

GLOSSARY

PRONUNCIATION KEY

| Symbol | Key Words |
|--------|---|
| a | asp, fat, parrot |
| ā | ape, date, play, break, fail |
| ă | ah, heart, father, cot |
| e | wealth, ten, berry |
| ē | even, meet, money, flea, grieve |
| i | is, hit, mirror |
| ī | ice, bite, high, sky |
| ō | open, tone, go, boat |
| ô | all, horn, law |
| oo | look, pull, moor, wolf |
| ōō | ooze, tool, crew, rule |
| yoo | cure, furious |
| yōō | cute, few, globule |
| oi | oil, point, toy |
| ou | out, crowd, plow |
| u | up, cut, color, flood |
| ur | urn, fur, deter, irk |
| ə | a as in ago e as in agent i as in sanity o as in comply u as in focus |
| ər | perhaps, murder |
| zh | azure, leisure, beige |
| ŋ | ring, anger, drink |

A

- abdicate** To surrender one's office, throne, or authority, pp. 423, 652
- Aborigine** (ab'ə rij'ə nē') An original inhabitant; one of the original inhabitants of Australia, p. 717
- absolute location** The position on the earth in which a place can be found, p. 39
- acid rain** Rain whose high concentration of chemicals, usually from industrial pollution, pollutes water, kills plant and animal life, and eats away at the surface of stone and rock; a form of chemical weathering, pp. 53, 382

- acupuncture** The ancient Chinese practice of inserting fine needles at specific body points to cure disease or to ease pain, p. 669
- aftershock** Tremor that occurs after an earthquake, p. 245
- agricultural revolution** The change from nomadic hunting and gathering to farming that took place about 8000 B.C., p. 438
- alluvial plain** A broad expanse of land along riverbanks, consisting of rich, fertile soil left by floods, p. 592
- altiplano** (al'ti plä'nō) A plateau region located in the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, p. 273
- anarchy** Political disorder and violence; lawlessness, p. 484
- ancestor worship** The belief that respecting and honoring one's ancestors will cause them to live on in the spirit world after death, p. 550
- animism** The religious belief that such things as the sky, rivers, and trees contain gods or spirits, p. 550
- annex** To formally incorporate into a country or state the territory of another, pp. 126, 407
- apartheid** (ə pār'tāt') Formerly in the Republic of South Africa, the policy of strict racial segregation, p. 575
- aqueduct** A large pipe or channel designed to transport water from a remote source over a long distance, p. 174
- archipelago** (är'kə pel'ə gō') A group of islands, p. 246
- artesian well** A well that is drilled deep enough to tap a layer of porous material filled with groundwater, p. 723
- atheism** The belief that God does not exist, p. 668
- atmosphere** The layer of gases, water vapor, and other substances above the earth, p. 45
- atoll** (a'tōl) A ring-shaped coral island surrounding a lagoon, p. 725
- authoritarian** Descriptive of a system of government in which the leaders hold all political power, p. 103
- autonomous region** A political unit with limited self-government, p. 664
- autonomy** independence, p. 456
- avalanche** A sudden fall of a mass of ice and snow, p. 245
- ayatollah** A religious leader among Shiite Muslims, p. 498

B

- balkanize** To break up into small, mutually hostile political units, as occurred in the Balkans after World War I, p. 398
- barbarian** A person without manners or civilized customs, p. 702

- barter** The exchange of goods without money, p. 559
- basin irrigation** In Egypt, a system by which water and silt were controlled by embankments and time-released to irrigate farmlands, p. 527
- bauxite** A mineral used in making aluminum, p. 268
- bayou** A marshy inlet or outlet of a lake or a river, p. 162
- bazaar** An open-air market; a street lined with shops and stalls, p. 524
- bedrock** The solid rock underlying the earth's surface, p. 184
- bioluminescence** The process by which some fish and other organisms give off light, p. 724
- biome** (bī'ōm) The term used to describe a major type of ecosystem that can be found in various regions throughout the world, p. 77
- biosphere** The world of plants, animals, and other living things in earth's land and waters, p. 45
- birthrate** The number of live births each year per 1,000 people, p. 89
- black market** The system of selling goods and services outside of official channels, p. 430
- blight** A plant disease, p. 316
- blizzard** A heavy snowfall accompanied by strong winds, p. 627
- bog** An area of wet, spongy ground, p. 310
- boycott** To refuse to purchase or use a product or service as an expression of disapproval, p. 608
- buffer** A protective zone between two countries, p. 672
- buffer state** A country that separates two hostile countries, p. 622
- bullet train** A high-speed train, p. 646

