i>
<b>hurricane (n.)</b>	<i>An intense, cyclonic storm in the Atlantic Ocean. Late summer is the hurricane season there.</i>
<b>hybrid (n.)</b>	<i>An animal or plant that is the crossed offspring of two different species.</i>
<b>hydroelectric power (n.)</b>	<i>Electricity that is made with the energy of flowing water. This is usually done at a dam.</i>
<b>i.e.</b>	<i>Short for the Latin phrase, id est. That means “in other words” or “that is.”</i>
<b>iceberg (n.)</b>	<i>A mass of ice floating in a body of water after breaking off from a glacier. Only the uppermost tip of the iceberg can be seen above the surface of the water.</i>
<b>icecap climate (n.)</b>	<i>A region that is covered by snow and ice year round, either at the poles or a high elevation.</i>
<b>ice floe (n.)</b>	<i>A sheet of floating ice that forms on top of a body of water.</i>
<b>illegal immigrant (n.)</b>	<i>A person who comes from one country or region to permanently live in a new host country or region. He or she lives in the new country or region without the consent of the government there.</i>
<b>immigrate (v.)</b>	<i>To move into a new country or region from another country or region.</i>



<b>immigrant (n.)</b>	<i>A person who comes from another country or region to live in a new host country or region.</i>
<b>immigration (n.)</b>	<i>The process of people moving into a new country or region from an old one.</i>
<b>imperial (adj.)</b>	<i>Having to do with an empire.</i>
<b>imperialism (n.)</b>	<i>A strategy in which one nation takes over other weaker countries to form an empire. It does so that it can gain wealth and power from the other countries.</i>
<b>import (n., v.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A good or service that comes from another country and is sold in your own.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To bring a good or service from another country and sell it in your own.</i></li> </ol>
<b>income tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax which is levied on a person or business's income.</i>
<b>indigenous (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to someone or something that is native to a given area or region.</i>
<b>indirect tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax which can be passed to other people, like a sales tax.</i>
<b>industrialization (n.)</b>	<i>The building of plants, factories, and mills to make manufactured goods in a region.</i>
<b>industry (n.)</b>	<i>A part of the economy that makes and sells products and services. For example, the steel industry is the part of the economy that makes steel.</i>
<b>inflation (n.)</b>	<i>An across-the-board rise in prices in an economy. Also, a drop in the value of the currency in an economy.</i>
<b>infrastructure (n.)</b>	<i>The structures (e.g., roads, railroads, factories, power plants, power lines, etc.) that keep an economy running in a given region.</i>
<b>inland (adj.)</b>	<i>Movement or facing in a direction away from the coast.</i>
<b>inland waterway (n.)</b>	<i>A body of water that is large enough for large ships to travel inland on it. It can be a channel, river, canal, etc.</i>
<b>inlet (n.)</b>	<i>A small branch of a river, lake, or the sea that cuts inland.</i>

<b>institution (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A law, custom, or belief that a culture sees as important.</li> <li>2. A group of people organized to achieve certain goals.</li> </ol>
<b>interdependent (adj.)</b>	Two or more things that rely on one another.
<b>international (adj.)</b>	Concerning two or more nations or countries.
<b>international date line (n.)</b>	A line on the globe that roughly follows the meridian at 180° longitude. It goes around islands and other landmasses. For example, instead of cutting through eastern Russia, it goes around this country through the Bering Strait. This ensures that it is the same date everywhere in that nation. On the western side this line, it is one day later than on its eastern side.
<b>investor (n.)</b>	A person who gives money to a business to expand it or otherwise improve it. He or she does this in hopes that he will be paid a share of the profits if the business succeeds.
<b>irrigation (n.)</b>	The transport of water to infertile fields to help crops and pastureland grow.
<b>Islam (n.)</b>	A religion centered on the Middle East. It also exists in Central Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe, and North Africa. People who believe in the religion of Islam are Muslim.
<b>island (n.)</b>	A landmass surrounded on all sides by water.
<b>isthmus (n.)</b>	A thin strip of land that connects two larger landmasses to each other.
<b>jungle (n.)</b>	A place densely covered with tropical trees and undergrowth.
<b>key (n.)</b>	A table that shows the meaning of symbols and colors used on a map. Also known as a legend.
<b>labor (n.)</b>	Work done by people. They receive wages for their labor.
<b>lagoon (n.)</b>	A calm body of shallow water that is cut off from the sea by a sandbar, reef, or other barrier.
<b>lake (n.)</b>	A body of water completely enclosed by land. The water may be fresh or salty in a lake.

