

## Glossary

The definitions for words are as they are used in the chapters.

**abolitionist:** a person who tried to end the practice of slavery

**abrasive:** smoothing out a rough surface

**absentee ballot:** a ballot that can be mailed in

**adamant:** having a strong opinion

**adversary:** someone who is against someone else; an opponent

**affluence:** having a lot of money

**aghast:** struck with amazement or horror; shocked

**agribusiness:** the business of making money by growing crops and raising animals

**amendment:** an addition or change to a constitution

**animism:** a belief that both living and non-living things have spirits

**aquifer:** a layer of rock that holds water

**ardent:** with much feeling

**arid:** very dry

**barter:** to trade without the use of money

**basalt:** gray or black fine-grained igneous rock; cooled lava rock

**bill:** a written idea for a law submitted to the legislature

**bounty:** money paid to a person for killing certain animals

**breach:** to make a gap or break, such as in the walls of a dam

**cache:** a large supply hidden from view

**capital:** money and goods needed to start a business

**capitalism:** an economic system where land and businesses are owned and run by citizens, not the government

**capitalist:** a person of wealth; a person who supports private ownership of land and business

**cataracts:** large waterfalls over steep cliffs

**Caucasian:** of European ancestry; non-Indian and non-African

**ensorship:** the action of examining publications for objectionable statements

checks and balances: a system that limits the power of any one branch of government