C

- campesino** (kām'pe sē'nō) In Latin America, a tenant farmer or farm worker, p. 270
- canal** An artificial waterway, p. 145
- canopy** The uppermost layer of a forest where tree branches meet, p. 210
- canton** A political division or state; one of the states in Switzerland, p. 342
- canyon** A deep valley with vertical sides that have been eroded by river water, p. 465
- capital** Wealth in the form of money or property owned or used in business, p. 529
- caravan** A large group of merchants who join together to travel in safety, p. 532
- carnivore** A meat-eating animal, pp. 81, 578
- cash crop** A farm crop grown for sale and profit, p. 229
- caste system** A social hierarchy in which a person possesses a distinct rank in society that is determined by birth, p. 614
- caudillo** A Latin American military dictator, p. 204
- cay** (kē) A small, low island or coral reef, p. 206
- cede** To transfer or give up, p. 126
- chaparral** A type of natural vegetation that is adapted to Mediterranean climates; small evergreen trees and low bushes, or scrub, pp. 80, 444, 512
- character of a place** The physical and human characteristics that help to distinguish a place from other places, p. 40
- charpoy** A wooden bed frame with knotted string in place of a mattress, p. 615
- chemical weathering** The process by which the actual chemical structure of rock is changed, usually when water and carbon dioxide cause a breakdown of the rock, p. 53
- chernozem** A rich topsoil found in the Russian steppes and other mid-latitude grasslands, pp. 417, 461
- civil war** A conflict between opposing groups of citizens of the same country, p. 126
- civilization** An advanced culture, p. 438
- climate** The term used for the weather patterns that an area typically experiences over a long period of time, p. 63
- cloud** A mass of tiny particles of water and dust floating in the atmosphere, p. 74
- collective farm** A government-owned farm managed by workers who share the profits from their produce, p. 395
- colonialism** The system by which countries set up colonies to secure sources of raw materials and markets for their products, p. 506
- colony** A territory separated from but subject to a ruling power, p. 126
- columnar rock** Volcanic rock that split into columns as lava cooled, p. 360
- command economy** An economic system that is controlled by a single central government, pp. 104, 216, 423
- commercial farming** The raising of crops and livestock for sale in markets, p. 116
- commercial industry** A large-scale manufacturing operation that employs many people and produces large quantities of goods, p. 117
- communism** A system of government in which the government controls the means of production, determining what goods will be made, how much workers will be paid, and how much items will cost, p. 372
- compulsory** Required, p. 300
- concession** A privilege or exemption granted by a government, p. 634
- confederation** A system of government in which individual political units keep their sovereignty but give limited power to a central government, pp. 102, 331
- coniferous** Cone-bearing; a type of tree able to survive long, cold winters, with long, thin needles rather than leaves, pp. 80, 198
- conquistador** Name for the Spanish explorers who claimed land in the Americas for Spain, p. 204
- continent** Any of the seven large landmasses of the earth's surface: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America, p. 45
- continental climate** The type of climate found in the great central areas of continents in the Northern Hemisphere; characterized by cold, snowy winters and warm or hot summers, p. 69

continental divide A boundary or area of high ground that separates rivers flowing toward opposite sides of a continent, p. 128

continental drift theory The idea that continents slowly shift their positions due to movement of the tectonic plates on which they ride, p. 47

convergence zone An area of severe storms where the frigid waters circulating around Antarctica meet the warmer waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans, p. 735

coral The rocklike skeletons of tiny sea animals, p. 206

coral island An island formed by the skeletal remains of tiny sea animals and the sand and sediment piling on top of them, p. 247

cordillera (*kôr'dil yer'ə*) A related set of separate mountain ranges, p. 270

core The earth's center, consisting of very hot metal that is dense and solid in the inner core and molten, or liquid, in the outer core, p. 44

cottage industry A small-scale manufacturing operation using little technology, often located in or near people's homes. pp. 116, 618

coup (*kōō*) The sudden overthrow of a ruler or government, often involving violent force or the threat of force, p. 548