<b>land reform (n.)</b>	<i>A process where land is taken away from large landowners. It is then divided and given to small, independent farmers.</i>
<b>landform (n.)</b>	<i>A natural feature on the face of the earth. These can include hills, mountains, lakes, rivers, deserts, etc.</i>
<b>landlocked (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to a place that has no coastline on an ocean or sea.</i>
<b>landmass (n.)</b>	<i>A large expanse of land.</i>
<b>landward (adj.)</b>	<i>Facing in an inland direction and away from the sea.</i>
<b>language (n.)</b>	<i>A way of communicating. It can include sounds, hand signals, or writing to communicate ideas.</i>
<b>latitude (n.)</b>	<i>A line that shows how far something is north or south of the equator. It is measured in degrees. Lines of latitude are also known as parallels.</i>
<b>leeward (adj.)</b>	<i>The side of something (like a mountain or dune) that is protected from the wind.</i>
<b>legend (n.)</b>	<i>A table that shows the meaning of symbols and colors used on a map. Also known as a key.</i>
<b>levy (n., v.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A tax.</li> <li>2. To charge a tax.</li> </ol>
<b>life expectancy (n.)</b>	<i>The average lifespan of the people who live in a given country or region.</i>
<b>limited monarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A monarchy where the king, queen, emperor, or empress has limits to the power he or she wields. Same as a constitutional monarchy.</i>
<b>lingua franca (n.)</b>	<i>A language used between speakers to talk to each other when their native tongues are different. For example, there are hundreds of native languages spoken in Nigeria. They use French as a lingua franca to speak to each other.</i>
<b>literacy rate (n.)</b>	<i>The percentage of adults (above the age of 15) who can read and write in a given region.</i>
<b>literate (adj.)</b>	<i>Possessing the ability to read and write.</i>

<b>littoral zone (n.)</b>	<i>The part of the ocean adjacent to the coast.</i>
<b>loam (n.)</b>	<i>Topsoil that has a mixture of clay, sand, and rich organic material.</i>
<b>loess (n.)</b>	<i>A type of powdery soil that is blown by the wind. It builds up over time to form a layer of very fertile soil.</i>
<b>longitude (n.)</b>	<i>A line which shows how far east or west something is from the prime meridian (at 0° longitude). It is measured in degrees. A line of longitude is also known as a meridian.</i>
<b>low island (n.)</b>	<i>A small island made of coral. It is made when sand or silt builds up on a coral reef or atoll, or the reef is uplifted.</i>
<b>low latitudes (n.)</b>	<i>The region found in the tropics. This region includes all the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.</i>
<b>lunar eclipse (n.)</b>	<i>An event where the moon passes through the shadow of the earth.</i>
<b>luxury tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax on costly goods which are believed to be unnecessary to meet a person's basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, and transportation.</i>
<b>magma (n.)</b>	<i>Rock beneath the earth's crust that is very hot and molten. It sometimes comes to the surface in the form of lava.</i>
<b>magnetic north pole (n.)</b>	<i>This is the spot on the earth's surface where the needle of a compass points. It is in a different spot than the geographic north pole.</i>
<b>malnutrition (n.)</b>	<i>A disease caused by a poor diet. It can be caused by a complete lack of food or by a lack of certain foods in a person's diet.</i>
<b>mannerism (n.)</b>	<i>A way of doing something.</i>
<b>mantle (n.)</b>	<i>The layer of soft, molten rock that lies beneath the earth's crust and surrounds the earth's core.</i>
<b>manufacturing (n.)</b>	<i>The making of goods from raw or recycled materials.</i>
<b>map (n.)</b>	<i>The image of a location rendered on a flat piece of paper or computer screen.</i>

