

- abolitionist** — person who wanted slaves to be freed
- administration** — government organized during a president's term
- adobe** — dried mud brick
- Affordable Care Act** — law that expanded access to health insurance plans
- agenda** — plan
- alliance** — agreement between two or more countries to support each other militarily
- allocate** — to decide how to use resources
- ambassador** — person who represents the interests of one country in another country
- amendment** — changes made to a government document
- amnesty** — legal forgiveness of people who have committed certain crimes, such as immigrating without proper documentation
- ancient Greece** — collection of city-states where important political ideas began
- ancient Rome** — long-ago republic and empire centered on the city of Rome
- appeasement** — policy of allowing Hitler and the Nazis to take lands that they wanted in Eastern Europe
- article** — a main section of the U.S. Constitution
- Articles of Confederation** — first governing document of the United States that gave most power to the states
- assembly line** — manufacturing process in which workers do the same job all day to help make a finished product together
- assimilate** — to adapt
- average** — result found by adding together all of the numbers in a set and dividing the sum by the total number of values in the set
- Aztec** — people of what is now Mexico who built a city at Tenochtitlan and ruled a large empire
- bail** — money paid by an accused person to remain free before a trial
- bias** — personal opinion that shapes how someone views a topic
- Bill of Rights** — first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution that protect individual and state rights
- bills** — proposed laws
- birth rate** — number of people in a population who are born each year out of 1,000
- black codes** — laws that unfairly limited rights and opportunities for African Americans
- boycott** — to refuse to buy
- buying power** — amount of goods or services that can be bought with a certain amount of money
- Cabinet** — group of presidential advisers
- candidate** — person running for political office
- caravel** — light, mobile Portuguese ship
- cartel** — organization that controls the supply of a particular good
- cash crop** — crop grown to sell for a profit
- casualties** — injuries and deaths in war
- checks and balances** — way of balancing power among branches so no one becomes too powerful
- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission** — 2010 Supreme Court ruling stating that corporations and labor unions could spend unlimited amounts of money on political ads and other tools
- Civil Rights Movement** — period of people working together to end legalized racial discrimination
- citizenship** — legal membership of a place
- city-state** — independent city with its own government and citizenship
- civil case** — lawsuits that involve disagreements between people
- civil liberties** — rights that the government is required to protect
- civil war** — war between groups within a country
- climate** — usual weather in a place over time
- climate change** — shifts in climate over time
- closed shop** — workplace that can hire only union workers; outlawed by the Taft-Hartley Act in 1947
- Cold War** — competition between the United States and Soviet Union for global power
- collective bargaining** — process by which employees, represented by their union leaders, negotiate with the employer
- Columbian Exchange** — movement of plants, animals, and diseases between Europe and the Americas
- common currency** — currency, such as the Euro, shared among several states
- common good** — well-being of everyone

