

Glossary

aborigine—cataract

A

- aborigine** an area's original inhabitants (p. 662)
- absolute location** the exact position of a place on the earth's surface (p. 20)
- accretion** a slow process in which a sea plate slides under a continental plate, creating debris that can cause continents to grow outward (p. 40)
- acid deposition** wet or dry airborne acids that fall to the earth (p. 321)
- acid rain** precipitation carrying large amounts of dissolved acids which damages buildings, forests, and crops, and kills wildlife (pp. 166, 321)
- acupuncture** an ancient practice that involves inserting fine needles into the body at specific points in order to cure disease and ease pain (p. 677)
- alluvial plain** floodplain, such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain in South Asia, on which flooding rivers have deposited rich soil (p. 572)
- alluvial-soil deposits** rich soil made up of sand and mud deposited by running water (p. 423)
- altiplano** Spanish for "high plain," a region in Peru and Bolivia encircled by the Andes peaks (p. 194)
- amendment** in U.S. history, official changes made to the Constitution (p. 144)
- apartheid** policy of strict separation of the races adopted in South Africa in the 1940s (p. 524)
- aquaculture** the cultivation of seafood (p. 695)
- aquifer** underground water-bearing layers of porous rock, sand, or gravel (pp. 49, 470)
- arable** suitable for growing crops (p. 464)
- archipelago** a group or chain of islands (pp. 646, 720)
- artesian water** underground water supply that is under enough pressure to rise into wells without being pumped (p. 794)
- Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Group (APEC)** a trade group, whose members are Japan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan, that ensures that trade among the member countries is efficient and fair (p. 689)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** organization formed in 1967 to promote regional development and trade in Southeast Asia (p. 763)
- atheism** the belief that there is no God (p. 376)
- atmosphere** a layer of gases that surrounds the earth (p. 35)
- atoll** ring-shaped island formed by coral building up along the rim of an underwater volcano (p. 796)
- autocracy** government in which a single individual possesses the power and authority to rule (p. 87)

- avalanche** mass of ice, snow, or rock that slides down a mountainside (p. 279)
- axis** an imaginary line that runs through the center of the earth between the North and South Poles (p. 56)

B

- batik** method of dyeing cloth to produce beautiful patterns, developed in Indonesia and Malaysia (p. 751)
- bazaar** a traditional marketplace ranging from a single street of stalls to an entire city district (p. 456)
- bedouin** member of the nomadic desert peoples of North Africa and Southwest Asia (p. 455)
- bilingual** speaking or using two languages (p. 148)
- Bill of Rights** the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution (p. 144)
- biologist** scientist who studies plant and animal life (p. 324)
- biomass** plant and animal waste used especially as a source of fuel (p. 613)
- biosphere** the part of the earth where life exists (p. 35)
- birthrate** the number of births per year for every 1,000 people (p. 76)
- black market** any illegal market where scarce or illegal goods are sold, usually at high prices (p. 388)
- blizzard** a snowstorm with winds of more than 35 miles per hour, temperatures below freezing, and visibility of less than 500 feet for 3 hours or more (p. 125)
- Bolsheviks** a revolutionary group in Russia led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (p. 370)
- boomerang** curved throwing stick used by Aborigines for hunting in Australia (p. 817)
- buffer state** neutral territory between rival powers (p. 743)

C

- cabinet** heads of departments in the U.S. government who advise the president (p. 144)
- calligraphy** the art of beautiful handwriting (p. 679)
- campesinos** farm workers; generally, people who live and work in rural areas (p. 238)
- canopy** top layer of a rain forest, where the tops of tall trees form a continuous layer of leaves (p. 200)
- cartography** the science of mapmaking (p. 24)
- cash crop** farm crop grown to be sold or traded rather than used by the farm family (pp. 238, 538, 612, 760)
- cataract** a large waterfall (p. 500)

