

## A

**absolute location** exact position of a place on the earth's surface (p. 5)  
**acid rain** rain containing high amounts of chemical pollutants (pp. 70, 135, 370)  
**adobe** sun-dried clay bricks (p. 202)  
**airlift** system of carrying supplies by aircraft (p. 322)  
**altiplano** large highland plateau (p. 271)  
**altitude** height above sea level (pp. 193, 243)  
**aquifer** underground rock layer that water flows through (p. 50)  
**archipelago** group of islands (p. 219)  
**artifact** object made by early people (p. 27)  
**atmosphere** layer of air surrounding the earth (p. 30)  
**autobahn** superhighway (p. 351)  
**autonomy** self-government (p. 168)  
**axis** imaginary line that runs through the earth's center between the North and South poles (p. 31); *also* horizontal (bottom) or vertical (side) line of measurement on a graph (p. 11)

## B

**bar graph** graph in which vertical or horizontal bars represent quantities (p. 11)  
**basin** low area surrounded by higher land (p. 232)  
**bauxite** mineral used to make aluminum (p. 220)  
**bilingual** referring to a country that has two official languages (pp. 167, 440)  
**birthrate** number of children born each year for every 1,000 people (p. 88)  
**blockade** to forcibly prevent entry to an area (p. 321)  
**bog** low swampy land (pp. 342, 368)

## C

**campesino** Colombian farmer (p. 257)  
**canopy** umbrella-like covering formed by the tops of trees in a rain forest (p. 214)  
**cardinal directions** basic directions on the earth: north, south, east, west (p. 8)  
**cartographer** person who makes maps (p. 6)  
**cash crop** product grown to be sold for export (pp. 256, 438)  
**caudillo** military ruler (p. 243)  
**channel** body of water wider than a strait between two pieces of land (p. 42)  
**chart** graphic way of presenting information clearly (p. 12)  
**charter** written agreement guaranteeing privileges and freedoms (p. 302)  
**circle graph** round or pie-shaped graph showing how a whole is divided (p. 12)

**civilizations** highly developed cultures (p. 84)  
**Classical** relating to the ancient Greek and Roman world (p. 294)  
**climate** usual, predictable pattern of weather in an area over a long period of time (p. 52)  
**climograph** combination bar and line graph giving information about temperature and precipitation (p. 13)  
**coalition government** government in which two or more political parties work together to run a country (p. 360)  
**Cold War** period between the late 1940s and late 1980s when the United States and the Soviet Union competed for world influence without actually fighting each other (pp. 319, 414)  
**collection** process in the water cycle during which streams and rivers carry water back to the oceans (p. 49)  
**colony** overseas territory or settlement tied to a parent country (p. 146)  
**common law** unwritten set of laws based on local customs (p. 300)  
**commonwealth** partly self-governing territory (p. 223)  
**communism** economic, social, and political system based on the teachings of Karl Marx, which advocated the elimination of private property (p. 316)  
**communist state** country whose government has strong control over the economy and society as a whole (pp. 221, 369, 413)  
**condensation** process in which air rises and cools, which makes the water vapor it holds change back into a liquid (p. 49)  
**conservation** careful use of resources so they are not wasted (p. 71)  
**constitutional monarchy** government in which a king or queen is the official head of state, but elected officials run the government (p. 342)  
**consul** elected chief official of the Roman Republic (p. 296)  
**consumer goods** household products, clothing, and other goods people buy to use for themselves (p. 378)  
**contiguous** areas that are joined together inside a common boundary (p. 126)  
**continent** massive land area (p. 35)  
**continental divide** mountainous area from which rivers flow in different directions (p. 352)  
**continental shelf** plateau off each coast of a continent that lies under the ocean and stretches for several miles (p. 40)  
**cooperative** farm owned and operated by the government (p. 222)  
**coral reef** structure at or near the water's surface formed by the skeletons of small sea animals (p. 129)  
**cordillera** group of mountain ranges that run side by side (pp. 160, 254)