- common market** — market in which several countries exchange goods and services without restrictions
- communism** — system in which resources are owned by everyone and managed by the state
- compass rose** — map feature showing the map's orientation of north, east, south, and west
- concurrent powers** — powers shared by the federal and state governments
- Congress** — national legislature
- constitution** — plan for government
- consumer** — person who buys a good or service
- consumption** — use of goods and services
- continent** — large landmass
- convention** — large gathering every four years before the presidential election
- cost-push inflation** — rise in prices caused by rising costs of labor and other production costs
- crime rate** — measurement of crimes that happen in a place
- cultural diffusion** — spread of ideas and practices from place to place
- dark money** — secret political donations
- death rate** — number of people in a population who die each year out of 1,000
- Declaration of Independence** — document announcing American independence from Great Britain
- deforestation** — widespread cutting down of trees
- demand** — how much of something consumers want to buy
- demand-pull inflation** — a rise in prices driven by rising consumer demand
- democracy** — political system in which citizens vote directly on leaders and laws
- demographics** — study of populations
- derived demand** — form of demand that depends on the demand for another good or service
- diplomat** — person who negotiates with another country
- direct democracy** — political system in which citizens participate in making all governmental decisions
- discrimination** — unfair treatment
- DREAMer** — young, undocumented immigrant who was brought to the United States as a child
- due process** — proper constitutional procedures in trials and other actions
- dynasty** — ruling families in which the kingship passes from generation to generation
- economic union** — combined economic system including many countries, such as the European Union
- Electoral College** — group of special voters who choose the president
- emancipate** — to set free
- Emancipation Proclamation** — executive order that freed all the slaves living in the Confederacy
- Enlightenment** — period in the 1600s and 1700s that challenged the old ways of thinking about science, religion, and government
- enumerated powers** — powers of the federal government that are described clearly in the Constitution
- Environmental Protection Agency** — U.S. government agency that monitors environmental concerns such as air and water pollution
- equal protection clause** — part of the Fourteenth Amendment requiring states to guarantee the same rights and protections to all citizens
- Equal Rights Amendment** — proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing gender equality
- Equator** — the central line of latitude
- exchange** — trade
- executive branch** — branch of U.S. government that enforces laws
- export** — good sold in a foreign country
- extradition** — sending a person accused of a crime back to the place in which the supposed crime was committed
- federal** — U.S. national government
- Federal Election Campaign Act** — law that limited how campaigns raised money
- Federal Election Commission** — government agency that monitors all federal election laws and campaign spending
- federalism** — system of government in which power is spread between national and state or regional units
- feminism** — women's rights
- foreclosure** — the taking back of a property by a lender
- foreign policy** — a country's approach to dealing with other countries
- formal region** — region with a specific boundary set either by nature or by people
- fossil fuel** — resources such as coal and oil that are formed from carbon deposits left by decaying life forms from long ago
- framers** — creators of the U.S. Constitution

- free trade** — system of exchange in which two or more countries conduct trade without barriers such as tariffs
- Freedmen's Bureau** — federal agency during Reconstruction that set up schools and helped former slaves find new work
- free-market system** — economic system in which producers and consumers make all economic decisions
- French and Indian War** — conflict between the British and American colonists on one side and the French and their Native American allies over colonial territory and expansion
- Fugitive Slave Act** — controversial law that required all U.S. citizens to help capture and return runaway slaves to their owners
- full faith and credit** — constitutional section stating that each state must cooperate with the other states
- functional region** — region including all the areas near a place that work together
- geography** — study of Earth and its people
- glacier** — large, thick sheet of ice
- global positioning system (GPS)** — technology that uses satellites to find exact locations
- globalization** — interconnectedness of people, technology, and ideas around the world
- globe** — three-dimensional sphere that shows Earth and its features
- goods** — physical things that can be bought and sold such as books, furniture, and automobiles
- Great Compromise** — Constitutional compromise dividing Congress into two houses; one house having membership based on a state's population, and the other having two members representing each state
- Great Depression** — period of worldwide economic downturn during the 1930s
- Great Recession** — severe economic downturn beginning in the late 2000s and early 2010s
- greenhouse gas** — gas that traps heat in Earth's atmosphere
- guerrilla warfare** — style of warfare that uses non-traditional tactics
- hard money** — money given by individuals or groups directly to candidates
- hemisphere** — half of Earth
- Holocaust** — Nazi program in which millions of Jewish people were murdered
- human geography** — the study of how people interact with broad regional systems
- hunter-gatherer** — people who survive by collecting wild plants and hunting animals or fish
- hurricane** — strong storm that forms in the Atlantic Ocean
- immigration** — movement of people from one place to another in order to live there
- impeach** — formally accuse of wrongdoing an official from another branch of government
- imperialism** — use of power by one country to rule another
- import** — good brought into a country from another
- Inca** — people who had an empire along the western coast of South America
- industrialization** — making of goods in factories
- inflation** — overall increase in prices
- infrastructure** — systems, like power lines and roads, that connect people
- initiative** — a ballot measure suggested by the people
- interdependence** — interrelated nature of economic activities
- international organization** — global group that promotes a certain goal or idea
- international trade** — economic exchange conducted between two or more countries
- Internet** — technology for communicating and sharing information through global computer networks
- Iroquois Confederacy** — league in which members of some Native American groups agreed to make decisions together and protect one another during wartime
- irrigation** — systems that move water for farming
- Jim Crow laws** — laws that unfairly limited voting access and enforced segregation
- judicial branch** — branch of U.S. government that interprets laws
- judicial review** — the Supreme Court's ability to find laws or actions unconstitutional
- labor** — the efforts of workers
- labor market** — economic system in which workers and employers buy and sell work with wages