caudillo—czar

- caudillo** a Latin American political leader from the late 1800s on, often a military dictator (p. 224)
- cereal** any grain, such as barley, oats, or wheat, grown for food (p. 431)
- chaparral** type of vegetation made up of dense forests of shrubs and short trees, common in Mediterranean climates (pp. 68, 281)
- chernozem** (cher•nuh•ZYAWM) rich, black topsoil found in the North European Plain, especially in Russia and Ukraine (p. 346)
- chinampas** floating farming islands made by the Aztec (p. 221)
- chinook** seasonal warm wind that blows down the Rockies in late winter and early spring (p. 124)
- Chipko** India's "tree-hugger" movement that protects forests through reforestation and by supporting limited timber production (p. 621)
- chlorofluorocarbon** chemical substance, found mainly in liquid coolants, that damages the earth's protective ozone layer (p. 695)
- city-state** in ancient Greece, independent community consisting of a city and the surrounding lands (p. 295)
- clan** tribal community or large group of people related to one another (pp. 529, 670, 817)
- clear-cutting** cutting down whole forests when removing timber (p. 165)
- climate** weather patterns typical for an area over a long period of time (p. 55)
- Cold War** power struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States after World War II (pp. 298, 371)
- collective farm** under communism, a large, state-owned farm on which farmers received wages plus a share of products and profits; also called a kolkhoz (p. 317)
- command economy** economic system in which economic decisions about production and distribution are made by some central authority (pp. 89, 388, 685)
- commercial farming** farming organized as a business (p. 538)
- commodity** goods produced for sale (pp. 158, 465)
- commune** a collective farming community whose members share work and products (p. 686)
- communism** society based on equality in which workers would control industrial production (pp. 298, 370)
- condensation** the process of excess water vapor changing into liquid water when warm air cools (p. 47)
- coniferous** trees such as evergreens that have cones and needle-shaped leaves, and keep their foliage throughout the winter (p. 68)
- conquistador** Spanish term for "conqueror," referring to soldiers who conquered Native Americans in Latin America (p. 222)
- conservation farming** a land-management technique that helps protect farmland (p. 539)
- Constitution** plan of government made for the United States in 1787 (p. 144)
- consumer goods** goods that directly satisfy human wants (p. 388)
- continental drift** the theory that the continents were once joined and then slowly drifted apart (p. 38)
- continental shelf** the part of a continent that extends underwater (p. 36)
- cooperative** a voluntary organization whose members work together and share expenses and profits (p. 686)
- copra** dried meat of a coconut (p. 834)
- coral** limestone deposits formed from the skeletons of tiny sea creatures (p. 795)
- cordillera** parallel chains or ranges of mountains (pp. 194, 719)
- Coriolis effect** an effect that causes the prevailing winds to blow diagonally rather than along strict north-south or east-west lines (p. 62)
- cottage industry** a business that employs workers in their homes (p. 615)
- crevasse** huge, deep crack that forms in thick ice or snow (p. 803)
- Crusades** series of religious wars (A.D. 1100–1300) in which European Christians tried to retake Palestine from Muslim rule (p. 296)
- cultural diffusion** the spread of new knowledge and skills from one culture to another (p. 84)
- culture** way of life of a group of people who share beliefs and similar customs (p. 80)
- culture hearth** a center where cultures developed and from which ideas and traditions spread outward (pp. 84, 447, 668)
- culture region** division of the earth based on a variety of factors, including government, social groups, economic systems, language, or religion (p. 83)
- cuneiform** Sumerian writing system using wedge-shaped symbols pressed into clay tablets (p. 447)
- current** cold or warm stream of seawater that flows in the oceans, generally in a circular pattern (p. 62)
- cyclone** storm with heavy rains and high winds that blow in a circular pattern around an area of low atmospheric pressure (pp. 579, 767)
- czar** ruler of Russia until the 1917 revolution (p. 369)