crater lake A body of water that occupies a bowl-shaped depression around the opening of an extinct or dormant volcano, p. 361

crevasse (*krə vas'*) A deep crack in glacial ice, p. 735

crust The solid, rocky, surface layer of the earth, p. 44

cultural convergence The contact and interaction of one culture with another, pp. 97, 204

cultural diffusion The process by which people adopt the practices of their neighbors, p. 288

cultural divergence The restriction of a culture from outside influences, pp. 98, 316

culture The way of life that distinguishes a people, for example, government, language, religion, customs, and beliefs, p. 87

culture hearth A place in which important ideas begin and thereafter spread to surrounding cultures, p. 90

customs Fees charged by a government on imported goods, p. 193

cyclone A violent, rotating windstorm, p. 721

czar An emperor of Russia, p. 422

D

decentralize To transfer government power to smaller regions, p. 338

deciduous Leaf-shedding; a type of tree that sheds its leaves during one season, p. 79

deforestation The process of stripping the land of its trees, pp. 262, 544, 625

delta The land that forms at the mouth of some rivers by soil that is dropped as the river slows and enters the sea, p. 523

demilitarized zone A strip of land on which troops or weapons are not allowed, p. 694

democracy A system of government in which the people are invested with the power to choose their leaders and determine government policy, p. 103

desalination The process of removing salt from seawater so that it can be used for drinking and irrigation, pp. 448, 488

desertification The transformation of arable land into desert either naturally or through human intervention, pp. 463, 544

dialect A variation of a spoken language that is unique to a region or community, p. 329

dictatorship A system of government in which absolute power is held by a small group or one person, p. 103

diffusion The process by which a cultural element is transmitted from one group or individual to another, p. 97

dike An embankment of earth and rock built to hold back water, p. 337

diversify To increase the variety of, p. 408

doi moi The economic change begun by Vietnam in 1986, p. 710

domestication The process of training and breeding animals for use by humans, p. 372

double cropping In farming, growing more than one crop a year on the same land, p. 661

downsize To fire an employee in order to reduce costs, p. 691

drainage basin The entire area of land that is drained by a major river and its tributaries, p. 128

drip irrigation A process by which precisely controlled amounts of water drip directly onto plants from pipes, thus preserving precious water resources in dry areas, p. 476

dry farming A farming technique that leaves land unplanted every few years in order to gather moisture, p. 350

E

earthquake A shaking of the ground caused by sudden movements in the earth's crust, p. 244

ecosystem The interaction of plant life, animal life, and the physical environment in which they live, p. 77

ecotourism Tourism that encourages environmental awareness and has little effect on the ecosystem, p. 263

ejido (*e hē'dō*) Farmland owned collectively by members of a rural community, p. 229

El Niño A warm ocean current off South America's northwestern coast that influences global weather patterns, p. 208

embankment dam A wall of soil and rock to hold back water, p. 621

embargo A severe restriction of trade with other countries, p. 486

emigrant A person who leaves a country to live elsewhere, p. 89

enclave A country completely surrounded by another country, p. 580

entrepreneur A go-getter individual who starts and builds a business, p. 399

epicenter The point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake, p. 245

equinox Either of the two times each year (spring and fall) when day and night are of nearly equal length everywhere on earth, p. 65

erosion The movement of weathered materials, including gravel, soil, and sand, usually caused by water, wind, and glaciers, pp. 54, 464

escarpment A steep cliff that separates two level areas of differing elevations, pp. 255, 508

estuary The wide mouth of a river, where freshwater river currents meet salt water, p. 278

ethnic group People who share such things as culture, language, and religion, p. 380

ethnocracy A system of government in which one ethnic group rules over others, p. 571