**civilian:** not in the military

**clear-cut:** a place where all of the trees have been cut down

**coerce:** to force

**commercial:** having to do with selling

**commodity:** any useful thing that is bought or sold; products of agriculture, mining, or manufacturing

**communism:** a system where land and businesses are owned and run by the government

**compound interest:** interest that is figured on both the original amount of the loan plus accrued interest

**compromise:** an agreement where both sides give up part of what they want to solve a conflict

**condensed milk:** milk from which part of the water has been removed; canned milk

**confluence:** the flowing together of two or more streams

**conservation:** a careful preservation and protection of something, especially land and natural resources

**conspiracy:** a plot or secret agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act

**continental drift:** the theory that the earth's continents were one land mass and then drifted apart

**cooperative:** an organization owned and operated for the benefit of those using its services

**coroner:** a person who investigates unusual deaths

**corporation:** a group of people authorized by law to invest money to start or run a business

**coulee:** a dry streambed; a small shallow ravine

**credit card:** a card that authorizes purchases on credit and accumulates interest

**debit card:** a card where the cost of purchases will be subtracted from a bank balance without incurring interest

**decade:** a period of ten years

**decimate:** to kill a large number of the population

**decompose:** to decay or rot

**deficient:** not having enough degradation: the decline or ruin of

**delude:** to mislead or trick someone

**deluge:** a heavy rain

**dentalium shells:** long thin seashells worn as jewelry and used for trade by Native Americans

**derogatory:** uncomplimentary; belittling

**desecrate:** to treat with lack of respect

**destitute:** with almost no means of financial support; without the necessities of life

**dilapidated:** run down, shabby, or out of repair

**domestic arts:** skills relating to housework; cleaning, cooking, sewing

**domestic servant:** a person who does housework

**dormant:** temporarily inactive

**down payment:** the money given at the time a loan is arranged

**ecology:** the study of the interrelation of animals and plants with their environment

**economics:** the making, buying, and selling of goods and services

**ecosystem:** a community of living things that interact and depend on each other

**electors:** people selected to vote (for president)

**elusive:** hidden from view

**entrepreneur:** a person who starts and runs a business

**erratic:** a huge boulder carried long distances by a glacier

**evacuate:** to leave

**executive branch:** the branch of government that carries out the laws

**exodus:** a mass departure

**exploit:** to use to an unfair advantage

**exports:** goods shipped out for sale

**fastidious:** having high standards

**fault lines:** break in the earth's crust with displacement of earth and rock on one side

**federal government:** the level of government for all the United States

**feminism:** having to do with women's issues and rights

**finite:** having definite limits

**fissure:** a long crack in the earth's crust

**fjord:** a narrow inlet of the sea between steep cliffs

**forensic anthropologist:** a person who determines the cause of death of ancient humans

**formidable:** causing fear or dread

- fraud:** deceit, especially to get someone to part with something of value
- free enterprise:** an economic system where citizens own and control most production, buying, and selling
- geography:** the study of the earth and the location and activities of the people, plants, and animals living on it
- geologic time:** the long time period of the earth's history as defined by scientists
- geologist:** a scientist who studies rock and land formations to learn the history of the earth
- goods:** items that are made, bought, and sold
- grade (roads):** to smooth out the ground to make a road
- groundwater:** water that is naturally in the ground
- habitat:** the place where a plant or animal lives
- headwaters:** where a river starts
- heavy metals:** lead, zinc, cadmium, and arsenic
- hinterland:** land isolated from other places by distance and access
- human characteristics:** land features made by people
- humane:** having compassion or consideration
- hydroelectric:** relating to electricity produced by water-powered generators
- igneous rock:** rock that came from the interior of the earth as lava
- immortal:** exempt from death; living forever
- immunity:** resistance to disease
- incense:** to make very upset and angry
- industrial arts:** skills relating to industry; carpentry and the use of machines
- inferior:** of lower quality or importance
- infirmary:** a place where the sick are taken care of
- inflation:** a rise in the general price level of goods and services
- initiative:** a process by which citizens can write a bill and get it on the ballot for the voters to pass or defeat
- insatiable:** not able to get enough
- irony:** a result or outcome opposite of what was expected
- judicial branch:** the branch of government that interprets the law and determines punishment
- Kanaka:** a Hawaiian man
- lahar:** huge mudflow filled of volcanic debris, rock, and water
- leach:** to seep or pass down through the soil
- legislative branch:** the branch of government that makes the laws
- legislators:** members of Congress; men and women who are elected to make laws
- libel:** a statement that defames or ruins another person's character
- lobbyist:** a person who studies issues and works to get legislators to vote for or against bills
- loess:** soil believed to be mainly deposited by wind
- longshoremen:** workers who load and unload ships
- lucrative:** producing wealth
- mass transit:** buses, trains, or subway systems that move large numbers of people at a time
- materialism:** an emphasis on material objects and comforts with a disinterest in cultural values.
- median:** the middle
- menial:** requiring little skill
- migrant:** a person who moves regularly to find work, especially in agriculture
- minimum wage:** the lowest amount of money a business can pay an employee
- molten:** melted by high heat, as in liquid rock
- monopoly:** when one company has exclusive ownership and control of a type of product
- motley:** a mixture of different or unusual people
- municipal:** of the city
- negotiate:** to talk to another person or group to settle a matter
- Paleo-Indians:** the first people who lived on the American continents
- partnership:** when two or more people own a business
- per capita:** per person
- philanthropy:** the generous giving of money to worthy causes
- physical features:** the natural landforms and characteristics of a place
- placid:** calm, smooth
- political party:** a group of people who have similar ideas about government
- porcelain:** the material ceramic dishes are made from
- potlatch:** a large celebration of feasting and gifts held to celebrate a special event
- precinct:** a voting region
- primary election:** the first election held to narrow down the list of candidates
- proprietorship:** when one person owns a business
- protohistoric:** when there was a drastic change in the lifestyle of the American Indians
- radical:** drastic, extreme
- radioactive:** having nuclear properties
- ransom:** money paid to get back someone who has been kidnapped
- ration:** a small supply given on a regular basis
- reactor:** a machine that produces nuclear energy
- recall:** to remove a person from public office
- reclamation project:** a large project, such as the building of a dam, whose purpose is to make better use of the land
- referendum:** a process by which legislative bills are put on the public ballot
- relief (art):** where a design is above the background
- repatriate:** to return artifacts to the place of origin
- repeal:** to cancel (a law) by official authority
- representative:** a person elected to make laws for the whole group
- resurrect:** to rejoin the spirit and the body
- retail:** having to do with selling in stores
- retaliate:** to fight back
- revenue:** money brought in from a sale
- sabotage:** the destruction of property or materials
- salary:** a set amount of money paid by the week or month
- sanitation:** relating to health, cleanliness, disposal of human waste
- sedimentary rock:** rock formed from

- sand, soil, rocks, and shells
- segregation:** the separation of people, usually based on race or gender
- semiarid:** partly dry or dry much of the time
- services:** in economics, work people do to earn money
- shaman:** a Native American spiritual leader who healed the sick
- shortage:** when there is more demand than the supply of goods
- sovereignty:** self-rule; freedom from external control
- spawn:** to produce and deposit large numbers of eggs
- spoils:** goods taken from an enemy of war
- strait:** a narrow passageway of water that connects two large bodies of water
- subsidy:** money or land given by the government
- subsistence:** barely supporting life
- suburb:** a place where people live outside the city
- suffrage:** the right to vote
- superior:** of higher quality or importance
- supply and demand:** when both the amount of goods available and the number of buyers affect the price
- suppress:** to put down or to stop
- surpass:** to go beyond or go farther
- surplus:** goods left over after the demand is met
- suspend:** to cause to stop temporarily
- tailings:** what is left over after metals are separated from earth or rock
- tectonics:** a branch of geology concerned with the crust of the earth and its folds and faults
- temperate:** not extremely hot or cold
- transient:** a person who stays in a place briefly; a person who travels in search of work
- tributaries:** smaller streams and rivers that flow into a river
- tule:** bulrushes used by native Americans to make mats and houses
- vengeance:** punishment for an injury or offense
- veteran:** a person who has fought in war
- veto:** to officially turn down or reject a bill to stop it from becoming a law
- vigilante:** a person who takes it upon himself to punish others
- voyageur:** a man who transported furs by canoe
- vulnerable:** easily harmed
- wage:** money paid to an employee by the hour
- warehousemen:** workers in a warehouse
- weir:** a type of fence across a stream that aids in catching fish
- witness tree:** a tree carved with lot numbers indicating that property was claimed

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