<b>map projection (n.)</b>	<i>A drawing of the earth's surface rendered on a flat surface. There is always distortion associated with map projections.</i>
<b>map scale (n.)</b>	<i>The ratio between the distance on a map and the distance on the earth's surface. Take a map with the scale of 1:500,000 as an example. One inch on the map equals 500,000 inches on the ground. This equals approximately eight miles. Using the map scale is more accurate than using the bar scale on a map.</i>
<b>marine climate (n.)</b>	<i>A climate that has steady rainfall and pleasant temperatures year-round. It can be found near the coast of a large body of water.</i>
<b>marsh (n.)</b>	<i>A narrow strip of wetland found on a coastline of an ocean or sea or on the banks of a river or stream. Water is always moving through a marsh. Marshes support tall, slender plants like reeds and cattails.</i>
<b>marsupial (n.)</b>	<i>An animal that has a pouch in which it carries its offspring. An example of a marsupial is a kangaroo. Most species are located in Australia, but some can be found elsewhere.</i>
<b>martial law (n.)</b>	<i>A time where the military rules as a government over a group of people. This type of rule tends to be harsh, and many of the rights that people have under their ordinary governments can be suspended.</i>
<b>mass tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax which affects most of the people in a society.</i>
<b>material culture (n.)</b>	<i>The things made by a given culture, both past and present. It includes tools, works of art, furniture, buildings, etc.</i>
<b>Medicare tax (n.)</b>	<i>A type of tax levied to pay for healthcare programs for people over the age of 65 in the United States.</i>
<b>Mediterranean climate (n.)</b>	<i>A pattern of weather marked by cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers.</i>
<b>megalopolis (n.)</b>	<i>A cluster of cities that have grown so large that there are no longer rural spaces between them. Together, they make a very large urban area.</i>
<b>mental maps (n.)</b>	<i>A mental picture of places that you know.</i>

<b>meridian (n.)</b>	<i>A line on globe drawn from the north pole to the south pole which shows how far east or west something is from the prime meridian (at 0° longitude). It is measured in degrees. A meridian is also known as a line of longitude.</i>
<b>mesa (n.)</b>	<i>A place of elevated land that has a flat summit and cliff-like sides. It is larger than a butte.</i>
<b>metropolis (n.)</b>	<i>A huge and important city.</i>
<b>middle latitudes (n.)</b>	<i>The region between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. Also, the region between the Antarctic Circle and the Tropic of Capricorn.</i>
<b>migrate (v.)</b>	<i>To move from place to place.</i>
<b>migrant worker (n.)</b>	<i>A worker who moves from place to place in search of jobs to do.</i>
<b>migration (n.)</b>	<i>The movement of animals or people from place to place.</i>
<b>millennium (n.)</b>	<i>A period of 1,000 years.</i>
<b>mineral (n.)</b>	<i>A natural resource that is formed underground, like salt, oil, iron, or coal. They are taken from the ground by mining or pumping and used as raw materials to meet human needs.</i>
<b>mining (n.)</b>	<i>The taking of minerals from the ground by digging or pumping.</i>
<b>monarch (n.)</b>	<i>A person who rules a kingdom or an empire. Known by many names, including kings and queens.</i>
<b>monarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A government ruled by a king, queen, emperor or empress. Sometimes the monarchy can have absolute power; at other times they have limited power.</i>
<b>monotheism (n.)</b>	<i>The belief that there is only one true and all-powerful god.</i>
<b>monsoon (n.)</b>	<i>A season that lasts from June to September in southern Asia. During it, winds reverse the direction that they normally blow in winter. This season also brings heavy rains to the region.</i>
<b>moraine (n.)</b>	<i>A mound made by a glacier. It is made up of small stones and dirt pushed by the advancing glacier was left in a pile after the glacier melted.</i>

<b>mother country (n.)</b>	<i>The country of origin for a person or group of people. A homeland.</i>
<b>mountain (n.)</b>	<i>A steep landform that is much higher than the land around it. It rises more than 1,000 feet above the surrounding land.</i>
<b>mountain pass (n.)</b>	<i>Lower ground between mountain peaks through which humans and animals can travel.</i>
<b>mountain range (n.)</b>	<i>A mountain chain or group.</i>
<b>multiethnic society (n.)</b>	<i>A society that has many ethnic groups living within it.</i>
<b>multiparty system (n.)</b>	<i>A system in which political parties are allowed to compete for the same offices in government.</i>
<b>Muslim (n., adj.)</b>	<i>Someone who believes in the faith of Islam. Also used to describe something from Islamic culture.</i>
<b>national debt (n.)</b>	<i>The money that a nation has borrowed from a variety of sources. Sometimes these debts are owed to other countries; sometimes these debts are owed to the country's own citizens.</i>
<b>nationalism (n.)</b>	<i>Loyalty to and pride in one's country. Often this is coupled with the feeling that one's own nation is better than and more important than other nations.</i>
<b>nationalist (n.)</b>	<i>A person who promotes loyalty to and pride in his or her country.</i>
<b>nation-state (n.)</b>	<i>A state where people who share the same culture live in the same region under their own government.</i>
<b>natural resource (n.)</b>	<i>Anything that nature supplies which can be used to meet human needs. They include water, plants, animals, and minerals.</i>
<b>navigable (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to a river, lake, or channel that on which large ships can travel freely.</i>
<b>neighborhood (n.)</b>	<i>A part of a city which has its own unique culture.</i>
<b>nomad (n.)</b>	<i>A person who moves from place to place, never settling in one place for very long.</i>