D

- Dalits** the “oppressed”; in India, people assigned to the lowest social class (p. 623)
- death rate** the number of deaths per year for every 1,000 people (p. 76)
- deciduous** trees, usually broad leaved such as oak and maple, that lose their leaves in autumn (p. 68)
- deforestation** the loss or destruction of forests, mainly for logging or farming (pp. 242, 507)
- delta** alluvial deposit at a river’s mouth that looks like the Greek letter delta (Δ) (p. 503)
- democracy** any system of government in which leaders rule with consent of the citizens (p. 88)
- desalination** the removal of salt from seawater to make it usable for drinking and farming (pp. 48, 470)
- desertification** process in which arable land is turned into desert (pp. 508, 694)
- developed country** country that has a great deal of technology and manufacturing (p. 93)
- developing country** country in the process of becoming industrialized (pp. 93, 238)
- dharma** in Hinduism, a person’s moral duty, based on class distinctions, which guides his or her life (p. 593)
- dialect** local form of a language used in a particular place or by a certain group (pp. 213, 302)
- diatoms** plankton that live in cold ocean water (p. 841)
- dikes** large banks of earth and stone that hold back water (p. 272)
- dissident** a citizen who speaks out against government policies (p. 689)
- divide** a high point or ridge that determines the direction rivers flow (p. 118)
- doldrums** a frequently windless area near the Equator (pp. 62, 802)
- domesticate** to adapt plants and animals from the wild to make them useful to people (pp. 446, 520)
- dominion** a partially self-governing country with close ties to another country (pp. 144, 820)
- doubling time** the number of years it takes a population to double in size (p. 76)
- dry farming** farming method used in dry regions in which land is plowed and planted deeply to hold water in the soil (pp. 143, 321)
- dynasty** a ruling house or continuing family of rulers, especially in China (p. 669)
- dzong** a fortified monastery of Bhutan, South Asia (p. 604)

E

- e-commerce** selling and buying on the Internet (p. 542)
- economic sanctions** trade restrictions (p. 689)
- ecosystem** the complex community of interdependent living things in a given environment (p. 22)
- ecotourism** tourism based on concern for the environment (pp. 546, 617)
- El Niño** a periodic reversal of the pattern of ocean currents and water temperatures in the mid-Pacific region (p. 63)
- El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** a seasonal weather event that can cause droughts in Australia and powerful cyclones in the South Pacific (p. 841)
- embargo** a ban on trade (pp. 452, 468)
- endemic** native plant or animal species (p. 728)
- Enlightenment** a movement during the 1700s, emphasizing the importance of reason and questioning traditions and values (p. 297)
- environmentalist** person actively concerned with the quality and protection of the environment (p. 322)
- equinox** one of two days (about March 21 and September 23) on which the sun is directly above the Equator, making day and night equal in length (p. 56)
- erosion** wearing away of the earth’s surface by wind, flowing water, or glaciers (p. 42)
- escarpment** steep cliff or slope between a higher and lower land surface (pp. 196, 500)
- estuary** an area where the tide meets a river current (pp. 197, 503)
- ethnic cleansing** the expelling from a country or killing of rival ethnic groups (p. 288)
- ethnic diversity** differences among groups of people based on their origins, languages, customs, or beliefs (p. 439)
- ethnic group** group of people who share common ancestry, language, religion, customs, or combination of such characteristics (pp. 82, 288, 363)
- European Union** an organization whose goal is to unite Europe so that goods, services, and workers can move freely among member countries (pp. 300, 313)
- eutrophication** process by which a body of water becomes too rich in dissolved nutrients, leading to plant growth that depletes oxygen (p. 168)
- evaporation** process of converting into vapor (p. 47)
- exports** commodities sent from one country to another for purposes of trade (p. 237)
- extended family** household made up of several generations of family members (pp. 229, 529)
- extinction** the disappearance or end of a species of animal or plant (p. 546)

fale—hurricane

F

- fale** traditional type of home in Samoa with open sides and thatched roof (p. 826)
- fall line** a boundary in the eastern United States where the higher land of the Piedmont drops to the lower Atlantic coastal plain (p. 118)
- farm cooperative** organization in which farmers share in growing and selling farm products (p. 317)
- fault** a crack or break in the earth's crust (pp. 40, 500)
- fauna** the animal life of a region (p. 724)
- federal system** form of government in which powers are divided between the national government and the state or provincial government (p. 87)
- feudalism** in medieval Europe and Japan, system of government in which powerful lords gave land to nobles in return for pledges of loyalty (p. 296)
- fishery** areas (freshwater or saltwater) in which fish or sea animals are caught (p. 120)
- fjord** (fee•YORD) long, steep-sided glacial valley now filled by seawater (p. 272)
- flora** the plant life of a region (p. 724)
- foehn** (FUHN) dry wind that blows from the leeward sides of mountains, sometimes melting snow and causing avalanches; term used mainly in Europe (p. 279)
- fold** a bend in layers of rock, sometimes caused by plate movement (p. 40)
- food web** the interlinking chains of predators and their food sources in an ecosystem (p. 840)
- formal region** a region defined by a common characteristic, such as production of a product (p. 21)
- free port** port city, such as Singapore, where goods can be unloaded, stored, and reshipped without the payment of import duties (p. 764)
- free trade** the removal of trade barriers so that goods can flow freely between countries (p. 94)
- functional region** a central point and the surrounding territory linked to it (p. 21)
- fútbol** Spanish term for soccer (p. 230)

