

Social Studies Glossary

The Social Studies glossary has been designed to be a tool to provide educators with terminologies that represent the big, powerful concepts and ideas that teachers need to know and understand in order to effectively teach the revised Social Studies Standards and use supporting materials. The glossary will allow district leaders and teachers to build curriculum and lessons around a common understanding of terminology and language, promoting consistency across disciplines. The glossary will provide definitions of terms in the standards that might be difficult to understand, due to multiple interpretations or ambiguity. The glossary of terms will also supply more clarifying language with regards to terms that lend themselves to multiple definitions and interpretations.

Please keep in mind, the purpose of the glossary is NOT to rewrite definitions for terms that can easily be found in any standard dictionary and textbook nor to be an exhaustive list of vocabulary terms. The purpose is to provide a resource that social studies educators can access in order to better understand the intent of terminology used in the objectives, in the appropriate context to the disciplines of social studies upon which these courses have been created.

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I.

Revised Bloom's Taxonomy (RBT) Terminology	
Assess	Asking students to assess information requires them to determine the importance, size, or value of what is being assessed; to detect inconsistencies or fallacies within an argument or product; or detecting the appropriateness of a procedure for a given problem
Classify	Classify requires students to determine whether something does or does not belong to a category. Classify begins with examples of objects, ideas, and the like and asks students to decide on which category each fits. Classify requires inductive reasoning (specific to general).
Compare	Compare requires students to describe similarities and differences among related events or ideas.
Critique	Critique requires students to judge the value, quality, or significance of something in a careful and thoughtful manner with regards to a standard or a set of criteria.
Deconstruct	Deconstruct requires students to take apart something in order to reveal its composition, often with the intent of exposing biases, flaws, point of view, or inconsistencies.
Determine	Determine requires students to come to a decision based on evidence or facts; to establish exactly or with authority.
Differentiate	Differentiate means to distinguish what is relevant and irrelevant, or what is important and unimportant, within a text, product, or process.
Distinguish	Distinguish means to differentiate what is relevant from irrelevant parts or what is important from unimportant parts of presented material.
Exemplify	Exemplify requires students to use presented material to create new examples. Exemplify requires deductive reasoning (general to specific).
Explain	Explain requires students to identify the primary cause(s) and/or effect(s) of an event, situation, decision, issue, etc.
Identify	Identify requires students to remember something that is consistent with presented material.

Interpret	Interpret requires students to change material from one form of representation to another (e.g., pictures to words, technical language to more common language). Paraphrasing important speeches and documents is an example of interpreting.
Recognize	Recognize means remembering what they have seen or heard in presented material before.
Summarize	Summarize requires students to capture the essence of an oral, written, or graphic communication in a brief, concise statement, short paragraph, or visual representation. Summarizing results in an abstract of the communication; it is not “retelling”.
Use	Use requires students to apply a procedure to a problem or in a situation that may be familiar or unfamiliar to them.

II.

N.C. Standards are Written to the Five Major Disciplines of Social Studies	
Behavioral Science	The behavioral sciences strand is not a new strand. It is simply the accurate name for the social studies discipline that represents the study of “culture”. The study of culture is a part of the discipline of anthropology. But it is also a component of the sociology and psychology disciplines. Anthropology is the study of human beings in societies around the world, their origins, culture, customs, beliefs, etc. Psychology is the study of the mind and behavior and seeks to understand and explain how people think, act, and feel. Psychology examines all aspects of the human experience. Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Collectively these three disciplines are categorized as the behavioral sciences.
Civics & Government (Political Science)	Civics and government fall under the social studies discipline of political science. Civics is the study of how people participate in a governing society. The civics component of the civics and government strand focuses on civic life and actions, which are defined as the public life of a citizen concerned with the affairs of the nation and community around them. Political science is the study of the theory and practice of government and politics at the local, state, national, and international levels. The government component of the civics and government strand focuses on political science, which broadly refers to the study of government in terms of the allocation and transfer of power, the roles and systems of governance including international organizations, political behaviour, and public policies. The intent of the Civics and Government strand is to deliberately focus the study of content and topics through the lens of civics, government, and political forces which shape societies.
Economics	Economics is the study of how people deal with scarcity and scarce

	resources. Economics focuses on the knowledge and understanding of how societies, governments, businesses, households, and individuals deal with scarcity and how they manage and use resources. .
Geography	The discipline of geography focuses on the study of place and the relationships between people and their environments. Geography seeks to examine how humans interact with the natural environment and how “place” impacts people, their beliefs, the way people live and the things they do in the places they live. Geography can be split into two main branches, physical geography and human geography.
History	History is the study of change over time and how the societies we live in come to be. History covers all aspects of human society and uses a narrative to examine and analyze sequences of past events and objectively determine the patterns of cause and effect which determine those events.

III.

