

Glossary

This glossary contains those terms that are in **bold color** in the textbook. The chapter in which the term appears is shown in parentheses at the end of the definition.

A

agricultural economy an economy that is farm-related (9)

Allies the group of countries that fought the Axis powers in World War II (largest were England, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States); See “ally” (11)

ally a friend or partner (4)

al Qaeda the group of terrorists who carried out the 9/11 attacks (13)

amendment an addition or change, such as to a constitution or other document (3)

American Revolution the war American colonists fought to gain freedom from Great Britain’s rule (3)

ammunition bullets and gunpowder, materials to load into a weapon (4)

amphibious living on land and in water (11)

ancestor a person from long ago who is a direct relative (3)

antique something made long ago (1)

Appalachian Plateau geographic region that begins in Alabama around Jasper and extends north through Tennessee and Kentucky into western New York (2)

aquifer an area with layers of gravel and rock that act like sponges; it is where

water is stored beneath the surface of the earth (2)

architecture the style of a building such as Colonial or Victorian (1)

armistice agreement to stop the war (10)

artesian well a well that produces flowing water (without pumping) (6)

arthritis a joint disorder (16)

Articles of Confederation the plan for a national government adopted by the Continental Congress in 1781 (3)

assassinate to kill someone; usually a murder for political reasons (8)

assembly line a manufacturing method where products are made on a moving belt (10)

assessment the amount property is valued at for taxation (15)

Axis powers the group of countries that fought the Allies in World War II (largest were Germany, Italy, and Japan) (11)

B

bill a suggested law (15)

black codes laws passed to limit the freedom of African Americans (8)

blast furnace a furnace that uses a blast of hot air to melt pure iron to remove it from iron ore (6)

blockade the use of naval forces to stop shipping (7)

bombardier an airplane crew member who drops the bombs (11)

boundary border or line, such as between states or countries (3)

boycott a refusal to use goods or services (12)

braille a way of writing with raised characters for the use of people who are blind or visually impaired (10)

C

cabinet the president's highest level of advisors (16)

cadet young military student (7)

Cajun a person of French heritage living in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Alabama (1)

capital a city that is the seat of government (1)

capitol the building in which the legislature meets (6)

carpetbagger a person who came to the South from the North after the Civil War; some came to help Southerners, but others came seeking profit or political power (8)

ceasefire a truce that means all fighting stops (13)

cede to give up something, such as land or rights (5)

census an official count of people (6)

civil court the court system that rules on disputes between people (15)

civilian a person who is not military (11)

civil rights the basic rights that belong to all citizens (9)

climate the average weather over a long time (2)

Coastal Plain geographic region that includes the southern part of Alabama and stretches from Texas to New Jersey (2)

coke a fuel to heat blast furnaces; made by baking coal in a very hot furnace

without setting it on fire (9)

Cold War a time after World War II when tension existed between the United States and the Soviet Union; called "cold" because there was no actual fighting (11)

colony a settlement of people in a new land who are ruled by their homeland (3)

combat fighting, as in a war (11)

command to be in charge; commander is a military title (3)

communist a form of government where the state owns all property and the government makes all economic plans (11)

commute to travel to work regularly (10)

conquistador a Spanish conqueror (3)

constitution a written statement of basic laws (3)

convict-leasing the practice of selling the labor of prisoners (16)

cotton gin a machine invented by Eli Whitney that takes cotton seeds out of the white fibers (bolls); short for "cotton engine" (5)

council a group of people chosen to make decisions for a larger group, such as a tribe (4)

county seat the town or city where the courthouse is located (15)

credit getting an item now and paying for it over time (9)

criminal court the court that handles cases when a person is charged with a crime (15)

culture the beliefs and customs of a group of people (1)

D

deciduous tree a tree that loses its leaves each winter (2)

Declaration of Independence a document in which the 13 original colonies stated their intention to separate from Great Britain; signed on July 4, 1776 (3)

deed a legal document that proves who owns the land (6)

delegate representative, a person who represents a group of people (3)

deliberate something carefully thought out (12)

delta an area where a river divides before flowing into a larger body of water (2)

democratic a form of government in which people elect their leaders and have protected rights; people can own property and businesses (11)

depletion using up something such as nutrients in the soil (13)

depression a time of severe economic problems (11)

desegregation ending the practice of segregation of the races (12)

destination the end of a trip (1)

disarm to lay down weapons or arms; in the war in Iraq, it meant the Iraqis had to destroy their weapons of mass destruction (13)

discriminate to treat differently and unfairly (12)

distinguished showed a special talent or achieved something special (11)

diversify to have many different kinds of something, such as several industries in an area (13)

dome a roof that is round, like half of a hollow ball (6)

draft a process where the government requires people to serve in the military (10)

drought a period of weeks or months with almost no rainfall (2)

E

economic relating to activities that try to make money (5)

economy includes all the things people do to make and sell goods and services (5)

ecosystem the living things (plants and animals) and nonliving things (air, water, soil, and climate) in a certain area (2)

elect to choose by vote (4)

entrada journey, in Spanish (3)

entrepreneur a person who operates and assumes the risk of a business (16)

estuary a place where freshwater from rivers mixes with saltwater from the ocean (2)

evacuate to leave the area because of danger (2)

evergreen tree a tree that keeps its leaves throughout the year (2)

executive branch the branch of government that carries out the laws—for the United States, the president heads this branch; for the state, the governor is the head (3)

exhibit a display to show something (1)

expand to enlarge or increase (9)

expedition a trip made by a group for a special purpose such as exploring unknown lands (3)