**core** center of the earth, formed of hot iron mixed with other metals (p. 35)  
**cottage industry** home- or village-based industry in which family members supply their own equipment to make goods (p. 315)  
**crop rotation** varying what is planted in a field to avoid using up all the minerals in the soil (p. 70)  
**crust** uppermost layer of the earth (p. 35)  
**cultural diffusion** the process of spreading new knowledge and skills to other cultures (p. 84)  
**culture** way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs (p. 80)  
**culture region** different countries that have cultural traits in common (p. 85)  
**current** moving streams of water in the world's oceans (p. 56)  
**czar** name for emperor in Russia's past (p. 411)

## D

**death rate** number of people out of every 1,000 who die in a year (p. 87)  
**deforestation** widespread cutting of forests (pp. 70, 235)  
**delta** area formed from a soil deposit located at the mouth of a river (p. 42)  
**democracy** government in which leaders rule with consent of the citizens (pp. 83, 294, 429)  
**deterrence** maintenance of military power for the purpose of discouraging an attack (p. 320)  
**developed country** country in which a great deal of manufacturing is carried out (p. 96)  
**developing country** country that is working toward industrialization (p. 96)  
**dialect** local form of a language that differs from the main language in pronunciation or the meaning of words (p. 81)  
**dictatorship** government under the control of one all-powerful leader (p. 83)  
**divine right of kings** belief that royalty ruled by the will of God (p. 306)  
**dominion** self-governing nation that accepts the British monarch as head of state (p. 166)  
**drought** long period of extreme dryness (p. 55)  
**dry farming** method in which the land is left unplanted every few years so that it can store moisture (p. 358)

## E

**earthquake** violent and sudden movement of the earth's crust (p. 36)  
**economic system** system that sets rules for how people decide what goods and services to produce and how they are exchanged (p. 93)  
**ecosystem** place where the plants and animals are dependent upon one another and their surroundings for survival (p. 72)  
**ecotourist** person who travels to another country to view its natural wonders (p. 215)

**elevation** height above sea level (pp. 9, 40, 440)  
**elevation profile** cutaway diagram showing changes in elevation of land (p. 13)  
**El Niño** combination of temperature, wind, and water effects in the Pacific Ocean that causes heavy rains in some areas and drought in others (p. 55)  
**embargo** order that restricts or prohibits trade with another country (p. 222)  
**emigrate** to move to another country (p. 91)  
**emperor** absolute ruler of an empire (p. 296)  
**empire** group of lands under one ruler (p. 267)  
**environment** natural surroundings (p. 24)  
**equinox** day when day and night are of equal length in both hemispheres (p. 32)  
**erosion** process of wearing away or moving weathered material on the earth's surface (p. 38)  
**escarpment** steep cliff between higher and lower land (p. 233)  
**estancia** ranch (p. 240)  
**ethnic cleansing** forcing people from a different ethnic group to leave their homes (p. 379)  
**ethnic group** people who share a common history, language, religion, and physical characteristics (p. 81)  
**euro** common currency adopted by countries in the European Union (p. 325)  
**evaporation** process in which the sun's heat turns liquid water into water vapor (p. 48)  
**export** to trade goods to other countries (p. 95)

## F

**famine** lack of food (p. 88)  
**fault** crack in the earth's crust (pp. 37, 438)  
**favela** slum area (p. 234)  
**federal republic** government divided between national and state powers (pp. 147, 204, 351, 429)  
**feudalism** political and social system in which a lord gave land to a noble to work, govern, and defend, in return for the noble's loyalty (p. 301)  
**fjord** steep-sided valley cut into mountains by the action of glaciers (p. 354)  
**foothill** low hill at the base of a mountain range (p. 267)  
**fossil** preserved remains or impressions of early humans, animals, or plants (p. 27)  
**fossil fuel** coal, oil, or natural gas (p. 135)  
**free enterprise system** economic system in which people start and run businesses with limited government intervention (pp. 131, 415)  
**free market economy** see *free enterprise system* (p. 424)  
**free trade** removing trade barriers so that goods flow freely among countries (pp. 96, 136)  
**free trade zone** area where people can buy goods from other countries without paying extra taxes (p. 223)