Inquiry Terminology	
K-2 Band	
Compelling Question	A compelling question focuses on enduring issues and concerns. They deal with curiosities about how things work; interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts; and unresolved issues that require students to construct arguments in response. Example: Was the American Revolution revolutionary?
Informed Action	<p>Informed action is a means of civic engagement in which individuals or groups of people take some kind of action to address a question, problem or issue in the community, using a process of inquiry, analysis, reflection, and decision-making.</p> <p>Informed action is authentic engagement that gives students an opportunity to be active and responsible citizens by 1) identifying, analyzing and evaluating a local, regional, national, or global problem; 2) collaborating with peers and others to deliberate about how to define and address the problems; 3) collaborating with peers to create a plan to address the problem based on research, interviews, and data; 4) reflect on actions, findings, etc.; 5) develop a plan on how to sustain efforts and influence institutions.</p>
Inquiry	An inquiry is any process that has the aim of asking for information to augment knowledge, resolve doubt, or solve a

	problem.
Inquiry-Based Learning	Inquiry-based learning is an ongoing cycle of learning to use knowledge at increasingly complex levels as a way to integrate content. Through the inquiry process, students (individually and or collaboratively) identify issues, pose questions, investigate answers, pose more questions, weigh the evidence, come to conclusions, and take action on their learning. (Illinois)
Source	Sources are the materials from human and natural activities that can be studied and analyzed. Sources can be written, visual, oral, or material. Historians often also use the terms “accounts” and “documents” to refer to sources.
Supporting Question	Supporting questions are intended to contribute knowledge and insights to the inquiry behind a compelling question. Supporting questions focus on descriptions, definitions, and processes which assist in constructing explanations that advance claims of understanding in response.
3-5 Band	
Academic Words	Academic words are words that are traditionally used in academic conversation and texts. They are not connected to any particular subject or discipline. Academic words are common in academic texts, but they are not so common in everyday writing or dialogue. This is why they are not so easy to learn, but why at the same time, it is very important for students to learn them. Academic words are also referred to as Tier 2 words.
Authority	The authority of a text is its reliability as a witness to the historical event (primary) being described by the text as well as the author’s intentions (secondary).
Claim	A claim is a statement which identifies an individual’s position or argument regarding a question or debate; sometimes referred to as a thesis.
Context	Context refers to the chronological and geographical parameters in which events take place; used by historians to analyze why certain events happen when and where they do; can include social, political, economic, historical facets.
Compelling Question	A compelling question focuses on enduring issues and concerns. They deal with curiosities about how things work; interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts; and unresolved issues that require students to construct arguments

	in response. Example: Was the American Revolution revolutionary?
Credibility	Credibility refers to the degree to which the results are accurate and viewed as important and believable.
Domain-Specific Words	Domain-specific words are content-specific vocabulary. They are generally used within a specific discipline. Domain specific words are also called discipline specific words and are known as Tier 3 words. Because they are domain specific, it is best to teach them in context based on the content area from which they are being used.
Informed Action	<p>Informed action is a means of civic engagement in which individuals or groups of people take some kind of action to address a question, problem or issue in the community, using a process of inquiry, analysis, reflection, and decision-making.</p> <p>Informed action is authentic engagement that gives students an opportunity to be active and responsible citizens by 1) identifying, analyzing and evaluating a local, regional, national, or global problem; 2) collaborating with peers and others to deliberate about how to define and address the problems; 3) collaborating with peers to create a plan to address the problem based on research, interviews, and data; 4) reflect on actions, findings, etc.; 5) develop a plan on how to sustain efforts and influence institutions.</p>
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Reliability	Reliability , in context to a source, means that a source provides a thorough, well-reasoned theory, argument, discussion, etc. based on strong evidence.
Source	Sources are the materials from human and natural activities that can be studied and analyzed. Sources can be written, visual, oral, or material. Historians often also use the terms “accounts” and

	“documents” to refer to sources.
Supporting Question	Supporting questions are intended to contribute knowledge and insights to the inquiry behind a compelling question. Supporting questions focus on descriptions, definitions, and processes which assist in constructing explanations that advance claims of understanding in response.
Structure	The structure of a source refers to how the information within a written text is organized.
6-8 Band	
Argument	Argument refers to the process of making a claim and supporting that claim with evidence and reasoning.
Authority	The authority of a text is its reliability as a witness to the historical event (primary) being described by the text as well as the author’s intentions (secondary).
Civic Approach	A civic approach can be categorized as a process in which people take collective action to address issues of public concern.
Claim	A claim is a statement which identifies an individual’s position or argument regarding a question or debate; sometimes referred to as a thesis.
Compelling Question	A compelling question focuses on enduring issues and concerns. They deal with curiosities about how things work; interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts; and unresolved issues that require students to construct arguments in response. Example: Was the American Revolution revolutionary?
Context	Context refers to the chronological and geographical parameters in which events take place; used by historians to analyze why certain events happen when and where they do; can include social, political, economic, historical context.
Counterclaim	A counterclaim is a rebuttal, or argument against, an opposing viewpoint or claim.
Credibility	Credibility refers to the degree to which the results are accurate and viewed as important and believable.
Disciplinary	Disciplinary , in an educational context, refers to something being related to the study of a particular field of study. A