Eurasia The name some geographers suggest should be used for the landmass of Europe and Asia, p. 374

euro The common currency used by member nations of the European Union, p. 298

exodus A mass migration from a region, p. 675

export An item that is sent out of the country for sale, p. 117

F

falaj system In the Arabian Peninsula, an ancient system of underground and surface canals, p. 492

fall line Imaginary line between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic coastal plain, where rivers and streams form waterfalls and rapids as they descend from higher elevations to the coastal plain, p. 163

favela A slum community in a Brazilian city, p. 256

federation A government structure in which some powers are given to the national government and other powers are reserved for more local governments, p. 102

fellaheen Egyptian peasants (sing. fellah), p. 523

fertile Able to produce abundantly, p. 305

Fertile Crescent A region in the Middle East where farming and the first civilizations developed, p. 482

fjord (fyōrd) A narrow valley or inlet from the sea, originally carved out by an advancing glacier and filled by melting glacial ice, p. 318

forage Food for grazing animals, p. 544

formal region A group of places that have similar attributes, for example, a political region, p. 41

fossil fuel Any one of several nonrenewable mineral resources formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals and used for fuel, p. 109

free enterprise An economic system that allows individuals to own, operate, and profit from their own businesses in an open, competitive market, p. 147

front The boundary between two masses of air that differ in density or temperature, p. 68

functional region A group of places connected by movement, for example, the region drained by the Amazon River and its tributaries, p. 41

fundamentalism A set of religious beliefs based on a strict interpretation of a sacred text, p. 461

G

gasohol A fuel mixture of gasoline and ethanol, p. 261

gaucho (gou'chō) A cowboy who herded cattle in the pampas of Argentina and Uruguay, p. 279

GDP per capita The total value of goods and services produced within a country in a year, divided by the country's total population, p. 216

genocide The systematic killing or intentional destruction of a people, p. 457

geography The study of the earth's surface and the processes that shape it, the connections between places, and the complex relationships between people and their environments, p. 35

geothermal energy Energy produced from the earth's intense interior heat, pp. 111, 319

geyser (gē'zər) A natural hot spring that shoots a column of water and steam into the air, p. 726

ghetto A section of a city in which a particular minority group is forced to live, p. 390

GIS A geographic information system, which uses computer technology to collect and analyze data about the earth's surface in order to solve geographic problems, p. 37

glacier A huge, slow-moving mass of snow and ice, pp. 56, 465

glasnost A policy of openness introduced in the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, p. 425

glen A narrow valley, p. 311

graben (grā'ban) A long, narrow area that has dropped between two faults, p. 362

grain elevator A tall building equipped with machinery for loading, cleaning, storing, and discharging grain, p. 169

grain exchange A place where grain is bought and sold as a commodity, p. 169

gross domestic product (GDP) The total value of goods and services produced within a county in a year, including the domestic output of foreign firms and excluding the output of domestic firms in foreign countries, p. 118

gross national product (GNP) The total value of a nation's goods and services, including the output of domestic firms in foreign countries and excluding the domestic output of foreign firms, p. 143

growing season In farming, the average number of days between the last frost of spring and the first frost of fall, p. 167

guerrilla (gə'rīl'ə) A member of an armed force that is not part of a regular army; relating to a form of warfare carried on by such an independent armed force, p. 241

H

hacienda (hā'sē en'də) A large Spanish-owned estate in the Americas, often run as a farm or a cattle ranch, p. 228