## G

- gaucho** cowhand (p. 240)
- genocide** mass murder of a people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, politics, or culture (p. 317)
- geographic information systems (GIS)** special software that helps geographers gather and use information about a place (pp. 6, 25)
- geography** the study of the earth in all its variety (p. 22)
- geothermal energy** electricity produced by natural underground sources of steam (p. 357)
- geyser** spring of water heated by molten rock inside the earth so that, from time to time, it shoots hot water into the air (p. 357)
- glacier** giant slow-moving sheets of ice (pp. 38, 49, 159)
- glasnost** Russian policy of “openness” (p. 415)
- globalization** development of a world culture and an interdependent world economy (p. 100)
- Global Positioning System (GPS)** group of satellites that travels around the earth which can be used to tell exact locations on the earth (pp. 6, 25)
- great circle route** ship or airplane route following a great circle; the shortest distance between two points on the earth (p. 6)
- greenhouse effect** buildup of certain gases in the atmosphere that, like a greenhouse, hold more of the sun’s warmth (p. 58)
- groundwater** water that fills tiny cracks and holes in the rock layers below the earth’s surface (p. 50)
- guild** medieval workers’ organization (p. 302)

## H

- hacienda** large ranch (p. 199)
- heavy industry** manufactured goods such as machinery, mining equipment, and steel (pp. 356, 426)
- hemisphere** one-half of the globe; the Equator divides the earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres; the Prime Meridian divides it into Eastern and Western Hemispheres (p. 4)
- hieroglyphics** form of writing that uses signs and symbols (p. 198)
- Holocaust** systematic murder of more than 6 million European Jews and 6 million others by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis during World War II (p. 317)
- human resources** supply of people who can produce goods (p. 314)
- humid continental climate** weather pattern characterized by long, cold, snowy winters and short, hot summers (p. 64)
- humid subtropical climate** weather pattern characterized by hot, humid, rainy summers and short, mild winters (p. 65)
- hurricane** violent tropical storm with high winds and heavy rains (p. 193)

- hydroelectric power** electricity generated by flowing water (p. 242)

## I

- immigrant** person who moves to a new country to make a permanent home (p. 148)
- imperialism** system of building foreign empires for military and trade advantages (p. 316)
- import** to buy goods from another country (p. 95)
- indulgences** pardons for sins, given or sold by the Catholic Church (p. 305)
- industrialize** to change an economy to rely more on manufacturing and less on farming (pp. 195, 412)
- interdependence** dependence of countries on one another for goods, raw materials to make goods, and markets in which to sell goods (p. 100)
- irrigation** farming practice followed in dry areas to collect water and bring it to crops (p. 71)
- island** body of land smaller than a continent and surrounded by water (p. 40)
- isthmus** narrow piece of land that connects two larger pieces of land (pp. 40, 212)

## J

- jade** shiny, usually green gemstone (p. 197)

## L

- land bridge** narrow strip of land that joins two larger landmasses (p. 190)
- landfill** area where trash companies dump the waste they collect (p. 136)
- landform** individual features of the land (p. 23)
- landlocked** country with no land bordering a sea or an ocean (pp. 271, 372)
- La Niña** pattern of unusual weather in the Pacific Ocean that has the opposite effects of El Niño (p. 56)
- latitude** location north or south of the Equator, measured by imaginary lines (parallels) that are numbered in degrees north or south (pp. 5, 192)
- leap year** year that has an extra day; occurs every fourth year (p. 31)
- life expectancy** the number of years that an average person is expected to live (p. 428)
- light industry** making of such goods as clothing, shoes, furniture, and household products (p. 426)
- line graph** graph in which one or more lines represent changing quantities over time (p. 11)
- literacy rate** percentage of people who can read and write (p. 215)
- llanos** grassy plains (p. 242)
- local wind** pattern of wind caused by landforms in a particular area (p. 56)
- longitude** location east or west of the Prime Meridian, measured by imaginary lines (meridians) numbered in degrees east or west (p. 5)