G

- gauchos** the cowhands of Argentina and Uruguay (p. 197)
- genetically modified foods** foods whose genes have been altered to make them grow bigger or faster or more resistant to pests (p. 317)
- geographic information systems** computer tools for processing and organizing details and satellite images with other pieces of information (p. 25)
- glaciation** the process whereby glaciers form and spread (p. 272)

- glacier** large body of ice that moves across the surface of the earth (p. 42)
- glasnost** Russian term for a new “openness,” part of Mikhail Gorbachev’s reform plans (p. 371)
- global warming** gradual warming of the earth and its atmosphere that may be caused in part by pollution and an increase in the greenhouse effect (pp. 58, 322)
- glyph** picture writing carved in stone (p. 221)
- Good Friday Peace Agreement** paved the way for Protestant and Roman Catholic communities to share political power in Northern Ireland (p. 304)
- grazier** person who raises sheep or cattle (p. 834)
- greenhouse effect** the capacity of certain gases in the atmosphere to trap heat, thereby warming the earth (pp. 58, 322)
- green revolution** program, begun in the 1960s, to produce higher-yielding, more productive strains of wheat, rice, and other food crops (p. 613)
- grid system** pattern formed as the lines of latitude and longitude cross one another (p. 20)
- gross domestic product (GDP)** the value of goods and services created within a country in a year (p. 465)
- groundwater** water within the earth that supplies wells and springs (pp. 49, 167)
- guru** a teacher or spiritual guide (p. 601)

H

- habitat** area with conditions suitable for certain plants or animals to live (p. 546)
- haiku** form of Japanese poetry originally consisting of 17 syllables and three lines, often about nature (p. 678)
- hajj** in Islam, the yearly pilgrimage to Makkah (p. 466)
- headwaters** the sources of river waters (p. 118)
- heavy industry** the manufacture of machinery and equipment needed for factories and mines (p. 317)
- hemisphere** half of a sphere or globe, as in the earth’s Northern and Southern Hemispheres (p. 20)
- hieroglyphics** Egyptian writing system using pictures and symbols to represent words or sounds (p. 447)
- Holocaust** the mass killings of 6 million Jews by Germany’s Nazi leaders during World War II (p. 298)
- homogeneous** of the same or similar kind or nature (p. 663)
- human-environment interaction** the study of the interrelationship between people and their physical environment (p. 22)
- human geography** also called cultural geography; the study of human activities and their relationship to the cultural and physical environments (p. 24)
- hurricane** a large, powerful windstorm that forms over warm ocean waters (p. 125)

- hydroelectric power** electrical energy generated by falling water (pp. 197, 348)
- hydrosphere** the watery areas of the earth, including oceans, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water (p. 35)
- hypothesis** a scientific explanation for an event (p. 69)

I

- icon** religious image, usually including a picture of Jesus, Mary, or a saint, used mainly by Orthodox Christians (p. 377)
- ideogram** a pictorial character or symbol that represents a specific meaning or idea (p. 674)
- immigration** the movement of people into one country from another (p. 133)
- impressionism** artistic style that developed in Europe in the late 1800s and tried to show the natural appearance of objects with dabs or strokes of color (p. 305)
- indigenous** native to a place (p. 212)
- industrial capitalism** an economic system in which business leaders use profits to expand their companies (p. 297)
- industrialization** transition from an agricultural society to one based on industry (p. 93)
- infrastructure** the basic urban necessities like streets and utilities (pp. 443, 540)
- insular** constituting an island, as in Java (p. 720)
- intelligentsia** intellectual elite (p. 378)
- interdependent** relying on one another for goods, services, and ideas (p. 763)
- introduced species** plants and animals placed in areas other than their native habitat (p. 839)