labor pool — all of the people willing to work or currently working

latitude — imaginary lines encircling Earth horizontally; from east to west

legislative branch — branch of U.S. government that makes laws

legislature — government body that makes laws and decides how the government's money is spent

liberty — freedom

literacy rate — number of people over the age of 15 who can read and write

longitude — imaginary lines that circle Earth vertically, from north to south

Louisiana Purchase — large area of land purchased from France in 1803

Loyalist — Americans who supported the British government and thought the colonial rebellion was a crime

Magna Carta — document that limited the monarch's powers and protected some rights of citizens

manifest destiny — idea that the United States had a duty to expand to the Pacific Ocean

map — tool that displays portions of Earth's features, such as cities or bodies of water, on a flat surface

map projection — the way in which the round Earth is transferred to a flat map

market equilibrium — the point at which supply and demand are equal

Maya — people of northeastern Mexico and Guatemala who built cities centered around huge temples and public buildings

Mayflower Compact — colonial document agreeing that everyone on the *Mayflower* would form together to settle and manage their affairs

McDonaldization — spread of U.S. culture and tastes around the world

mean — average of a set of numbers

median — midpoint of a series of numbers

Mesoamerica — region of Mexico, Central America, and South America settled by people long ago

Middle Colonies — colonies along the Atlantic coastline south of New England

Middle Passage — long, difficult Atlantic crossing that was part of the slave trade

Miranda Warning — official statement by police informing suspects of their rights before questioning

Missouri Compromise — agreement in 1820 that admitted Missouri and Maine as states, and tried to end debate over slavery

mode — value in a set of numbers that occurs most often

multinational corporation — company operating all around the world

municipal — local

natural resource — any useful material provided by Earth

natural rights — rights people are born with, such as life, liberty, and the right to own property

naturalization — process of becoming a citizen of a new place

New Deal — series of federal programs that provided economic help during the Great Depression

New England — American colonies in the far northeast

nomination — selection of candidates for offices

non-renewable resource — resource that cannot be quickly restored and used again

Northwest Ordinance — laws that organized the early American west into territories such as Indiana and Ohio

nuclear bomb — powerful weapon that could flatten entire cities

opportunity cost — what is given up when making an economic choice

ordinance — local law or regulation

outsourcing — sending of jobs to other countries

overturned — reversed

Parliament — British law-making body

perceptual region — region that exists because people think about all the places within it as being similar

physical geography — study of Earth and its landforms, bodies of water, and physical systems

plantation — large farm that grows cash crops

political parties — organized groups that support a set of political beliefs

pollution — any harmful substance that occurs in the environment

popular sovereignty — voting by the people

population — all of the people who live in a place

population pyramid — geographic model showing populations by age bands and gender

Preamble — first part of a document, such as the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution

precipitation — rain and snowfall

prices — amount charged for goods and services

Prime Meridian — the central line of longitude around the earth

Proclamation of 1763 — British policy setting a western limit for colonial settlement

producer — person who makes and sells goods and services

production — making of goods and services

profits — earnings by producers

Progressives — people who worked for social, political, and economic reform between about 1900 and 1915

protectionism — use of trade barriers to help certain domestic economic goals

quantity demanded — amount of something that consumers are willing to buy at a certain price

quantity supplied — amount of something that producers are willing to sell at a certain price