## M

- magma** hot, melted rock that sometimes flows to the earth's surface in a volcanic eruption (p. 35)
- maize** Native American name for corn (p. 198)
- majority group** group in society that controls most of the wealth and power, though not always the largest group in numbers (p. 430)
- manor** feudal estate made up of a manor house or castle and land (p. 301)
- mantle** rock layer about 1,800 miles (2,897 km) thick between the earth's core and the crust (p. 35)
- map key** code that explains the lines, symbols, and colors used on a map (p. 8)
- maquiladora** factory that assembles parts made in other countries (p. 194)
- marine west coast climate** weather pattern characterized by rainy and mild winters and cool summers (p. 63)
- Mediterranean climate** weather pattern characterized by mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers (p. 64)
- megalopolis** pattern of heavy urban settlement over a large area (p. 127)
- meridian** see *longitude* (p. 5)
- mestizo** person with mixed Spanish and Native American background (p. 256)
- migrant worker** person who travels from place to place when extra help is needed to plant or harvest crops (p. 205)
- minority group** group of people who are different in some characteristic from the group with the most power and wealth in a region (p. 430)
- missionary** person who spreads religious views (p. 300)
- monarchy** form of government in which a king or queen inherits the right to rule (p. 83)
- moor** treeless, windy highland area with damp ground (p. 340)
- mosque** place of worship for followers of Islam (p. 380)
- multilingual** able to speak several languages (p. 348)
- multinational company** firm that does business in several countries (p. 348)
- mural** wall painting (p. 198)

## N

- national debt** money owed by a nation's government (p. 206)
- natural resource** product of the earth that people use to meet their needs (p. 92)
- navigable** body of water wide and deep enough to allow the passage of ships (pp. 134, 266, 345)
- neutrality** refusal to take sides in disagreements and wars between countries (p. 352)
- newsprint** type of paper used for printing newspapers (p. 163)
- nomads** people who move from place to place with herds of animals (pp. 373, 439)

- nonrenewable resource** natural resource such as minerals that cannot be replaced (p. 93)
- nuclear energy** power made by creating a controlled atomic reaction (p. 428)
- nuclear weapon** weapon whose destructive power comes from a nuclear reaction (p. 319)

## O

- oasis** a fertile or green area in a desert (p. 439)
- obsidian** hard, black glass created by the cooled molten lava of a volcano (p. 198)
- orbit** path that a body in the solar system travels around the sun (p. 29)

## P

- pampas** vast treeless, grass-covered plains of South America (p. 240)
- parallel** see *latitude* (p. 5)
- parliamentary democracy** government in which voters elect representatives to a lawmaking body which chooses a prime minister to head the government (pp. 166, 216, 341)
- peat** plants partly decayed in water that can be dried and used for fuel (p. 342)
- peninsula** piece of land with water on three sides (pp. 40, 191)
- perestroika** Soviet policy that loosened government controls and permitted its economy to move towards free enterprise (p. 415)
- permafrost** permanently frozen lower layers of soil in the tundra and subarctic regions (p. 406)
- pesticides** powerful chemicals that kill crop-destroying insects (p. 71)
- pictograph** graph in which small symbols represent quantities (p. 12)
- plain** low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land (p. 40)
- plantation** large farm that grows a single crop for sale (p. 194)
- plateau** flat land with higher elevation than a plain (p. 40)
- plate tectonics** theory that the earth's crust is not an unbroken shell but consists of plates, or huge slabs of rock, that move (p. 35)
- plaza** public square (p. 202)
- polder** area of land reclaimed from the sea (p. 347)
- polis** Greek term for "city-state" (p. 294)
- pope** head of the Roman Catholic Church (pp. 299, 371)
- population density** average number of people living in a square mile or square kilometer (p. 89)
- potash** type of mineral salt that is often used in fertilizers (p. 385)
- prairie** rolling, inland grassy area with very fertile soil (p. 160)
- precipitation** water that falls back to the earth as rain, snow, sleet, or hail (p. 49)
- prime minister** official who heads the government in a parliamentary democracy (p. 167)