<b>nonrenewable resource (n.)</b>	<i>Anything supplied by nature which cannot be replaced once it is harvested and used. EX: Petroleum is a nonrenewable resource. It takes nature millions of years to make it. So once it is mined and burned, it cannot be replaced for all practical purposes.</i>
<b>nuclear family (n.)</b>	<i>A household that includes only a father, a mother, and their offspring.</i>
<b>oasis (n.)</b>	<i>A place in a desert that has a consistent source of fresh water. Plants thrive in them, and humans and animals are drawn to them.</i>
<b>ocean (n.)</b>	<i>One of the five bodies of seawater that take up most of the earth's surface.</i>
<b>official language (n.)</b>	<i>A language which by law is the language used to conduct business and government in a given nation or region.</i>
<b>oligarchy (n.)</b>	<i>A government ruled by a small, select group of people. Other people in the society ruled by one have no say in what it does.</i>
<b>open border (n.)</b>	<i>A political border that travelers can cross freely.</i>
<b>oxbow (n.)</b>	<i>A horseshoe-shaped turn in a river.</i>
<b>oxbow lake (n.)</b>	<i>A lake that forms when an oxbow is cut off from the main river course.</i>
<b>overgrazing (n.)</b>	<i>Letting animals graze in an area to the point that it damages the land.</i>
<b>paddy (n.)</b>	<i>A field of flooded land that is used to grow rice.</i>
<b>parallel (n.)</b>	<i>A line of latitude.</i>
<b>parliament (n.)</b>	<i>The part of a government that makes laws.</i>
<b>passport (n.)</b>	<i>A document that a government issues that proves a person is a citizen of that nation.</i>
<b>payroll tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax which businesses and employees pay to fund certain government programs, like Social Security and Medicare.</i>



<b>peak (n.)</b>	<i>The top of a mountain.</i>
<b>penal colony (n.)</b>	<i>A colony where criminals are sent. It punishes them, but also keeps them away from the rest of society in the mother country.</i>
<b>peninsula (n.)</b>	<i>An area of land that sticks out into a body of water. It is surrounded on three sides by water.</i>
<b>per capita (adj.)</b>	<i>A Latin phrase which means “per head.” It means for each person.</i>
<b>persecute (v.)</b>	<i>To inflict harm on a person or a group of people because of their beliefs.</i>
<b>persecution (n.)</b>	<i>Harm inflicted on a person or a group of people because of their beliefs.</i>
<b>permafrost (n.)</b>	<i>Soil that is permanently frozen a few inches from the surface. This is found mostly in regions that have tundra.</i>
<b>petroleum (n.)</b>	<i>A raw liquid fossil fuel found deep beneath the earth’s surface. It can be made into fuels like gasoline, kerosene, and diesel fuel.</i>
<b>philosophy (n.)</b>	<i>A way of thinking or belief.</i>
<b>plain (n.)</b>	<i>An expanse of land that is very flat.</i>
<b>plantation (n.)</b>	<i>A very large farm which grows cash crops like sugar cane, coffee, and cotton for sale on the market. Its workers live on the plantation itself.</i>
<b>plateau (n.)</b>	<i>A large region of mostly flat land. It is higher in elevation than the surrounding land. Also known as a tableland.</i>
<b>polar climate (n.)</b>	<i>A pattern of weather above the Arctic Circle and below the Antarctic Circle. It is cold in this type of climate year round. Summers are very short or nonexistent in this climate.</i>
<b>political system (n.)</b>	<i>Any system of government.</i>
<b>pollution (n.)</b>	<i>Waste products made by humans and nature that foul a place’s soil, air, or water.</i>