- harambee** A policy of cooperation adopted in Kenya after independence to encourage economic growth, p. 567
- hemisphere** A half of the earth; the Equator divides the Northern and Southern hemispheres; the Prime Meridian divides the Eastern and Western hemispheres, p. 39
- herbivore** A plant-eating animal, pp. 81, 578
- heterogeneity** A lack of similarity, p. 710
- hibernation** The dormant state in which an animal's bodily functions slow to a minimum, p. 199
- hierarchy** Rank according to function, p. 151
- hinterland** The area served by a metropolis, p. 151
- Holocaust** The execution of 6 million Jews in Nazi concentration camps during World War II, p. 390
- homogeneous** (hō' mō jē' nē əs) Having a similar nature; uniform in structure or quality, p. 685
- hub** A central point of concentrated activity and influence, p. 351
- humus** The organic material that results when plants and animals that live in the soil die and decay, pp. 167, 420
- hurricane** A destructive tropical storm that forms over the Atlantic Ocean, usually in late summer and early fall, with winds of at least 74 miles (119 km) per hour, p. 208
- hydroelectric power** Electricity that is generated by moving water, p. 620
- hydrosphere** The water contained in oceans, lakes, rivers, and under the ground, p. 45
- hydrothermal vent** A crack in the ocean floor from which hot, mineral-rich water gushes, p. 725
- I**
- ice shelf** A massive extension of glacial ice over the sea, often protruding hundreds of miles, p. 735
- ideogram** In written language, a character or symbol that represents an idea or thing, p. 667
- immigrant** A person who moves into a country, p. 89
- import** An item that is brought into the country for sale, p. 117
- Impressionism** A style of art where painters try to catch visual impressions made by color, light, and shadows, p. 329
- indigenous** Native to or living naturally in an area or environment, p. 704
- Industrial Revolution** The shift from human power to machine power, pp. 126, 288
- infant mortality** The number of children per 1,000 live births who die within the first year, p. 384
- inflation** A sharp, widespread rise in prices, p. 332
- infrastructure** The basic support facilities of a community or country, such as roads and bridges, power plants, and schools, pp. 245, 490
- inhabitable** Able to support permanent residents, p. 364
- inland delta** An area of lakes, creeks, and swamps away from the ocean, p. 545
- inland sea** A sea that is almost completely surrounded by land, p. 376
- insurgent** A person who rebels against his or her government, p. 706
- intensive farming** Farming that requires a great deal of labor, p. 644
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)** An agency of the United Nations that provides loans to countries for development projects, p. 553
- irrigation** The watering of farmland with water drawn from reservoirs or rivers, pp. 223, 621
- isthmus** (is'məs) A narrow strip of land having water on each side and joining two larger bodies of land, p. 237
- J**
- joint family system** In India, the custom of housing all members of an extended family together, p. 616
- K**
- krill** Small, shrimplike creatures; food for whales and fish, p. 735
- L**
- lagoon** A shallow body of water separated from the sea by coral reefs or sandbars, p. 720
- land degradation** Reduction in the productive potential of the land, p. 516
- land redistribution** A policy by which land is taken from those who own large amounts and redistributed to those who have little or none, pp. 229, 583
- landlocked** Almost or entirely surrounded by land; cut off from the sea, p. 544
- landslide** A sudden drop of a mass of land on a mountainside or hillside, p. 245
- latifundio** (lat'ə fun'dē ō) A large commercial farm owned by a private individual or a farming company, p. 229
- lava** Magma, or molten rock from the earth's mantle, that breaks through the surface of the earth during volcanic activity, p. 360
- leaching** The dissolving and washing away of nutrients in the soil, p. 516
- leeward** Facing away from the wind, p. 247
- life expectancy** The number of years an individual is expected to live as determined by statistics, p. 384
- light industry** The production of small consumer goods such as clothing and appliances, p. 657
- lignite** A soft, brownish-black coal, p. 334
- literacy** The ability to read and write, p. 134
- lithosphere** The surface features of the earth, including soil, rocks, and landforms, p. 45
- llano** A grassy plain, p. 269
- loam** Soil that is a mixture of clay, silt, and sand, p. 421

lock An enclosed section of a canal, in which a ship may be raised or lowered by raising or lowering the level of the water in that section, p. 183

loess (lō'es) Fine-grained, mineral-rich loam, dust, or silt deposited by the wind, p. 55

M

malnutrition Disease caused by a lack of food or an unbalanced diet, pp. 567, 623

mandate A commission from the League of Nations authorizing a nation to govern a territory, p. 471

mangrove A tropical tree that grows in swampy ground along coastal areas, p. 162

mantle A thick layer of mostly solid rock beneath the earth's crust that surrounds the earth's core, p. 44

maquiladora (mä kē'lā dô'r'ä) A factory in Mexico, along the United States border, that assembles goods for export, p. 231

maritime Bordering on or near the sea; relating to navigation or shipping, p. 181

market economy An economic system in which decisions about production, price, and other economic factors are determined by the law of supply and demand, pp. 104, 216

martial law The law administered during a period of strict military control, p. 658

maternal mortality The number of women who died due to pregnancy and childbirth complications per 100,000 live births, p. 384

mechanical weathering The actual breaking up or physical weakening of rock by forces such as ice and roots, p. 52

medina The old section of a North African city, usually centered around a mosque, p. 534

megalopolis (meg'ä läp'ä lis) A very large city; a region made up of several large cities and their surrounding areas, considered to be a single urban complex, p. 159

mercenary A professional soldier hired by a foreign country, p. 558

mestizo (me stē'zō) A person of mixed European and Native American heritage, p. 212

metropolitan area A major city and its surrounding suburbs, p. 148

migrant worker A worker who travels from place to place, working where extra help is needed to cultivate or harvest crops, p. 229

