

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)
- alluvial plain** area that is built up by rich fertile soil left by river floods (p. 517)
- altiplano** large highland plateau (p. 271)
- altitude** height above sea level (pp. 193, 243)
- apartheid** system of laws that separated racial and ethnic groups and limited the rights of blacks in South Africa (p. 606)
- aquifer** underground rock layer that water flows through (pp. 50, 490)
- archipelago** group of islands (pp. 219, 690)
- artifact** object made by early people (p. 27)
- atmosphere** layer of air surrounding the earth (p. 30)
- atoll** low-lying, ring-shaped island that surrounds a lagoon (pp. 654, 760)
- autobahn** superhighway (p. 351)
- autonomy** self-government (pp. 168, 583)
- 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 (pp. 220, 560)
- bazaar** marketplace (p. 488)
- bedouins** nomadic desert peoples of Southwest Asia (p. 505)
- 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)
- Boers** name for the Dutch who were the first European settlers in South Africa (p. 605)
- bog** low swampy land (pp. 342, 368)
- boomerang** Australian weapon that is flat, bent, and made of wood that either strikes a target or curves and sails back to the person who threw it (p. 738)
- bush** rural areas of Australia (p. 739)

C

- cacao** tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate and cocoa (pp. 552, 759)
- caliph** successor to Muhammad (p. 514)
- calligraphy** art of beautiful writing (p. 670)
- campesino** Colombian farmer (p. 257)
- canopy** umbrella-like covering formed by the tops of trees in a rain forest (pp. 214, 571)
- cardinal directions** basic directions on the earth: north, south, east, west (p. 8)
- cartographer** person who makes maps (p. 6)
- casbah** older section of Algerian cities (p. 492)
- cash crop** product grown to be sold for export (pp. 256, 438)
- cassava** plant with roots that can be ground into flour to make bread or porridge (p. 578)
- caste** social class based on a person's ancestry (p. 640)
- 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)
- city-state** city and its surrounding countryside (p. 467)
- civilizations** highly developed cultures (pp. 84, 466)
- civil war** fight among different groups within a country (pp. 492, 554, 710)
- clan** group of people related to one another (pp. 590, 693)
- 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, 663)

compound group of houses surrounded by walls (p. 553)

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 (pp. 342, 493, 694)

consul elected chief official of the Roman Republic (p. 296)

consumer goods household products, clothing, and other goods people buy to use for themselves (pp. 378, 663)

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)

copper belt large area of copper mines in northern Zambia (p. 610)

copra dried coconut meat, which is used to make margarine, soap, and other products (p. 759)

coral reef structure at or near the water's surface formed by the skeletons of small sea animals (pp. 129, 577, 736)

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 (pp. 315, 639)

covenant agreement (p. 473)

crevasse deep crack in the Antarctic ice cap (p. 764)

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)

cuneiform Sumerian writing system using wedge-shaped symbols pressed into clay tablets (p. 467)

current moving streams of water in the world's oceans (p. 56)

cyclone intense storm system with heavy rain and high winds (pp. 617, 646)

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, 574, 709)

delta area formed from a soil deposit located at the mouth of a river (pp. 42, 469, 646)

democracy government in which leaders rule with consent of the citizens (pp. 83, 294, 429)

desalinization process used to make seawater drinkable (p. 514)

desertification process by which grasslands change to desert (p. 557)

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 (pp. 83, 491)

dike high banks of soil built along rivers to control floods (p. 662)

disciple follower of a specific teacher (p. 475)

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 (pp. 55, 556)

dry farming method in which the land is left unplanted every few years so that it can store moisture (p. 358)

dynasty line of rulers from the same family (p. 666)

dzong Buddhist center of prayer and study in Bhutan (p. 651)

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 (pp. 215, 581)