<b>pond (n.)</b>	<i>A very small body of fresh water surrounded on all sides by land. Smaller than a lake.</i>
<b>population (n.)</b>	<i>All of the people living in a given place or area.</i>
<b>population data (n.)</b>	<i>Facts and figures describing the people living in a given place or area.</i>
<b>population density (n.)</b>	<i>The number of people living in a square mile or square kilometer in a place or area.</i>
<b>population distribution (n.)</b>	<i>The way people are spread out in a given place or area.</i>
<b>population profile (n.)</b>	<i>A chart that breaks down a group of people by their age.</i>
<b>population pyramid (n.)</b>	<i>A chart that breaks down a group of people by their age and sex.</i>
<b>postindustrial economy (n.)</b>	<i>An economy that at one time made most of its wealth through manufacturing. But now it is based on services such as banking, technology, and health care.</i>
<b>poverty (n.)</b>	<i>A state in which a person is so poor that they cannot meet their basic needs for food, clothing, or shelter.</i>
<b>prairie (n.)</b>	<i>A grassy plain. The grasses on a prairie are often tall.</i>
<b>precipitation (n.)</b>	<i>Water that falls to the earth from clouds, like snow, rain, and hail.</i>
<b>pre-industrial economy (n.)</b>	<i>An economy which is based mostly on farm products. It makes very little in the way of manufactured goods.</i>
<b>prejudice (n.)</b>	<i>An unfair opinion formed about a person. It is based on assumptions about the person, and often has no basis in fact.</i>
<b>prevailing wind (n.)</b>	<i>The way the wind normally blows in a given region or area.</i>
<b>prime meridian (n.)</b>	<i>The line of longitude found at 0 degrees (0°).</i>
<b>privatization (n.)</b>	<i>The sale of assets once owned by the government to private investors. This has been the trend in formerly communist nations.</i>

<b>profit (n., v.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The money earned after someone sells a good or a service after subtracting the costs of producing it from the sales price.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To make money from the sale of a good or service.</i></li> </ol>
<b>producer (n.)</b>	<i>A person or a company that make goods bought and used by consumers.</i>
<b>propaganda (n.)</b>	<i>Information used to sway people to think or act in certain ways. It can often be misleading, biased, or false.</i>
<b>property tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax on property that people own. Mostly it is levied on real estate. It may also be collected on boats, automobiles, recreational vehicles, and the assets that businesses own.</i>
<b>proportional tax (n.)</b>	<i>An income tax that takes the same percentage from everyone, no matter how much money they make. Also known as a flat tax.</i>
<b>protective tariff (n.)</b>	<i>A tax that is levied on goods imported from other nations. They are imposed to make foreign goods more expensive. Thus, they protect homegrown industries by making their goods look less expensive in comparison.</i>
<b>racism (n.)</b>	<i>The belief that other races, ethnic groups, or cultures are not as good as your own.</i>
<b>radical (n., adj.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A person who wants extreme change in society or government.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Anything that is extreme.</i></li> </ol>
<b>rainforest (n.)</b>	<i>A dense forest that grows in the tropics that receives heavy rainfall. They are usually rich in biodiversity.</i>
<b>rain shadow (n.)</b>	<i>The leeward side of a mountain that receives sparse rainfall.</i>
<b>range (n.)</b>	<i>A region of open grassland. Grazing animals like cattle and buffalo thrive on such land.</i>
<b>ravine (n.)</b>	<i>A canyon that is very deep and narrow.</i>