Quran — holy book of Islam

Radical Republicans — Congressional group during Reconstruction who strongly supported expanding rights for freed slaves in the South

ratify — to formally agree to

raw materials — resources that can be turned into finished products

recall — a vote to remove a politician from office

Reconstruction — period of rebuilding after the Civil War

recycle — to send garbage to be reused as a new item

referendum — a popular vote on a state law or amendment

Reformation — European religious reform movement

region — area with a certain shared characteristic

regulate — to control

Renaissance — period of cultural flowering and rebirth in Europe

renewable resource — resource that can be quickly restored and used again

representative democracy — political system in which citizens vote for leaders who then make laws on their behalf

republic — political system in which citizens vote for leaders who then make laws on their behalf; a representative democracy

republican — form of government in which citizens elect representatives to run the government

reserved powers — powers that stay with the states

resources — materials needed to produce goods and services

runoff election — election held when none of the candidates for an office wins a majority of the vote in the general election

scale — map feature showing distance

scarcity — the condition of not having enough of something for everyone to have what they want and need

school board — group that makes many of the decisions that affect a public school system

Scientific Revolution — time period in the 1500s and 1600s during which scientists challenged old ideas about the world

searches and seizures — investigation or taking of a person's property by the state

secede — formally leave a country

Second Industrial Revolution — period of rapid industrialization and urbanization during the late 1800s

sectionalism — support for the needs of one's own region

segregation — legal separation of people by race

Seneca Falls Convention — 1848 gathering that began the women's rights movement in the United States

separation of powers — idea that governmental powers should be divided among branches to limit one branch from becoming too powerful

services — something a person does for someone else, such as cutting hair or providing medical advice

settlement house — community center that helped immigrants adapt to U.S. society and culture

shortage — too little of something to meet demand

Silk Roads — historical trade routes that connected Asia to the Mediterranean

sit-in — protests in which people entered businesses and refused to leave unless they were served

smallpox — European infectious disease that killed many native people of the Americas

smog — visible air pollution

GLOSSARY

soft money — donations that are used for general purposes and do not go to a specific candidate

Southern Colonies — colonies that reached from Virginia southward to the border with Spanish Florida

special district — unit of government that has a key purpose

speculate — to buy something with the intention of selling it later at a profit

states' rights — belief that states, not the federal government, should decide laws about matters within their borders

strike — purposeful work stoppage

suffrage — the right to vote

superpower — country with great political power and influence all around the globe

supply — how much of something producers make

supply shock — sudden shortage of a good or service

supremacy clause — constitutional section stating that the Constitution and federal laws are supreme when in conflict with those of the states

surplus — too much of something to meet demand

Taft-Hartley Act — 1947 law limiting some provisions of the Wagner Act

tariff — special taxes placed on goods brought into a country for sale

telegraph — technology that sent messages quickly over long distances using electricity

terms — periods of time in office

territories — areas controlled by another country

Thomas Jefferson — chief writer of the Declaration of Independence and the third U.S. president

Three-Fifths Compromise — constitutional compromise that allowed three-fifths of the total enslaved population of a state to be counted for purposes of representation in Congress

tolerance — accepting the rights of others to have different opinions and live different lives

tornado — huge column of spinning air

township — land and political subdivision within a county

trade agreement — agreement between two or more countries to conduct trade under certain rules

trade barrier — limit on free trade

trading bloc — group of countries that have free trade with one another

Transcontinental Railroad — long-distance railroad linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo — agreement ending the Mexican-American War that added a great deal of southwestern and western territory to the United States

Treaty of Paris — 1783 agreement that officially gave the United States independence

U.S. Constitution — the highest authority of law in the United States; lists rules as to how the national government operates.

undocumented immigrant — person who comes to the United States without following the proper legal procedures

union — group of workers who join together to increase their power in the labor market

upheld — agreed with

urbanization — growth of cities

utility — usefulness of a particular good or service

verdict — ruling

veto — to reject

violated — to have defied or dishonored

voluntary exchange — buying and selling goods and services

wages — payments for work

Wagner Act — law that guarantees workers the right to organize

weapons of mass destruction — powerful weapons capable of injuring or killing many people at once

weather — measure of the atmospheric conditions, such as temperature, wind, and precipitation, in a place at a certain time

welfare — well-being

women's rights movement — reform movement supporting increased rights and equality for women

work slowdown — purposeful slowing of work by laborers

World Trade Organization — international group dedicated to supporting free trade

Zimmerman Telegram — World War I-era message from Germany to Mexico asking Mexico to declare war on the United States in exchange for helping Mexico reclaim U.S. lands it had once controlled