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 (pp. 222, 518)
emigrate to move to another country (p. 91)
emperor absolute ruler of an empire (p. 296)
empire group of lands under one ruler (pp. 267, 468, 680)
enclave small territory entirely surrounded by a larger territory (p. 607)
endangered species plant or animal under the threat of completely dying out (p. 584)
environment natural surroundings (p. 24)
equinox day when day and night are of equal length in both hemispheres (p. 32)
erg huge area of shifting sand dunes in the Sahara (p. 492)
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)
exclave small part of a country that is separated from the main part (p. 614)
exile inability to live in one's own country because of political beliefs (p. 669)
export to trade goods to other countries (p. 95)

F

famine lack of food (pp. 88, 701)
fault crack in the earth's crust (pp. 37, 438, 662)
favela slum area (p. 234)
federal republic government divided between national and state powers (pp. 147, 204, 351, 429)
fellahin farmers in Egypt who live in villages and work on small plots of land that they rent from landowners (p. 488)
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)
five pillars of faith basic religious obligations of Islam (p. 477)
fjord steep-sided valley cut into mountains by the action of glaciers (pp. 354, 742)
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, 578)
free market economy see *free enterprise system* (p. 424)
free port place where goods can be unloaded, stored, and shipped again without needing to pay any import taxes (p. 716)
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 (pp. 317, 585)
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 (pp. 357, 743)
geyser spring of water heated by molten rock inside the earth so that, from time to time, it shoots hot water into the air (pp. 357, 741)
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)
green revolution great increase in food grains production due to the use of improved seeds, pesticides, and efficient farming techniques (p. 639)
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

habitat type of environment in which a particular animal species lives (p. 580)

- hacienda** large ranch (p. 199)
- hajj** religious journey to Makkah that Muslims are expected to make at least once during their lifetime if they are able to do so (p. 477)
- harmattan** dry, dusty wind that blows south from the Sahara (p. 551)
- 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 (pp. 198, 471)
- high island** Pacific island formed by volcanic activity (p. 760)
- high-technology industry** industry that produces computers and other kinds of electronic equipment (p. 678)
- Holocaust** systematic murder of more than 6 million European Jews and 6 million others by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis during World War II (pp. 317, 511)
- human resources** supply of people who can produce goods (p. 314)
- human rights** basic freedoms and rights that all people should enjoy (p. 669)
- 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 (pp. 242, 571, 743)



- iceberg** chunk of a glacier that has broken away and floats free in the ocean (p. 765)
- ice shelf** layer of ice above water in Antarctica (p. 765)
- 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)
- industrialized country** country in which a great deal of manufacturing occurs (p. 604)
- intensive cultivation** growing crops on every available piece of land (p. 693)
- 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)
- Islamic republic** government run by Muslim religious leaders (p. 519)
- 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)



- jade** shiny, usually green gemstone (p. 197)
- jute** plant fiber used for making rope, burlap bags, and carpet backing (p. 639)



- kibbutz** settlement in Israel where the people share property and produce goods (p. 510)
- krill** tiny, shrimplike animal that lives in waters off Antarctica and is food for many other creatures (p. 766)



- lagoon** shallow pool of water surrounded by reefs, sandbars, or atolls (p. 654)
- 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 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)
- low island** Pacific island formed of coral and having little vegetation (p. 760)

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)
- mangrove** tropical tree with roots that extend both above and beneath the water (p. 550)
- 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)
- manuka** small shrub of New Zealand (p. 741)
- 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)
- marsupial** mammal that carries its young in a pouch (p. 737)
- 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 (pp. 127, 694)
- meridian** see *longitude* (p. 5)
- messiah** in Judaism and Christianity, a savior sent by God (p. 475)
- 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)
- migrate** to move from one place to another (p. 504)
- 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)
- monotheism** belief in one God (p. 473)
- monsoon** seasonal wind that blows over a continent for months at a time (p. 639)
- moor** treeless, windy highland area with damp ground (p. 340)
- moshav** settlement in Israel where people share property but also own some private property (p. 510)
- mosque** place of worship for followers of Islam (pp. 380, 488)
- 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, 680)
- 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 (pp. 439, 485)
- 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)
- outback** inland regions of Australia (p. 737)
- overgraze** to allow livestock to strip areas so bare that plants cannot grow back (p. 556)
- ozone** type of oxygen that forms a layer in the atmosphere and protects all living things on the earth from certain harmful rays of the sun (p. 766)