<b>raw material (n.)</b>	<i>Any material that is used to make finished goods. For example, wood (a raw material) is used to make furniture (a finished good).</i>
<b>real estate (n.)</b>	<i>Land plus any structures built on it.</i>
<b>recession (n.)</b>	<i>A time in which the economy shrinks, creating less wealth for society.</i>
<b>reef (n.)</b>	<i>A wall of rocks, sand, or coral that lies just below the surface of the sea. It can block the passage of ships and boats.</i>
<b>refugee (n.)</b>	<i>A person who flees his or her home in search of a safer place to live.</i>
<b>regime (n.)</b>	<i>A government which has total power over the people who live under it.</i>
<b>region (n.)</b>	<i>A part of the world that is special in some way. It is special because of its climate, landforms, people, or history.</i>
<b>relative location (n.)</b>	<i>Where a place can be found relative to other places on the globe. "France is west of Germany."</i>
<b>renewable resource (n.)</b>	<i>Anything supplied by nature which can be replaced once it is harvested and used. EX: Trees are renewable resources because they can be regrown once cut down.</i>
<b>representative (n.)</b>	<i>A person who speaks for other people.</i>
<b>representative democracy (n.)</b>	<i>A government whose leaders are elected by citizens. These leaders, called representatives, then vote to make laws for the people they govern. Also known as a republic.</i>
<b>republic (n.)</b>	<i>A government whose leaders are elected by citizens. These leaders, called representatives, then vote to make laws for the people they govern. Also known as a representative democracy.</i>
<b>reservoir (n.)</b>	<i>A large lake that forms behind a manmade dam across a river. It controls flooding and stores water for human use.</i>

<b>revenue (n.)</b>	<i>The income that a government collects in taxes.</i>
<b>revenue tariff (n.)</b>	<i>A tax levied on goods imported from other countries. It is put in place to make a government money.</i>
<b>revolution (n.)</b>	<i>Change that has important consequences. This can be a change to the way that people think or do things. It can also be a change to a government.</i>
<b>revolutionary (n., adj.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. A person who brings change that has important consequences.</i></li> <li><i>2. Anything to do with change that has important consequences.</i></li> </ol>
<b>rift (n.)</b>	<i>A deep fault in the earth's surface.</i>
<b>rift valley (n.)</b>	<i>A valley formed by a fault in the earth's crust.</i>
<b>river (n.)</b>	<i>A long, narrow body of water. It flows from its source to a larger body of water, such as another river, lake, ocean, or sea.</i>
<b>river bank (n.)</b>	<i>The land on the sides of a river or stream.</i>
<b>river basin (n.)</b>	<i>The land drained by a river and all of the smaller rivers and streams that flow into it.</i>
<b>river course (n.)</b>	<i>The length of a river between its start and where it drains into another body of water.</i>
<b>river mouth (n.)</b>	<i>The spot where a river empties into a larger body of water. This can be another river, a lake, or an ocean or sea.</i>
<b>river source (n.)</b>	<i>The starting place of a river.</i>
<b>rural (adj.)</b>	<i>Having to do with farming or the countryside.</i>
<b>sales tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax on goods sold at retail stores based on a percentage of the retail price.</i>
<b>sanitation (n.)</b>	<i>The disposal of sewage, garbage, and other human waste.</i>
<b>satellite image (n.)</b>	<i>A picture of the earth taken from a satellite.</i>
<b>savanna (n.)</b>	<i>Grasslands found in the tropics.</i>

<b>sea (n.)</b>	<i>A large body of saltwater that is mostly enclosed by land.</i>
<b>seamount (n.)</b>	<i>A mountain that rises steeply from the sea floor, but does not break the surface.</i>
<b>seaward (adj.)</b>	<i>Moving or facing in a direction towards the sea.</i>
<b>secede (v.)</b>	<i>To leave. Usually used to describe a group or region breaking away from a larger country.</i>
<b>secular (adj.)</b>	<i>Having to do with matters that are not religious or spiritual.</i>
<b>self-sufficient (adj.)</b>	<i>Able to meet one's own needs by one's own efforts. A country that is self-sufficient in food production, for example, has no need to import food from other countries.</i>
<b>semiarid climate (n.)</b>	<i>A pattern of weather that is both hot and arid. It receives only enough rain to support low shrubs and grasses.</i>
<b>seminomadic (adj.)</b>	<i>A lifestyle in which people wander from place to place, but also stop from time to time to grow crops.</i>
<b>services (n.)</b>	<i>Labor that is done for consumers that does not produce goods.</i>
<b>shore (n.)</b>	<i>The strip of land that is immediately adjacent to the ocean, sea, or lake.</i>
<b>silt (n.)</b>	<i>Very small particles of soil carried by a river.</i>
<b>sin tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax levied on goods which society sees as potentially destructive, like tobacco and alcohol.</i>
<b>single market (n.)</b>	<i>A group of countries that work together in economic matters. They offer no barriers to trade to each other. Goods, services, and capital are all freely exchanged between them regardless of borders. The European Union is an example of a single market.</i>
<b>social class (n.)</b>	<i>A group of people who share the same rank in society. Their rank is based on their wealth, education, and family ties.</i>
<b>Social Security tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax levied to provide benefits for retired and disabled workers and their families.</i>