J

- jai alai** (HY•LY) traditional handball-type game popular with Mexicans and Cubans (p. 231)
- Japan Current** a warm-water ocean current that adds moisture to the winter monsoons (p. 655)
- jati** in traditional Hindu society, a social group that defines a family's occupation and social standing (p. 588)
- jazz** musical form that developed in the United States in the early 1900s, blending African rhythms and European harmonies (p. 148)
- jute** plant fiber used to make string and cloth (p. 612)

K

- karma** in Hindu belief, the sum of good and bad actions in one's present and past lives (p. 593)

- kolkhoz** in the Soviet Union, a small farm worked by farmers who shared in the farm's production and profits (p. 390)
- krill** tiny shrimplike sea animals that live in cold Antarctic oceans (p. 798)
- kums** term for deserts in Central Asia (p. 425)

L

- lagoon** shallow pool of water at the center of an atoll (p. 796)
- lama** Buddhist religious leader (p. 675)
- language family** group of related languages that have all developed from one earlier language (pp. 81, 303)
- latifundia** in Latin America, large agricultural estates owned by families or corporations (p. 238)
- leach** to wash nutrients out of the soil (p. 506)
- leeward** facing away from the direction from which the wind is blowing (p. 64)
- lichens** sturdy small plants that grow like a crust on rocks or tree trunks (p. 803)
- light industry** manufacturing aimed at making consumer goods such as textiles or food processing rather than heavy machinery (p. 317)
- lingua franca** a common language used among people with different native languages (p. 526)
- literacy rate** the percentage of people in a given place who can read and write (p. 150)
- lithosphere** surface land areas of the earth's crust, including continents and ocean basins (p. 35)
- llanos** (LAH•nohs) fertile plains in inland areas of Colombia and Venezuela (p. 196)
- location** a specific place on the earth (p. 20)
- lode** deposit of minerals (p. 761)
- loess** (LEHS) fine, yellowish-brown topsoil made up of particles of silt and clay, usually carried by the wind (pp. 42, 275, 648)
- longhouse** in rural areas of Indonesia and Malaysia, a large, elevated building where people from several related families live (p. 752)

M

- Maastricht Treaty** a 1992 meeting of European governments in Maastricht, the Netherlands, that formed the European Union (p. 314)
- magma** molten rock that is pushed up from the earth's mantle (p. 38)
- malnutrition** faulty or inadequate nutrition (p. 230)
- mantle** thick middle layer of the earth's interior structure, consisting of dense, hot rock (p. 38)

mantra—oral tradition

mantra in Hinduism, a sacred word or phrase repeated in prayers and chants (p. 601)

manuka small shrubs that grow in plateau regions of New Zealand (p. 803)

maquiladoras in Mexico, manufacturing plants set up by foreign firms (p. 239)

maritime concerned with travel or shipping by sea (p. 741)

market economy an economic system based on free enterprise, in which businesses are privately owned, and production and prices are determined by supply and demand (pp. 89, 157, 388)

marsupial mammal whose offspring mature in a pouch on the mother's abdomen (p. 839)

mass culture popular culture spread by media such as radio and television (p. 525)

megacities cities with more than 10 million people (p. 217)

megalopolis a "super-city" that is made up of several large and small cities such as the area between Boston and Washington, D.C. (pp. 136, 591)

meltwater water formed by melting snow and ice (p. 321)

merchant marine a country's fleet of ships that engage in commerce or trade (p. 691)

meteorology the study of weather and weather forecasting (p. 24)

metropolitan area region that includes a central city and its surrounding suburbs (p. 135)

mica silicate mineral that readily splits into thin, shiny sheets (p. 574)