	discipline is defined as a branch of learning or scholarly instruction. Disciplinary study focuses on the ways of thinking, the skills, and the tools that are used by experts within a particular discipline.
Global Issue	A global issue is an issue or problem that affects the whole planet, and potentially all of the people who live on it.
Inference	An inference is a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence.
Informed Action	<p>Informed action is a means of civic engagement in which individuals or groups of people take some kind of action to address a question, problem or issue in the community, using a process of inquiry, analysis, reflection, and decision-making.</p> <p>Informed action is authentic engagement that gives students an opportunity to be active and responsible citizens by 1) identifying, analyzing and evaluating a local, regional, national, or global problem; 2) collaborating with peers and others to deliberate about how to define and address the problems; 3) collaborating with peers to create a plan to address the problem based on research, interviews, and data; 4) reflect on actions, findings, etc.; 5) develop a plan on how to sustain efforts and influence institutions.</p>
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Structure	The structure of a source refers to how the information within a written text is organized.
9-12 Band	
Argument	Argument refers to the process of making a claim and supporting that claim with evidence and reasoning.
Bias	<p>Bias in a general sense is prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.</p> <p>Bias in a source is when the creator’s perspective is so strongly for or against something that the information in the source is clearly unbalanced or prejudiced. All sources contain some degree of bias, but it is not always possible to detect it.</p>
Compelling Question	A compelling question focuses on enduring issues and concerns. They deal with curiosities about how things work; interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts; and unresolved issues that require students to construct arguments in response. Example: Was the American Revolution revolutionary?
Context	Context refers to the chronological and geographical parameters in which events take place; used by historians to analyze why certain events happen when and where they do; can include social, political, economic, historical context.
Counterclaim	A counterclaim is a rebuttal, or argument against, an opposing viewpoint or claim
Credibility	Credibility refers to the degree to which the results are accurate and viewed as important and believable.
Historical Narrative	Historical narrative is a history of a person, place, or event written in a story-based form. Well-written historical narratives are interpretative and explain connections, change, and consequences.
Informed Action	Informed action is a means of civic engagement in which

	<p>individuals or groups of people take some kind of action to address a question, problem or issue in the community, using a process of inquiry, analysis, reflection, and decision-making.</p> <p>Informed action is authentic engagement that gives students an opportunity to be active and responsible citizens by 1) identifying, analyzing and evaluating a local, regional, national, or global problem; 2) collaborating with peers and others to deliberate about how to define and address the problems; 3) collaborating with peers to create a plan to address the problem based on research, interviews, and data; 4) reflect on actions, findings, etc.; 5) develop a plan on how to sustain efforts and influence institutions.</p>
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Multiple Viewpoints	Multiple viewpoints refer to the various positions or perspectives from which something can be viewed. Not all perspectives have the same view of motives, causes, or effects of an event. Using multiple viewpoints to study an event, issue, problem, etc. can provide a more balanced analysis.
Source	Sources are the materials from human and natural activities that can be studied and analyzed. Sources can be written, visual, oral, or material. Historians often also use the terms accounts and documents to refer to sources.
Supporting Question	Supporting questions are intended to contribute knowledge and insights to the inquiry behind a compelling question. Supporting questions focus on descriptions, definitions, and processes which assist in constructing explanations that advance claims of understanding in response.

IV.

K - 12 Terminology List

Absolute Location	Absolute location refers to the exact position on Earth's surface as determined by using latitude and longitude or a specific street address. One can use absolute location to identify where a place is anywhere on the earth, e.g The White House: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue/ Latitude 42.128300, Longitude -71.110313.
Adversarial	In law, an adversarial system or adversary system is a legal system where two advocates represent the party, case, or position before an impartial person or group of people, usually a judge or jury, who attempts to determine the truth and pass judgment accordingly.
American Exceptionalism	American Exceptionalism is the theory that the United States is inherently different from other nations. This stems from its emergence from the American Revolution, becoming what the political scientist Seymour Martin Lipset called "the first new nation" and developing a uniquely American ideology, "Americanism". The term was originally coined by Joseph Stalin in 1929 in reference to the idea that America believed that it was different due to its geography, founding, and ideologies. President Reagan is generally credited with popularizing the idea that America is exceptional.

American Identity	American identity refers to an oft-shifting view of, “What makes someone American?” This has included ideas about language spoken, religion practiced, and other strictly-defined characteristics. However, it is now frequently referred to in broader terms about commitment to civic ideals, such as equality and freedom, and respect for diversity.
Artistic Expression	Artistic Expression gives voice to what we see and feel. It enables individuals to be able to communicate and connect to others by sharing a story. Artistic expression can be enjoyed in a variety of forms (i.e., painting and drawing, sculpting, drama, music, dance, writing, photography, etc.)
Assimilation	Assimilation in a society refers to the process in which a minority group or culture comes to resemble a society's majority group or assume the values, behaviors, and beliefs of another group, usually the majority group.
Belief	A belief is something that is accepted, considered to be true, or held as an opinion.
Belief System	A belief system is a set of principles or tenets which together form the basis of a religious, philosophical, moral or ethical code.
Bias	Bias generally refers to prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.
Business Cycle	The business cycle , also known as the economic cycles describes the ups and downs, or fluctuations, in an economy. More specifically, the term refers to the fluctuating levels of economic activity over a period of time measured from the beginning of one recession to the beginning of the next. The upward and downward movements indicate specific phases of the business cycle.
Character Trait	A character trait is a distinguishing quality or characteristic, typically one belonging to a person. Traits are formed by a person’s behavior and attitude to others.
Citizen	A citizen is a legally recognized subject or national of a state or commonwealth, either native or naturalized.