<b>social structure (n.)</b>	<i>A ranking of people in society. It is based on wealth, education, and family ties.</i>
<b>society (n.)</b>	<i>An organized group of people who live together in peace and harmony.</i>
<b>soil (n.)</b>	<i>A mixture of rocks, decaying plants and animals, and clay. In it, plants grow.</i>
<b>solar eclipse (n.)</b>	<i>An event where the earth passes through the shadow of the moon.</i>
<b>solstice (n.)</b>	<i>One of the two days (June 21 and December 21) of the year when the sun is at its highest or lowest point in the noontime sky. When the sun is at its highest point, it is the summer solstice. There are more hours of daylight during the day of the summer solstice than at any other time of the year. When the sun is at its lowest point, it is the winter solstice. There are more hours of darkness during the day of the winter solstice than at any other time of the year.</i>
<b>sovereign (n., adj.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. The ruler of a country; refers most often to a monarch.</i></li> <li><i>2. Referring to the right of a nation to rule itself.</i></li> </ol>
<b>sovereignty (n.)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. A nation which rules itself.</i></li> <li><i>2. The right of nation to rule itself or another region.</i></li> </ol>
<b>spiritual (adj.)</b>	<i>Having to do with matters that are religious in nature.</i>
<b>standard of living (n.)</b>	<i>A measure how comfortable and easy life can be for the average person in a society. Many factors go into determining this. They include how easy it is for the average person to obtain clean water, food, clothing, shelter, a job, and education. A high standard of living means it is relatively easy to get these things. A low standard of living means it is harder to get them.</i>
<b>state (n.)</b>	<i>An area that shares the same government.</i>
<b>steppe (n.)</b>	<i>Enormous plains covered by grass found in Asia and Europe. Few trees grow on the steppes.</i>
<b>strait (n.)</b>	<i>A thin strip of water that connects two larger bodies of water.</i>
<b>stream (n.)</b>	<i>A narrow course of flowing water that is smaller than a river.</i>

<b>suburb (n.)</b>	<i>An area that lies just outside a city. It is usually devoted to family housing.</i>
<b>subcontinent (n.)</b>	<i>A large portion of a continent.</i>
<b>subsistence farming (n.)</b>	<i>A type of farming where the farmers grow only enough food to feed their families.</i>
<b>subsidy (n.)</b>	<i>Funds that are given to a business by the government to help it.</i>
<b>supply (n.)</b>	<i>The amount of a certain product that consumers can buy on the market.</i>
<b>swamp (n.)</b>	<i>A wetland that covers a large area. Swamps are larger than the marshes that lie on the banks of river. They also support greater biodiversity in plant life than a marsh. For example, in addition to plants like reeds and cattails, swamps support trees and bushes.</i>
<b>tableland (n.)</b>	<i>A large region of mostly flat land. It is higher in elevation than the surrounding land. Also known as a plateau.</i>
<b>taiga (n.)</b>	<i>A band of low coniferous trees found above the Arctic Circle.</i>
<b>tax (n.)</b>	<i>A payment which a government requires from its citizens and businesses operating within its borders. They are levied to provide some benefit to society.</i>
<b>tariff (n.)</b>	<i>A tax levied on goods imported from another country.</i>
<b>technology (n.)</b>	<i>The use of what we know about the world to make something beneficial.</i>
<b>tectonic plate (n.)</b>	<i>A piece of the rocky outer shell of the earth. It floats on the hot, liquid rocks of the earth's mantle.</i>
<b>terrace (n.)</b>	<i>A flat piece of land built by human hands on the side of a hill to make room for fields that can be used to grow crops.</i>
<b>terracotta (n.)</b>	<i>A type of fired pottery that has a rusty color and lacks a finishing glaze.</i>
<b>textile (n.)</b>	<i>A woven fabric.</i>