Middle Ages the period of European history from about A.D. 500 to about 1500 (p. 296)

migration the movement of people from place to place (p. 79)

minifundia in Latin America, small farms that produce food chiefly for family use (p. 238)

mistral strong northerly wind from the Alps that can bring cold air to southern France (p. 280)

mixed economy an economy in which the government supports and regulates enterprise through decisions that affect the marketplace (p. 89)

mixed farming raising several kinds of crops and livestock on the same farm (p. 317)

mixed forest forest with both coniferous and deciduous trees (p. 68)

mobility able to move from place to place (p. 137)

monopoly total control of a type of industry by one person or one company (p. 162)

monotheism belief in one God (p. 448)

monsoon in Asia, seasonal wind that brings warm, moist air from the oceans in summer and cold, dry air from inland in winter (pp. 579, 654)

moraine piles of rocky debris left by melting glaciers (p. 42)

mosaic picture or design made with small pieces of colored stone, glass, shell, or tile (p. 228)

mosque in Islam, a house of public worship (p. 448)

movement ongoing movement of people, goods, and ideas (p. 22)

mural wall painting (p. 228)

N

nationalism belief in the right of each people to be an independent nation (p. 449)

nationalities large, distinct ethnic groups within a country (p. 364)

nationalize to place a company or industry under government control (p. 450)

Native American North America's first immigrant, who probably moved into the region from Asia thousands of years ago (p. 134)

natural increase the growth rate of a population; the difference between birthrate and death rate (p. 76)

natural resource substance from the earth that is not made by people but can be used by them (p. 91)

natural vegetation plant life that grows in a certain area if people have not changed the natural environment (p. 66)

nirvana in Buddhism, ultimate state of peace and insight toward which people strive (p. 594)

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) trade agreement made in 1994 by Canada, the United States, and Mexico (p. 240)

nuclear family family group made up of husband, wife, and children (p. 529)

nuclear proliferation the spreading development of nuclear arms (p. 623)

nuclear waste the by-product of producing nuclear power (p. 398)

O

oasis small area in a desert where water and vegetation are found (pp. 67, 429)

oligarchy system of government in which a small group holds power (p. 88)

oral tradition stories passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth (p. 528)

- organic farming** the use of natural substances rather than chemical fertilizers and pesticides to enrich the soil and grow crops (p. 318)
- ozone layer** atmospheric layer with protective gases that prevents solar rays from reaching the earth's surface (p. 841)

P

- paddy** flooded field in which rice is grown (p. 760)
- pagoda** a style of architecture most often found in traditional East Asian buildings, marked by gracefully curved tile roofs in the tower style (p. 679)
- Pampas** grassy, treeless plains of southern South America (p. 196)
- parliament** in Canada, national legislature made up of the Senate and the House of Commons (p. 145)
- pastoralism** the raising of livestock (p. 430)
- patois** dialects that blend elements of indigenous, European, African, and Asian languages (p. 213)
- patriarch** the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church (p. 377)
- patriotism** love for or devotion to one's country (p. 151)
- perceptual region** a region defined by popular feelings and images rather than by objective data (p. 21)
- perestroika** (PEHR•uh•STROY•kuh) in Russian, "restructuring"; part of Gorbachev's plan for reforming Soviet government (p. 371)
- permafrost** permanently frozen layer of soil beneath the surface of the ground (pp. 68, 281, 349)
- pesticide** chemical used to kill insects, rodents, and other pests (p. 398)
- petrochemical** chemical product derived from petroleum or natural gas (p. 465)
- phosphate** natural mineral containing chemical compounds often used in fertilizers (p. 426)
- physical geography** the study of Earth's physical features (p. 24)
- pidgin English** a dialect mixing English and a local language (p. 813)
- pipeline** long network of underground or aboveground pipes (p. 162)
- place** a particular space with physical and human meaning (p. 21)
- plate tectonics** the term scientists use to describe the activities of continental drift and magma flow which create many of Earth's physical features (p. 38)
- poaching** illegal hunting of protected animals (pp. 546, 619)
- pogrom** in czarist Russia, an attack on Jews carried out by government troops or officials (p. 378)