militarism The glorification of the military and a readiness for war, p. 689

militia A citizen army, p. 484

minaret A tall, slender tower attached to a mosque, p. 446

mixed economy A system combining different degrees of government regulation, pp. 105, 320

monarchy A system of authoritarian government headed by a monarch—a king, queen, shah, or sultan—whose position is usually inherited, p. 103

monotheism The belief in one God, p. 438

monsoon A seasonal shift in the prevailing winds that influences large climate regions, p. 594

moor Broad, treeless, rolling land, often poorly drained and having patches of marsh and peat bog, p. 310

moraine (mä rān') A ridgelike mass of rock, gravel, sand, and clay carried and deposited by a glacier, p. 56

mosque An Islamic place of religious worship, p. 446

muezzin (myōō ez'in) In Islam, a crier who calls the faithful to prayer five times each day from a minaret, p. 446

mulatto (mä lä'tō) A person of mixed African and European ancestry, pp. 212, 268

multiethnic Composed of many ethnic groups, p. 380

multiplier effect The effect an investment has in multiplying related jobs throughout the economy, p. 399

N

NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement, which phased out trade barriers among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, pp. 194, 230

national identity A people's sense of what makes them a nation, p. 389

nationalism Pride in one's nation; the desire of a cultural group to rule themselves as a separate nation, pp. 457, 607

nationalize To bring a business under state control, p. 330

natural resource A material in the natural environment that people value and use to satisfy their needs, p. 109

navigable Deep and wide enough to allow the passage of ships, p. 349

neutral Not taking sides in a war, p. 342

nomad A person who travels from place to place, p. 448

nomadic herding The practice of moving flocks to different pastures throughout the year, p. 516

nonaligned nation A nation that adopted neutrality during the Cold War, p. 590

nonrenewable resource A natural resource that cannot be replaced once it is used, p. 109

nonviolent resistance The policy of opposing an enemy or oppressor by any means other than violence, p. 608

nuclear energy A type of energy produced by fission—the splitting of uranium atoms in a nuclear reactor, releasing stored energy, p. 111

O

oral history History passed down by word of mouth, p. 514

ore A rocky material containing a valuable mineral, p. 308

organic matter Matter derived from living plants and animals and their remains, p. 420

outback Remote, sparsely settled, arid, rural country, especially the central and western plains and plateaus of Australia, p. 721

ozone layer A band of ozone gas in the atmosphere that absorbs the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, p. 75

P

pack ice Floating sea ice formed by a mix of icebergs with other ice formed in superchilled ocean waters, p. 735

paddy Irrigated or flooded land on which rice is grown, p. 703

pampas A grasslands region in Argentina and Uruguay, pp. 206, 279, 578

páramo (par 'á mo') A plateau in the Andes of Ecuador, p. 273

partition A division into separate parts, p. 609

peat Spongy material containing waterlogged and decaying mosses and plants, sometimes dried and used as fuel, p. 315

peninsula A strip of land that juts out into an ocean, p. 221

per capita Per person, p. 138

perception A viewpoint that is influenced by one's own culture and experiences, p. 41

perceptual region A group of places that is defined by people's feelings and attitudes, p. 41

perennial irrigation An irrigation system that provides necessary water to the land throughout the year, p. 527

perestroika (pər'ə stroi'kə) In the former Soviet Union, a policy of economic restructuring, p. 425

perishable good A product that does not stay fresh for long, p. 343

permafrost A layer of soil just below the earth's surface that stays permanently frozen, pp. 82, 418

photosynthesis The process by which plants make food from carbon dioxide and release oxygen, p. 74

pedmont A region of rolling foothills, p. 278

plankton Microscopic floating organisms, p. 724

plantation A large estate farmed by many workers, p. 260

plateau An area of high, flat land, pp. 221, 508

plate tectonics The theory that the earth's outer shell is composed of a number of large, unanchored plates, or slabs of rock, whose constant movement explains earthquakes and volcanic activity, p. 46

plume A very hot spot in the earth's mantle, p. 361

poaching Illegal hunting, p. 444

polder An area of low-lying land that has been reclaimed from the sea, p. 337

population density The average number of people living in a given area, pp. 87, 518

potash (pāt'ash') A mineral used in explosives and fertilizer, p. 476

prairie A temperate grassland characterized by a great variety of grasses, pp. 81, 578