Citizenship	Citizenship describes the status of being a member of a state or country, one who promises allegiance to the nation and is entitled to its protection and to political rights.
Civic Participation	Civic participation refers to the involvement of everyday people in the political and public sphere directly or indirectly through civic action. Civic participation requires active engagement, which requires a combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes and actions to build a healthy society.
Civilization	A civilization is a complex human society that may have certain characteristics of cultural and technological development such as specialized workers, social classes, and an established government.
Colonization	Colonization refers to the act or process of an outside nation or entity establishing control over a geographic area and the indigenous people of that area for the benefit of the outside nation or entity.
Command Economy	A command economy is a system in which economic decisions are largely made by a central authority (e.g., feudal lord, communism); also called a planned economy.
Community	Community refers to an area or place where a group of people live, work, or learn under the governance of a town, city, district, or school. These groups often have commonalities such as norms, religion, values, customs, or identity.
Competing Narrative	Competing narratives are stories which conflict, contradict, or compete with each other's explanations of connections, change, and consequences of events, decisions, policies, laws, etc.
Consumer	A consumer is a person who buys goods and services to satisfy their wants and needs.
Credit	Credit is the ability of a consumer to obtain financing necessary to purchase goods or services before payment, based on an agreement to pay later.
Creditworthiness	Creditworthiness refers to the level of confidence a lender has in awarding financial credit to a person or company, often based on their payment history reliability.

Cultural Diffusion	Cultural diffusion describes the spread of language, values, beliefs, norms, practices, etc. to different cultures, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities. This spread can be among members of the same culture or to completely different cultures.
Cultural Practice	A cultural practice is a behavior, rite, or ritual that is performed by a specific ethnic or culturally-linked group.
Cultural Value	Culture Values are core beliefs and practices from which people operate. Each culture possesses its own particular values, traditions, and ideals.
Culture	Culture can be defined as the beliefs, values, and practices that are specific to a group of people and which are used to guide behavior of the group members as well as define the group's identity. There are five major elements of culture that exist in every culture - symbols, language, norms, beliefs, and values.
Debt	A debt is money owed to others. It is also the state or condition of owing money.
Debt Management	Debt management is a plan to get a debt under control through financial planning and budgeting.
Democratic Ideal	Democratic ideals refer to the fundamental principles of government that are believed to be essential to democratic life. Some examples of democratic ideals are limited government, consent of the governed, federalism, republicanism, checks and balances, separation of powers, etc.
Democratic Republic	A democratic republic is a government that is simultaneously a republic and a democracy. As a democracy the people have the authority to choose their government representatives. As a republic the government is ruled by government representatives who are elected directly or indirectly by the citizens of the nation. Supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives.
Demographic Shift	Demographic shift refers to the study of the statistical change over time of the population of people living in a place.

Digital Representation	Digital representation is defined as a graphic representation of information or images displayed or manipulated on computers or electronic devices.
Discrimination	Discrimination is made up of actions based on conscious or unconscious prejudice that favor one group over others in the provision of goods, services or opportunities.
Discriminatory Practice	A discriminatory practice is a policy or action that limits or denies access to or benefits from programs (public or private), or that generates or permits injustice or otherwise inequitable treatment of anyone on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, or sexual preference.
Disenfranchisement	Disenfranchisement is to deprive a person of certain rights of citizenship, such as voting rights; exclusion from certain occupations, especially positions of influence, exclusion from mainstream narratives, media, and public discourse.
Disposable Income	Disposable income is income remaining after deduction of taxes and other obligations , available to be spent, saved or gifted as one wishes.
Diverse	Diverse can be defined as including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.
Diversity	Diversity is having or being composed of a variety of different elements i.e. cultural and ethnic background, race, gender, values and beliefs, and socioeconomic status.
Division of Labor	Division of Labor is a method of organizing production whereby each worker or group of workers performs a specialized task or steps of a major production process (as when working on an assembly line) in order to increase efficiency.
Economic Decision	Economic decisions are decisions in which people, governments, businesses, etc. have to choose what to do in terms of needs, wants, and scarcity (limited resources).
Economic Decline	Economic Decline is a period of downturn (reduction) in general economic activity.