P

- pagoda** many-storied Buddhist temple (p. 670)
- pampas** vast treeless, grass-covered plains of South America (p. 240)
- papyrus** Egyptian paper (p. 471)
- parallel** see *latitude* (pp. 5, 699)
- 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 (pp. 71, 640)
- pharaoh** ruler of ancient Egypt (p. 470)

phosphate mineral salt used in fertilizers (pp. 486, 560, 761)

pictograph graph in which small symbols represent quantities (p. 12)

pidgin language language formed by combining elements of several different languages (p. 760)

plain low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land (p. 40)

plantain kind of banana (p. 582)

plantation large farm that grows a single crop for sale (p. 194)

plate huge slab of rock that makes up the earth's crust (pp. 589, 714)

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)

poaching illegal hunting of protected animals (p. 577)

polder area of land reclaimed from the sea (p. 347)

polis Greek term for "city-state" (p. 294)

polytheism belief in more than one god (p. 467)

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)

precious gems valuable gemstones, such as rubies, sapphires, and jade (p. 709)

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)

prophet messenger of God (p. 474)

province regional political division similar to states (p. 158)

pyramid huge stone structure that served as an elaborate tomb or monument (p. 470)



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



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, 585)

reincarnation rebirth of a soul in a new body (p. 640)

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, 487)

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)



samurai powerful land-owning warriors in Japan (p. 693)

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 (pp. 62, 550)

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)

secular nonreligious (p. 492)

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)

shah title given to kings who ruled Iran (p. 519)

shogun military leader in early Japan (p. 693)

silt small particles of rich soil (p. 484)

sirocco hot, dry winds that blow across Italy from North Africa (p. 360)

sisal plant fiber used to make rope and twine (p. 580)

slash-and-burn farming method of clearing land for planting by cutting and burning forests (p. 616)

smog thick haze of fog and chemicals (p. 206)

- socialism** economic system in which most businesses are owned and run by the government (p. 709)
- 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)
- sorghum** tall grass with seeds that are used as grain and to make syrup (p. 610)
- spa** resort that has hot mineral springs that people bathe in to regain their health (p. 374)
- station** cattle or sheep ranch in Australia (p. 737)
- steppe** partly dry grassland often found on the edges of a desert (pp. 67, 383, 406, 438, 680)
- strait** narrow body of water between two pieces of land (pp. 42, 716)
- 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)
- subcontinent** large landmass that is part of another continent but distinct from it (p. 638)
- subsistence farm** small plot where a farmer grows only enough food to feed his own family (pp. 194, 552)
- 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)
- terraced field** strips of land cut out of a hillside like stair steps so the land can hold water and be used for farming (p. 717)
- textiles** woven cloth (p. 315)
- theocracy** form of government in which one individual ruled as both religious leader and king (p. 467)
- townships** crowded neighborhoods outside cities in South Africa where most nonwhites live (p. 607)
- trench** valley in the ocean floor (p. 41)
- tributary** small river that flows into a larger river (p. 645)
- Tropics** low-latitude region between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn (p. 53)

- trust territory** area temporarily placed under control of another nation (p. 761)
- tsetse fly** insect whose bite can kill cattle or humans with a deadly disease called sleeping sickness (p. 573)
- tsunami** huge sea wave caused by an earthquake on the ocean floor (pp. 36, 690)
- 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)

W

- wadi** dry riverbed filled by rainwater from rare downpours (p. 513)
- water cycle** process in which water moves from the oceans to the air to the ground and finally back to the oceans (p. 48)
- watershed** region drained by a river (p. 584)
- 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)

Y

- yurt** large circle-shaped tent made of animal skins that can be packed up and moved from place to place (p. 681)