precipitation All the forms of water that fall to earth from the atmosphere, including rain and snow, p. 67

predator An animal that feeds upon other animals, p. 198

prevailing westerlies The constant flow of air from west to east in the temperate zones of the earth, p. 292

primary economic activity An economic activity that takes or uses natural resources directly, such as fishing or mining, p. 115

privatization The process of selling government-owned industries and businesses to private owners, p. 394

proliferation An increase in the number of something, p. 696

protectorate An area that has its own government but is controlled by an outside power, p. 438

province A territory governed as a political division of a country, p. 181

provisional government A temporary government pending permanent arrangements, p. 672

pardah (pər'də) The practice among Hindu and Muslim women of covering the face with a veil when outside the home, p. 616

pyrethrum A pesticide produced from certain flowers, p. 567

Q

quaternary economic activity An economic activity that focuses on the acquisition, processing, and sharing of information, such as education or research, p. 117

quota A fixed quantity, p. 692

R

rain shadow An area of reduced rainfall on the leeward side of high mountains, pp. 68, 130

recession An extended decline in business activity, p. 330

refugee A person who flees his or her country to escape danger or unfair treatment, p. 544

regolith Weathered rock, p. 420

reincarnation The belief that the soul of a human being or animal goes through a series of births, deaths, and rebirths, p. 614

relative location The position of a place in relation to another place, p. 39

relief The differences in elevation, or height, of the landforms in any particular area, p. 45

Renaissance The revival of art, literature, and learning that took place in Europe during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, pp. 288, 357

renewable resource A natural resource that the environment continues to supply or replace as it is used, p. 109

reparation Money paid for war damages, p. 332

reservoir A natural or artificial lake used to collect water for human needs, p. 527

revolution One complete orbit of the earth around the sun. The earth completes one revolution every 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days, or one year, p. 64

Ring of Fire A ring of volcanic mountains surrounding the Pacific Ocean, p. 49
rotation The spinning motion of the earth, like a top on its axis, as it travels through space, p. 64
ruble The currency of Russia, p. 430
rural Of, or characteristic of, the countryside, p. 90

S

Sahel The region in Africa just south of the Sahara, p. 506
sanction An action taken by the international community to punish a country for unacceptable behaviors, p. 575
sandstorm A windstorm that blows hot air, dust, and grit, p. 524
sari A brightly colored cloth, worn by many Indian women, that is draped over the body like a long dress, p. 616
savanna A tropical grassland with scattered trees, located in the warm lands near the Equator, pp. 81, 512, 578
scavenger An animal that eats the remains of animals that have died or been killed, p. 579
sea stack A pillar of rock formed over time by wave action and erosion, p. 465
secede To withdraw formally from membership in a political or religious organization, p. 191
secondary economic activity An economic activity in which people use raw materials to produce or manufacture new products of greater value, p. 116
secular Worldly, not relating to religion, p. 497
sediment Particles of soil, sand, and gravel carried and deposited by wind or water, pp. 54, 464
segregation The separation of the races, p. 575
seismic activity Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, p. 354
seismic wave Vibration caused by movement of tectonic plates, p. 245
seismograph An instrument that measures and records movement in the earth's crust, p. 682
self-determination The right of a people to decide their own political future, p. 472
selva (sel'və) A forested region in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, p. 273
separatism A movement to win political, religious, or ethnic independence from another group, p. 190
sertão (ser tī ō) An interior plateau in Brazil with poor soil and uncertain rain, p. 255
shah The title of the former ruler of Iran, p. 498
shifting agriculture The practice of farming a site until the soil is exhausted, then moving on to a new site, p. 543
sinkhole A hole formed when limestone is dissolved, causing the land above to collapse, p. 224
sirocco A hot, dry wind from northern Africa, p. 350
soil The thin layer of loose material in which plants grow, p. 420
soil creep The process by which soil moves gradually and constantly downhill because of gravity, p. 420
soil horizon Each distinct layer that forms as soil develops, p. 420
solar energy Energy produced by the sun, p. 111
solstice Either of the two times a year when the sun appears directly overhead at the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, p. 65
souk A market in an Arab community, p. 534
sovereignty A country's freedom and power to decide on policies and actions, p. 101
soviet In the former Soviet Union, any one of various governing councils, p. 423
sphere of influence An area or country that is politically and economically dominated by, though not directly governed by, another country, p. 651
standard of living A person's or group's level of material well-being, as measured by education, housing, health care, and nutrition, p. 136
steppe (step) A temperate grassland found in Europe and Asia, pp. 378, 417, 578
storm surge A wall of water that overwhelms coastal regions when a tropical storm strikes land, p. 627
strategic value Importance of a place or thing for nations planning military actions, p. 569
striations Marks characterizing glaciated areas of rocks, p. 128
strip mining The process whereby miners strip away the surface of the earth to lay bare the mineral deposits, p. 345
structural adjustment program A program to reform the structure of an economy, p. 553
subcontinent A large landmass forming a distinct part of a continent, p. 592
subsidence A geological phenomenon in which the ground in an area sinks, p. 356
subsistence economy See **traditional economy**
subsistence farming Farming that provides only enough for the needs of a family or a village, pp. 116, 229
suburb A residential area outside a central city, p. 134
sultanate A state ruled by a sultan, p. 590
summit The highest point of a mountain or similar elevation, p. 290
Sunbelt The southern and southwestern states of the United States, from the Carolinas to southern California, characterized by a warm climate and, recently, rapid population growth, p. 164