Economic Expansion	An economic expansion is an increase in the level of economic activity, and of the goods and services available in an economy or market. It is also used to refer to a period of economic growth as measured by a rise in real GDP.
Economic Growth	Economic Growth is an increase over time in an economy's output and ability to produce goods and services; usually measured as the annual rate of increase in a nation's real gross domestic product (GDP. <u>(RI)</u>)
Economic Mobility	Economic Mobility is the ability of an individual or family to improve their income, and social status, in an individual lifetime or between generations.
Economic Network	An economic network is a combination of individuals, groups or countries interacting for their own economic gain. The primary goal of the group in an economic network is to strengthen its position in a market.
Economic Retraction	Economic Retraction is a period of declining economic performance across an entire economy that lasts for several months.
Economic System	An economic system is a system involving the resource allocation, production, and distribution of goods and services within a region or society. There are four different types of economic systems: a traditional economy; a market economy; a command economy; and a mixed economy.
Empathy	Empathy can be defined as the capacity to understand or feel what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position.
Empire	Empire is defined as a major political unit having a territory of great extent or a number of territories or peoples under a single sovereign authority such as the Mongol Empire or the extent of territory controlled by Han China.
Entrepreneur	An entrepreneur is an individual who creates a new business, bearing most of the risks and enjoying most of the rewards. The entrepreneur is commonly seen as an innovator, a source of new ideas, goods, services, and business/or procedures.

Entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurship refers to the activity of developing, organizing or promoting a business and risks losses for the possibility of financial gain.
Environmental Factor	Environmental factors include water, sunlight, oxygen, soil, temperature, and all plants and animals in an ecosystem. Environmental factors affect large groups that share common living or working spaces (i.e., neighborhoods, homes, workplace, forests).
Environmental Issue	Environmental issues are harmful effects of human activity on the biophysical environment. Examples of environmental issues include water pollution, natural disasters, human overpopulation, ocean trash, desertification, urban sprawl, etc.
Equality	Equality refers to all the members of a society, group, or family having the exact same resources, status, rights, and responsibilities. Equality occurs when things are the same (equal) and aims to ensure that everyone is given access to the same opportunities and is treated in the same way. Equality is NOT the same as equity.
Equilibrium Price	Equilibrium price is the market price at which the supply of an item equals the quantity demanded; market clearing price.
Equity	Equity is the effort to provide different levels of support based on an individual's or group's needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Working to achieve equity acknowledges unequal starting places and the need to correct the imbalance. While equality is about dividing resources into matching amounts, equity focuses on dividing resources proportionally to achieve a fair outcome for those involved. Equity is NOT the same thing as equality.
Ethnic Identity	Ethnic identity refers to the ethnic group with which an individual most closely associates. Ethnic identity refers to shared cultural characteristics such as language, ancestry, practices, and beliefs.
Ethnocentrism	Ethnocentrism is consciously or unconsciously privileging one's own ethnic group over others; assuming or judging other groups according to one's own group values.

Factor of Production	Factor of Production is a basic principle in economics which refers to the components needed to produce goods and services; includes human labor, capital, raw materials/natural resources, and entrepreneurship.
Federalism	Federalism is a system of government in which power is shared between a national government and various regional governments such as states or provinces.
Financial Decision	A financial decision is a decision related to choices about spending, saving, borrowing, budgeting, managing credit, investing, and planning.
Fiscal Policy	Fiscal policy is the means by which the national or state government adjusts its expenditures or tax revenues to promote full employment, price stability, and reasonable rates of economic growth.
Forced Migration	Forced migration is movement in which an element of coercion exists, such as movement of people due to political conflict, natural disaster or environmental hazard. Examples of forced migration can be refugees fleeing homelands, native peoples displaced from tribal lands, forced enslavement of groups for economic gain, people displaced by famine or due to natural, environmental, chemical or nuclear disasters.
Founding Principles of Government	The Founding Principles of Government are the fundamental truths, beliefs, and values that served as a guide for the design, purpose, and structure of a government. In the United States of America, these principles are the values that formed the basis of the rules, laws, and functions established in the Constitution.
Fraud	Fraud is a wrongful or criminal deception intended to manipulate a person for the purpose of gain, usually financial.
Function of Government	A government is an institution through which leaders exercise power to make and enforce laws. Some of the basic functions of government include providing leadership, maintaining order, providing public services, and providing national security.

Genocide	Genocide is defined as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. It includes the killing of its members, inflicting bodily or mental harm, deliberately imposing living conditions that seek to bring about its physical destruction, preventing births, or forcibly transferring children out of the group.
Geographic Data	Geographic data is data that characterizes objects, events, or phenomena that are located or have occurred at a certain location on the surface of the earth. The location may be static (e.g., the location of a road, an earthquake event, children living in poverty), or dynamic (e.g., Antarctic ice movement, coastal erosion, the spread of an infectious disease).
Geographic Expansion	Geographic Expansion refers to the increase or acquisition of land and territory.
Geographic Feature	Geographic features refer to the physical features of the earth, natural (e.g., landforms and ecosystems) or artificial (e.g., cities).
Geographic Representation	Geographic representation refers to a representation of some part of the Earth's surface or near the surface, at scales ranging from the architectural to the global. Geographic Representation consists primarily of maps and also includes globes, graphs, diagrams, aerial and other photographs, and satellite-produced images.
Geographic Tools	Geographic tools refer to a set of specialized tools geographers use to describe, understand, and explain the structure and features of the Earth. The geographic tools commonly used are maps, globes, atlases, aerial photographs, satellite photographs, information graphics, and GIS (Geographic Information System) which is a computer-based program used to store, manage, and analyze data.
Geopolitical	Geopolitical refers to the effects of geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations.
Geopolitics	Geopolitics is the study of the effects of geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations. Geopolitics focuses on political power linked to geographic space.