- privatize** to transfer the ownership of factories from the government to individual citizens (p. 375)
- productivity** measurement of the amount of work accomplished in a given time (p. 314)
- projection** in mapmaking, a way of drawing the round Earth on a flat surface (p. 7)
- province** regional political division similar to states (p. 158)

## Q

- quota** number limit on how many items of a particular product can be imported from a particular country (p. 95)

## R

- rain forest** dense forest that receives high amounts of rain each year (p. 59)
- rain shadow** dry area on the inland side of coastal mountains (p. 58)
- recycling** reusing materials instead of throwing them out (p. 136)
- refugee** person who flees to another country to escape persecution or disaster (pp. 91, 379)
- relief** differences in height in a landscape; how flat or rugged the surface is (p. 9)
- renewable resource** natural resource that cannot be used up or can be replaced naturally or grown again (p. 92)
- representative democracy** government in which the people are represented by elected leaders (p. 146)
- republic** strong national government headed by elected leaders (pp. 216, 296)
- responsibilities** duties owed by citizens to their government and other citizens (p. 99)
- reunification** bringing together the two parts of Germany under one government (p. 351)
- revolution** one complete orbit around the sun (p. 31); a great and often violent change (p. 306)
- rights** benefits and protections guaranteed by law (p. 99)
- rural** area in the countryside (p. 150)

## S

- satellite nation** nation politically and economically dominated or controlled by another, more powerful country (p. 321)
- sauna** wooden room heated by water sizzling on hot stones (p. 356)
- savanna** broad grassland in the Tropics with few trees (p. 62)
- scale bar** on a map, a divided line showing the map scale, usually in miles or kilometers (p. 8)
- secede** to withdraw from a national government (p. 147)
- selva** tropical rain forests in Brazil (p. 232)

- serf** farm laborer who could be bought and sold along with the land (pp. 301, 412)
- service industry** business that provides services to people instead of producing goods (pp. 132, 195, 488)
- sirocco** hot, dry winds that blow across Italy from North Africa (p. 360)
- smog** thick haze of fog and chemicals (p. 206)
- sodium nitrate** chemical used in fertilizer and explosives (p. 274)
- solar system** Earth, eight other planets, and thousands of smaller bodies that all revolve around the sun (p. 29)
- spa** resort that has hot mineral springs that people bathe in to regain their health (p. 374)
- steppe** partly dry grassland often found on the edges of a desert (pp. 67, 383, 406, 438)
- strait** narrow body of water between two pieces of land (p. 42)
- strike** refusal to work, usually by a labor organization, until demands are met (p. 315)
- subarctic** weather pattern characterized by severely cold, bitter winters and short, cool summers (p. 65)
- subsistence farm** small plot where a farmer grows only enough food to feed his own family (p. 194)
- suburb** smaller community that surrounds a city (p. 150)
- summer solstice** day with the most hours of sunlight and the fewest hours of darkness (p. 32)

## T

- taiga** huge forests of evergreen trees that grow in subarctic regions (p. 406)
- tariff** tax added to the value of goods that are imported (p. 95)
- textiles** woven cloth (p. 315)
- trench** valley in the ocean floor (p. 41)
- Tropics** low-latitude region between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn (p. 53)
- tsunami** huge sea wave caused by an earthquake on the ocean floor (p. 36)
- tundra** vast rolling treeless plain in high latitude climates in which only the top few inches of ground thaw in summer (pp. 66, 159, 406)

## U

- union** labor organization that negotiates for improved worker conditions and pay (p. 315)
- urban** area in the city (p. 150)
- urbanization** movement to cities (p. 90)

## V

- vaquero** cowhand (p. 193)
- vassal** noble in medieval society who swore loyalty to a lord in return for land (p. 301)



**water cycle** process in which water moves from the oceans to the air to the ground and finally back to the oceans (p. 48)

**water vapor** water in the form of gas (p. 48)

**weather** unpredictable changes in air that take place over a short period of time (p. 52)

**weathering** natural process that breaks surface rocks into boulders, gravel, sand, and soil (p. 37)

**welfare state** country that uses tax money to support people who are sick, needy, jobless, or retired (p. 355)

**winter solstice** day with the fewest hours of sunlight (p. 32)