T

taiga Thinly scattered, coniferous forests found in Europe and Asia, pp. 378, 416
tariff A tax imposed by a government on imported goods, pp. 194, 692
telecommunication Communication by electronic means, p. 146
terrace In farming, a flat, narrow ledge of land, usually constructed in hilly areas to increase the amount of arable land, p. 644

tertiary economic activity An economic activity in which people do not directly gather or process raw materials but pursue activities that serve others; service industry, pp. 117, 309

theocrat Someone who claims to rule by religious or divine authority, p. 663

timber line The boundary in high elevations above which continuous forest vegetation cannot grow, p. 273

tornado A funnel-shaped cloud of violently rotating air, p. 627

totalitarianism A system of government in which a central authority controls all aspects of society, p. 103

trade deficit The situation in which a country imports more than it exports, p. 450

trade surplus The situation in which a country exports more than it imports, p. 450

traditional economy An economic system in which families produce goods and services for their own use, with little surplus and exchange of goods; also known as a subsistence economy, pp. 103, 217

tributary A river or stream that flows into a main river, p. 128

tropical cyclone A storm that originates over a tropical ocean and whirls around a low-pressure center, p. 627

tropical storm A storm with winds of at least 39 miles (63 km) per hour, p. 208

troposphere The layer of the atmosphere closest to land, p. 74

trust territory A dependent colony or territory supervised by another country by commission of the United Nations, p. 731

tsunami (tsōō nā'mē) A huge wave caused primarily by a disturbance beneath the ocean, such as an earthquake or a volcanic eruption, pp. 244, 364

tundra A region where temperatures are always cool or cold and only specialized plants can grow, pp. 82, 172, 378, 416

typhoon A destructive tropical storm that forms over the Pacific Ocean, pp. 613, 683

U

unitary system A system of government in which one central government holds most of the political power, p. 102

urbanization The growth of city populations, p. 90

V

velvet revolution A revolution without bloodshed, which took place in Czechoslovakia during the late 1980s, p. 394

villagization A political movement by which rural people are forced to move to towns and work on collective farms, p. 572

volcano An opening in the earth's crust from which molten rock escapes to the surface, p. 360

W

wadi (wā'dē) A usually dry riverbed or gully that temporarily holds water from a sudden downpour, pp. 464, 531

warlord A local leader with a military following, p. 652

water power Energy produced from falling water to move machinery or generate electricity, p. 111

watershed A dividing ridge between two basins, p. 557

weather The condition of the bottom layer of the earth's atmosphere in one place over a short period of time, p. 63

weathering The chemical or mechanical process by which rock is gradually broken down, eventually becoming soil, p. 52

white flight The departure of white people from a region, p. 581

wind Air in motion, p. 626

windward Facing the wind, p. 247

World Bank An agency of the United Nations that provides loans to countries for development projects, p. 553

Y

yurt A round tent made of a wooden framework and covered with felt or skins, p. 462

Z

Zionist A member of a movement known as Zionism, founded to promote the establishment of an independent Jewish state, p. 472