Global Issue	A global issue is any issue that adversely affects the entire world as a community, such as environmental issues, political crisis, social issues and economic crisis. Global issues are not the same as international affairs. However, they do arise from growing international interdependencies and can disrupt economic and social progress.
Globalization	Globalization refers to the acceleration of movements, exchanges, and the growing interdependence of human beings, resources, goods, services, technologies, and cultural practices all over the planet.
Government Regulation	Government Regulations are laws and policies that control the way that a business can operate, the way individuals respond and can impact market outcomes.
Governmental System	A governmental system is a coordinated set of principles, laws, ideas, and procedures relating to a particular form of government, or the form of government itself.
Historical Narrative	Historical Narrative is an account, report or story of events or experiences that is based on factual evidence from the past.
Historical Symbol	A historical symbol is an object of historic significance dating from or preserved from a past time or culture. A historical symbol conveys meaning or an idea about the past in visual form.
Human Characteristic	The “ human characteristics of a place” pertain to those features of a place that are the result of human activity. Places vary in the nature of their populations, their population densities, the ethnic makeup of the people, the languages most commonly found, the dominant religions, and the forms of economic, social, and political organization.
Human Geography	Human Geography is the branch of geography dealing with how human activity affects or is influenced by the earth's surface. Human geography concentrates on the spatial organization and processes shaping the lives and activities of people, and their interactions with places and nature.

Human Right	Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings – they are not granted by any state or government. Human rights are universal and are inherent to all people, regardless of nationality, color, religion, language, or gender, national, ethnic, or tribal origin, or any other status. Human rights range from the most fundamental – the right to life – to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty.
Identity	Identity is an awareness of one’s own values, attitudes, and the characteristics that define a person as an individual and as a member of different groups. It is the way an individual views themselves as well as how they are viewed by others. Some examples of types of identity may include religious, gender, ethnic, racial, regional, socio-economic, educational, and ability. Identity can also refer to a person’s sense of belonging to a particular group, state or nation.
Imperialism	Imperialism is the practice of a larger country or government taking over weaker countries, territories, or spheres of influence that have important resources. It is a policy or ideology of extending the rule over people and other countries by exerting power, especially military force.
Incentive	An incentive is a factor that motivates people to respond in predictable ways.
Indigenous	Indigenous refers to originating or occurring naturally in an area, region, or environment e.g., indigenous plants, indigenous culture, or the indigenous populations of a country. Some examples may include the indigenous peoples of Siberia or the indigenous people of southwest North America. It is important to note that indigenous people can sometimes be identified in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their historical ties to a particular territory, and their cultural or historical distinctiveness from other populations that are often politically dominant.
Individual Rights	Individual rights are guaranteed freedoms people have without interference from the government or other individuals. In the United States these rights are derived from the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution.

Individualism	Individualism is the principle or habit of or belief in independent thought or action. It also refers to the pursuit of individual rather than common or collective interests; egoism; individual character; individuality; self-reliance.
Inequity	Inequity refers to lack of justice; unfair differences. Inequity should not be confused with inequality, which refers to the uneven distribution of justice and fairness. Inequity can refer to resources, access, justice, etc.
Injustice	Injustice refers to the absence of justice. The quality of being unjust or unfair. It can involve the violation of rights, unfair action or treatment, or unjust acts and wrongdoing.
Innovation	Innovation refers to the introduction of something new. A new idea, method, device, etc. Innovation can impact the way of doing things, often making a more effective process, method, or product.
Interdependence	Interdependence refers to the dependence between two or more people, groups, or things; for example, the dependence of one country's economy on the growth and stability of another country's economy.
Interest Rate	Interest rate is expressed as a percentage used to calculate the amount paid for borrowing money or the amount earned for saving money.
Intergovernmental	Intergovernmental means existing or occurring between two or more governments or levels of government, e.g., the relationship between municipal and state government.
Intolerance	Intolerance is an unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, respect others' opinions, way of life, point of view, or behavior that differ from one's own.
Investing	Investing is the act of making a purchase with the expectation that the item purchased will increase in value to be sold later at a profit. Some examples include stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, precious metals, market accounts, index funds, and education.