- polder** low-lying area from which seawater has been drained to create new farmland (p. 272)
- pollution** the existence of impure, unclean, or poisonous substances in the air, water, or land (p. 94)
- population density** the average number of people in a square mile or square kilometer (p. 77)
- population distribution** the pattern of population in a country, a continent, or the world (p. 77)
- post-industrial** an economy with less emphasis on heavy industry and manufacturing and more emphasis on services and technology (p. 158)
- prairie** an inland grassland area (pp. 68, 124)
- precipitation** moisture that falls to the earth as rain, sleet, hail, or snow (p. 47)
- prevailing wind** wind in a region that blows in a fairly constant directional pattern (p. 62)
- primate city** a city that dominates a country's economy, culture, and government and in which population is concentrated; usually the capital (pp. 217, 738)
- privatization** a change to private ownership of state-owned companies and industries (p. 389)
- prophet** person believed to be a messenger from God (p. 448)

Q

- qanat** underground canal used in water systems of ancient Persians (p. 447)
- quipu** (KEE•poo) knotted cords of various lengths and colors used by the Inca to keep financial records (p. 222)

R

- radioactive material** material contaminated by residue from the generation of nuclear energy (p. 397)
- rain shadow** dry area found on the leeward side of a mountain range (p. 64)
- raj** Hindu word for empire (p. 595)
- realism** artistic style portraying everyday life that developed in Europe during the mid-1800s (p. 305)
- reforestation** replanting young trees or seeds on lands where trees have been cut or destroyed (p. 244)
- Reformation** religious movement that began in Germany in the 1400s, leading to the establishment of Protestant churches (p. 297)
- refugee** one who flees his or her home for safety (p. 288)
- regions** places united by specific characteristics (p. 21)
- reincarnated** in Hindu belief, being reborn repeatedly in different forms, until one has overcome earthly desires (p. 593)

relative location—supercells

relative location location in relation to other places (p. 20)

Renaissance in Europe, a 300-year period of renewed interest in classical learning and the arts, beginning in the 1300s (p. 296)

reparations a payment for damages (p. 298)

republic form of government without a monarch in which people elect their officials (p. 142)

retooling converting old factories for use in new industries (p. 161)

revolution in astronomy, the earth's yearly trip around the sun, taking 365¼ days (p. 56)

rift valley a crack in the earth's surface created by shifting (p. 500)

romanticism artistic style emphasizing individual emotions that developed in Europe in the late 1700s and early 1800s as a reaction to industrialization (p. 305)

Russification in nineteenth-century Russia, a government program that required everyone in the empire to speak Russian and to become a Christian (p. 370)

S

sadhu a Hindu hermit or holy man (p. 602)

samurai in medieval Japan, a class of professional soldiers who lived by a strict code of personal honor and loyalty to a noble (p. 670)

sanitation disposal of waste products (p. 516)

satellite a country controlled by another country, notably Eastern European countries controlled by the Soviet Union by the end of World War II (p. 371)

savanna a tropical grassland containing scattered trees (p. 507)

sedentary farming farming carried on at permanent settlements (p. 538)

serf laborer obliged to remain on the land where he or she works (p. 369)

service center convenient business location for rural dwellers (p. 518)

service industry business that provides a service instead of making goods (p. 238)

shamanism belief in a leader who can communicate with spirits (p. 675)

shantytowns makeshift communities on the edges of cities (p. 244)

shifting cultivation clearing forests to plant fields for a few years and then abandoning them (p. 770)

shifting farming method in which farmers move every few years to find better soil (p. 538)

shogun military ruler in medieval Japan (p. 670)

sickle large, curved knife with a handle, used to cut grass or tall grains (p. 760)

sirocco hot desert wind that can blow air and dust from North Africa to western Europe's Mediterranean coast (pp. 280–281)

slash-and-burn farming traditional farming method in which all trees and plants in an area are cut and burned to add nutrients to the soil (p. 244)

smog haze caused by the interaction of ultraviolet solar radiation with chemical fumes from automobile exhausts and other pollution sources (pp. 69, 167)

socialism political philosophy in which the government owns the means of production (p. 370)

socialist realism realistic style of art and literature that glorified Soviet ideals and goals (p. 380)

socioeconomic status level of income and education (p. 150)