<b>temperate climate (n.)</b>	<i>A pattern of weather which is neither extremely hot nor extremely cold. They are located at the middle latitudes.</i>
<b>theocracy (n.)</b>	<i>A government that is run by religious leaders.</i>
<b>thunderstorm (n.)</b>	<i>A violent storm. As its name implies, it comes with thunder and lightning, high winds, and heavy rain. Sometimes hail falls from a thunderstorm as well.</i>
<b>tide (n.)</b>	<i>The rise and fall of sea levels. It is caused by the pull of the moon's gravity on the earth.</i>
<b>till (n.)</b>	<i>The rocks and soil deposited by a glacier as it moves or melts.</i>
<b>tornado (n.)</b>	<i>A cyclonic storm that happens on land. They can cause great damage to the landscape where they touch down.</i>
<b>trade wind (n.)</b>	<i>Winds in the tropics. They blow in a predictable direction, which make them useful to ships that use sails to travel.</i>
<b>transaction tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax on economic transactions, like the sale of goods.</i>
<b>treaty (n.)</b>	<i>A pact or agreement made between two or more countries. It is committed in writing.</i>
<b>tributary (n.)</b>	<i>A stream or smaller river that flows into a larger river.</i>
<b>tropical cyclone (n.)</b>	<i>A violent storm that forms over the oceans and seas of tropical regions.</i>
<b>Tropic of Cancer (n.)</b>	<i>The parallel drawn 23° north of the equator.</i>
<b>Tropic of Capricorn (n.)</b>	<i>The parallel drawn 23° south of the equator.</i>
<b>tropics (n.)</b>	<i>The part of the globe that lies between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.</i>
<b>truce (n.)</b>	<i>An agreement where two or more warring factions agree to stop fighting.</i>
<b>tsunami (n.)</b>	<i>A very destructive wave on the sea. It is created by an earthquake. It can move at high speeds (in excess of 400 miles an hour). It can also attain heights of over 100 feet.</i>

<b>tundra (n.)</b>	<i>A flat expanse of land in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. No trees grow on these plains, only moss and lichens. The ground there permanently frozen a few inches below its surface.</i>
<b>typhoon (n.)</b>	<i>A violent cyclonic storm in the western parts of the North Pacific Ocean. It is similar to the hurricanes that form in the Atlantic.</i>
<b>user tax (n.)</b>	<i>A tax that is paid by a consumer when he or she buys a good, product, or service.</i>
<b>urban (adj.)</b>	<i>Referring to an area that is a town or a city.</i>
<b>urbanization (adj.)</b>	<i>The process of moving people from rural areas to towns and cities.</i>
<b>valley (n.)</b>	<i>A lowland cut by a glacier or a river between mountains or hills. Its sides are gently-sloped.</i>
<b>vassal (n.)</b>	<i>A person who serves a feudal lord in a feudal society. See feudalism.</i>
<b>vegetation (n.)</b>	<i>All of the plants that are found in a particular area.</i>
<b>vertical climate (n.)</b>	<i>Climate as affected by elevation. As you climb, the cooler the weather patterns become.</i>
<b>veto (n.)</b>	<i>A decree by a government leader that keeps a law from going into effect.</i>
<b>visa (n.)</b>	<i>A document which allows its holder to enter and stay in a country for a specific reason.</i>
<b>volcano (n.)</b>	<i>A mountain or hill from which molten lava, ash, and other debris erupts.</i>
<b>wage (n.)</b>	<i>A fixed hourly, daily, or weekly payment paid by an employer to an employee for work done.</i>
<b>watershed (n.)</b>	<i>An area that feeds a particular river with the rainfall that falls on it.</i>
<b>weather (n.)</b>	<i>The state of the earth's atmosphere at a certain location at a given time. It includes such factors as wind, heat, and rainfall or snowfall.</i>

<b>weathering (n.)</b>	<i>The wearing down of the rocks on the surface of the earth. This happens due to the erosive effects of wind, water, ice, and chemical reactions.</i>
<b>welfare state (n.)</b>	<i>A country in which many social services (like healthcare, food supply, and old age pensions) are paid for by the state rather than the individuals themselves.</i>
<b>the West (n.)</b>	<i>A region of the globe that includes the Northern America and Europe.</i>
<b>westernize (v.)</b>	<i>To accept cultural traits from the West.</i>
<b>westernization (n.)</b>	<i>Accepting cultural traits from the West.</i>
<b>wind (n.)</b>	<i>Currents of flowing air on the surface of the earth.</i>
<b>windward (adj.)</b>	<i>Facing toward the direction from which the wind is blowing.</i>

Flesch-Kincaid Reading Level 4.4