Jurisdiction	Jurisdiction is the authority granted to a legal body to administer justice, as defined by the kind of case, and the location of the issue. In the United States, areas of jurisdiction apply to local, state, and federal levels. In the United States, the judicial branch of government has three types of jurisdictions: original; appellate; and exclusive.
Landform	Landform is a natural feature on the surface of the earth, such as a plain, mountain, hill, valley, plateau, river, island, etc.
Legal System	A legal system can be described as the set of laws of a country and the ways in which they are interpreted and enforced.
Local	Local can be defined as relating to the characteristic of a particular space or place. Local, in context, refers to proximity and can refer to something as small as a neighborhood, community, town, etc.
Local Government	Local government can be described as a government that generally includes two tiers: counties, also known as boroughs and parishes, and municipalities, or cities/towns. Some examples of local government are cities, towns, boroughs, villages, and townships and are generally organized around a population center. Local governments generally take responsibility for parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, municipal courts, transportation services (including public transportation), and public works (streets, sewers, snow removal, signage, and so forth).
Macroeconomic Indicator	A macroeconomic indicator is made up of fundamental data, statistics or readings that reflect the production or output of an economy, government, or business sector.
Macroeconomics	Macroeconomics is the study of economics concerned with the economy as a whole, involving gross domestic product, unemployment, cost of living, aggregate demand, aggregate supply, and monetary and fiscal policy.
Marginalize	Marginalize means to treat (a person, group, or concept) as insignificant or peripheral.

Market Economy	A market economy is an economic system where prices are determined by and most goods and services are exchanged through transactions between buyers and sellers in private markets, and where major decisions about production and distribution are based on supply and demand.
Microeconomics	Microeconomics is the study of the behaviors and decisions made by consumers (e.g., individuals, households, firms) and how these behaviors and decisions interact to form the prices of goods and services (e.g., market prices) and the factors of production.
Mixed Economy	A mixed economy is an economic system that contains elements of a market economy along with elements of a command and/or traditional economy, resulting in a system in which decisions are made and the economy directed by markets (through the actions of private parties), government, and tradition.
Monetary Policy	A monetary policy consists of changes in the supply of money and the availability of credit, initiated by a nation's central bank (in the United States, by the Fed) to promote price stability, full employment and economic growth.
Mortgage	A mortgage is a special type of loan for the purchase of a house or other real estate.
Multiple Causation	Multiple Causation is the view that events, including behaviors, seldom result from single causes but instead from multiple causes working in complex combinations. As a historical thinking skill it requires students to identify and analyze cause and effect relationships.
National Symbol	A national symbol is a representation or object that over time has come to be closely identified with a country or entity.
Naturalization	Naturalization is the legal act or process by which a non-citizen of a country may acquire citizenship or nationality. It may be done automatically by a statute, i.e., without any effort on the part of the individual, or it may involve an application or a motion and approval by legal authorities.

Norm	Norms can be described as representations of acceptable social behavior or conduct that is typical or expected of a group or individual.
Opportunity Cost	Opportunity cost represents the potential benefits an individual, investor, or business <i>misses out on</i> when choosing one alternative over another.
Oppression	Oppression is the malicious or unjust treatment or exercise of power, often under the guise of governmental authority or cultural condemnation or scorn. It may be overt or covert.
Perspective	Perspective refers to the way a person sees something. A particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view.
Philanthropy	Philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to charitable causes.
Physical Characteristic	A physical characteristic describes the natural environment of a place and refers to such features as landforms, water bodies, climate, soils, natural resources, minerals, and animal life.
Population Distribution	Population distribution is a term that is used to describe how people are spread across a specific area. In other words, population distribution shows where people live. Population distribution can be measured across the entire world or a smaller region within a country or continent.
Post-Secondary Education	Post-Secondary Education is any additional education which takes place following graduation from high school.
Prejudice	Prejudice is a preconceived judgment about a person or group of people, usually indicating negative bias.
Price Level	Price level is the weighted average of the prices of all goods and services in an economy; used to calculate inflation.

Primary Source	A primary source is a first-hand account of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with the event or account. Examples of primary sources are original documents, eyewitness accounts of an event, perhaps found in a letter, journal, or diary, documents, government records, original artifacts, photographs of people, texts of speeches, etc.
Principles of Democracy	Principles of Democracy refer to the basic understandings upon which the government of the United States is founded. The basic principles of democracy include popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, individual rights.
Privilege	Privilege is a benefit, advantage, or entitlement enjoyed by an individual or group beyond what is available to others.
Production	Production refers to the act of making or manufacturing goods from components or raw materials.
Push-Pull Factors	Push-Pull factors are a part of the study of movement and migration. <u>Push factors</u> are those that encourage an individual or population to leave an area or place. <u>Pull factors</u> are those that draw an individual or population to another area or place.
Quality of Life	Quality of life is the degree to which an individual is healthy, comfortable, and able to participate in or enjoy life events. ... Within the arena of health care, quality of life is viewed as multidimensional, encompassing emotional, physical, material, economic, and social well-being.
Racism	Racism can be defined as a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. The concept of racism is widely thought of as simply personal prejudice, but in fact, it is a complex system of racial hierarchies and inequities. At the micro level of racism, or individual level, are internalized and interpersonal racism. At the macro level of racism, we look beyond the individuals to the broader dynamics, including institutional and structural racism.