solstice one of two days (about June 21 and December 22) on which the sun's rays strike directly on the Tropic of Cancer or Tropic of Capricorn, marking the beginning of summer or winter (p. 57)

sovereignty self-rule (p. 365)

sovkhoz in the Soviet Union, a large farm owned and run by the state (p. 390)

sphere of influence area of a country in which a foreign power has political or economic control (p. 743)

spreading a process by which new land is created when sea plates pull apart and magma wells up between the plates (p. 40)

state farm under communism, a state-owned farm managed by government officials (p. 317)

station Australian term for an outlying ranch or large farm (p. 834)

steppe wide, grassy plains of Eurasia; also, similar semi-arid climate regions elsewhere (p. 355)

Strine colloquial English spoken in Australia (p. 813)

stupa a dome-shaped structure that serves as a Buddhist shrine (p. 604)

subcontinent large landmass that is part of a continent but still distinct from it, such as India (p. 569)

subduction a process by which mountains can form as sea plates dive beneath continental plates (p. 39)

subsistence crop a crop grown mainly to feed the farmer's family (p. 760)

subsistence farming producing just enough food for a family or a village to survive (pp. 538, 826)

suburbs outlying communities around a city (p. 135)

Sunbelt mild climate region, southern United States (p. 135)

supercells violent thunderstorms that can spawn tornadoes (p. 124)

sustainable development technological and economic growth that does not deplete the human and natural resources of a given area (pp. 242, 619)

syncretism a blending of beliefs and practices from different religions into one faith (p. 228)

T

taiga Russian term for the vast subarctic forest, mostly evergreens, that covers much of Russia and Siberia (p. 353)

tariff a tax on imports or exports (p. 163)

temperature degree of hotness or coldness measured on a set scale, such as Fahrenheit or Celsius (p. 56)

tierra caliente Spanish term for “hot land”; the lowest altitude zone of Latin American highlands climates (p. 203)

tierra fría Spanish term for “cold land”; the highest altitude zone of Latin American highlands climates (p. 203)

tierra templada Spanish term for “temperate land”; the middle altitude zone of Latin American highlands climates (p. 203)

timberline elevation above which it is too cold for trees to grow (pp. 124, 279)

trade deficit spending more money on imports than earning from exports (pp. 163, 689)

trade surplus earning more money from export sales than spending for imports (pp. 163, 689)

traditional economy a system in which tradition and custom control all economic activity; exists in only a few parts of the world today (p. 89)

tributary smaller river or stream that feeds into a larger river (p. 118)

trust territory region placed by United Nations under temporary political and economic control of another country after World War II (p. 819)

tsunami Japanese term used for a huge sea wave caused by an undersea earthquake (p. 646)

tundra vast, treeless plains in cold northern climates, characterized by permafrost and small, low plants, such as mosses and shrubs (p. 352)

typhoon a violent tropical storm that forms in the Pacific Ocean, usually in late summer (pp. 655, 768, 802)

U

Underground Railroad an informal network of safe-houses, in the United States, that helped thousands of enslaved people escape to freedom (p. 143)

unitary system a government in which all key powers are given to the national or central government (p. 87)

universal suffrage equal voting rights for all adult citizens of a nation (p. 524)

urbanization the movement of people from rural areas into cities (pp. 135, 216, 290, 517, 737)

V

viceroxy representative of the Spanish monarch appointed to enforce laws in colonial Latin America (p. 222)

W

wadi in the desert, a streambed that is dry except during a heavy rain (p. 424)

wat in Southeast Asia, a temple (p. 750)

water cycle regular movement of water from ocean to air to ground and back to the ocean (p. 47)

wattle woven framework made from acacia saplings by early Australian settlers to build homes (p. 801)

weather condition of the atmosphere in one place during a short period of time (p. 55)

weathering chemical or physical processes, such as freezing, that break down rocks (p. 42)

welfare state nation in which the government assumes major responsibility for people’s welfare in areas such as health and education (p. 306)

windward facing toward the direction from which the wind is blowing (p. 64)

World Trade Organization (WTO) an international body that oversees trade agreements and settles trade disputes among countries (p. 690)

Z

ziggurat large step-like temple of mud brick built in ancient Mesopotamia (p. 454)