Rebellion	A rebellion is an armed resistance to an established government or ruler. It is a prolonged, usually violent, attempt to change government.
Reconcentration	Reconcentration is the action or policy of moving people, explicitly or surreptitiously, into a certain geographic area, or keeping them out of certain geographic areas.
Reform	A reform refers to the act of making changes in or improvements to what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory, etc. in order to improve it.
Region	A region is an area with one or more unifying characteristics or features that make it distinct from other areas. Distinction may be markedly different or more subtle. Regions can be defined by physical, human, and functional characteristics. (New York)
Relative Location	Relative location refers to the position of a place or thing based on its location with respect to other locations. For example, the location of the US Capitol is located about 38 miles southwest of Baltimore.
Resilience	Resilience is the ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change.
Resistance	Resistance refers to the refusal to accept or comply with something; the act or power of opposing or withstanding. Noncooperation or noncompliance with the laws or directives of an authority, particularly of a government or occupying power, as a form of protest against injustice.
Revolution	A revolution is defined as a sudden, radical, or complete change.
Scarcity	Scarcity is the basic principle in the study of economics; principle that most resources are available in limited amounts.
Secondary Source	A secondary source is a summary or interpretation of original artifacts, events, or accounts created by someone who did not experience them first-hand or participate in the events or conditions that are being read, summarized, or interpreted. Examples can include history monographs, journal articles, and textbooks.

Secular	Secular refers to worldly things or things that are not regarded as religious, spiritual, or sacred.
Segregation	Segregation is a practice or system that keeps different groups or individuals separate from each other, either through physical dividers or with social pressures and laws. Segregation can be de facto (based on circumstances or custom) or de jure (based on law).
Settlement Pattern	Settlement pattern describes the influence of physical and human geography on where and how people choose to inhabit a place, e.g early civilizations along riverbanks or enclaves of expats in a foreign country.
Slavery	Slavery can be defined as the state of being under the control of someone when a person is owned by another person; forced into being the property of another. Slavery is a condition under which the enslaved is forbidden to quit their position of servitude to another and is treated like property (chattel slavery).
Social Justice	Social justice is the objective of creating a fair and equal society in which each individual and their rights are important. The goal is that every individual is recognized, respected, protected, and decisions are made in ways that are fair and honest.
Social Movement	A social movement is an organized effort by a group of people to achieve a goal or reform, typically a social or political one.
Social Structure	Social structure is the patterned social arrangements in society. Examples of social structure include family, religion, law, economy, class, etc.
Society	A society is a body of individuals living as members of a community, nation, or broad group that share common traditions, institutions, and collective activities and interests.
Sovereignty	Sovereignty is the full right and power of a governing body over itself, without any interference from outside sources or bodies.

Specialization	Specialization refers to a form of division of labor in which each individual or firm concentrates its productive efforts on a single or limited number of activities to gain a greater degree of efficiency.
Status	Status refers to the social or professional position, condition, or standing to which varying degrees of responsibility, privilege, and esteem are attached.
Stereotype	A stereotype is an over-generalized belief, opinion, or prejudiced attitude about a particular group or category of people; or about what someone or something is like.
Structure of Government	Structure of Government refers to the organization of governing bodies which represent the systems that function to create, enforce, and adjudicate laws and policies. Each structure operates within its own system of power and provides checks and balances to other structures.
Supply and Demand	Supply and Demand is defined as the relationship between the amount of a resource or product that is available to sell at a certain price (supply) and the amount that consumers are willing to pay to buy that resource or product (demand).
Territory	Territory is land that a person or government protects from intruders or outsiders. Some territories have defined boundaries like those of a nation, province, or city, while others, like a neighborhood or local community may not.
Topography	Topography is defined as an arrangement of the natural and artificial features of an area or representation on a map of those features.
Tradition	Tradition is the passing down of a cultural practice or customary pattern of thought from one generation to the next; a continuing pattern of culture, beliefs, or practices.
Traditional Economy	A traditional economy is an economy in which customs and habits from the past are used to resolve most economic issues of production and distribution.

Turning Point	A turning point is a point at which a decisive change takes place. A turning point in history is more than just an important event that happened. It is an idea, event or action that directly or indirectly causes a change in the course, direction, or path in which something was heading. The change could be social or cultural, altering a society's way of thinking or behaving. The change could be political, leading to new legislation or to a new government. The change could also be economic, affecting how goods are produced or bought and sold.
Two-Party System	Two-party system refers to a political system in which two major political parties dominate the political landscape.
Value	A value is an ideal or principle that determines what is correct, acceptable, desirable, or morally proper based on an individual or a group.
Voluntary Migration	Voluntary migration refers to a person's decision to freely relocate from one place and settle in another.
Voter Suppression	Voter Suppression is an attempt to prevent eligible people from voting. The attempt may be made by an official, individual, or group.
Wealth	Wealth measures the value of all the assets of worth owned by a person, community, company, or country. Essentially, wealth is the accumulation of scarce resources.
Xenophobia	Xenophobia is the unreasonable fear or dislike of things, cultures, forms of expression, or people that are different from oneself and one's own experiences of the everyday; fear of that which seems foreign or strange.

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