F

facility a place that offers services such as restrooms, schools, or transportation. (12)

Fall Line a geological boundary that separates the Coastal Plain from other regions (2)

fertile good for growing things (2)

first-responder one of the people who rush to help in case of emergency, such as police officers and firefighters (13)

flash flood flooding caused by heavy

rainfall that can make water in ditches and streams rise very quickly (2)

flatboat a wide, flat-bottom boat made of split logs and sealed with tar (6)

fleet a group of ships (7)

foundry a place for casting metal (6)

4-H a club for students where they learn about farming, good health, citizenship, and cooking; stands for Heart, Hands, Health, and Head (1)

freedman a black person who was not a slave (5)

frontier land beyond settled areas (5)

Future Farmers of America (FFA) a club for students where they learn about farming, citizenship, and other life skills (1)

G

generate to make or produce power (10)

geology study of the history of Earth, especially the history recorded in rocks (2)

governor the head of the executive level of a state or territorial government (3)

groundwater water stored naturally in aquifers; may seep out and form springs (2)

H

habitat the place where animals or plants live (1)

heritage ways of life passed on from one generation to the next (1)

historic Indians American Indians who were living in the New World when the Europeans arrived (4)

historic place a place where something important in history happened (1)

Holocaust the murder of millions of Jewish people during the 1930s and 1940s (11)

hurricane a large and powerful circle-shaped storm that forms over warm seas (2)

hydroelectric the use of waterpower to generate electricity (10)

I

immigrant a person who settles in a new country (1)

immunity resistance, such as to disease(s) (3)

impurity unwanted part, such as a pollutant (9)

inaugurate to swear in to office in a ceremony (7)

industry a factory or place to work that makes products or services (1)

integration ending segregation and being combined into one group (12)

Interior Plateau geographic region that begins in northern Alabama and extends north to the Ohio River and into southern Indiana; this part of Alabama is sometimes called the Highland Rim (2)

interpreter a person who translates one language to another (3)

J

Jim Crow laws laws that kept blacks from using the same public facilities as whites (9)

journal daily writings like a diary (3)

judicial branch the branch of government that rules on the meaning of laws; the court system (3)

jury a group of citizens chosen to attend a trial and make a decision on the case (15)

K

keelboat a riverboat that could go upstream as well as downstream (6)

L

labor force the group of available workers (14)

legislative branch the branch of government that makes the laws; the U.S. Congress and the state legislature (3)

lightning electricity moving from cloud to cloud or from a cloud to Earth (2)

livestock animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, and horses (1)

M

maintenance working on equipment to make it run like new (11)

maritime close to or about the sea (15)

mass communication communicating to large numbers of people; newspapers and the Internet are means of mass communication (14)

migration when a group of people or animals move from one area to another (4)

militia citizens trained as soldiers (4)

mill a factory built near a river with swift-flowing water (5)

mineral ore or other substance found naturally in the earth (2)

missionary a person who goes to another area to do religious work (4)

motto a statement of what a group believes in or stands for (15)

multimodal a kind of rail shipment in which goods are sent in containers and transferred to ships, planes, or trucks (14)

municipal referring to cities and towns (15)

munitions military supplies such as bullets, bombs, and explosives (10)

Muslim a person who follows the teachings of the Islam religion (13)

N

NAACP National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; an organization that works for the rights of black Americans (12)

natural environment the things that are part of nature (2)

natural hazard a weather event that can be dangerous or cause problems for people, such as an ice storm, flash flood, thunderstorm, tornado, or hurricane (2)

natural resource something in the natural environment that people can use (2)

natural vegetation plants that grow naturally and are not planted by people (2)

navigable passable by ships (if a waterway is deep and wide enough for ships) (5)

navigator an airplane crew member who finds routes for the flight and locates the targets (11)

Nazi a follower of Adolf Hitler (11)

New Deal government programs to help people and the economy during the Great Depression (11)

9/11 the date, September 11, 2001, when several terrorist attacks occurred in the United States (13)

nonviolent without violence; peaceful (12)

normal school a school for training teachers (9)

O

oath pledge or promise that a person takes when being sworn in to office (6)

orphan a child whose parents have died (4)

overcropping planting the same crop over and over (10)

P

- pandemic** widespread disease such as the Spanish flu and COVID-19 (10)
- paraplegic** a person who is paralyzed in both legs (16)
- patent** a document registering an invention with the government patent office; gives the inventor sole rights to sell the invention (10)
- Patriot missile** an American antimissile missile (13)
- permanent** lasting, or staying the same (3)
- persuade** to get someone to do something; to convince (4)
- Piedmont** geographic region extending from Alabama through Georgia and the Carolinas all the way to New Jersey (2)
- pioneer** an early settler in a new place (2)
- planetarium** a building with a special ceiling that shows images of the night sky and stars (1)
- plantation** large area of land with a big farm (5)
- planter** a person who owned a plantation (5)
- political party** a group of people who agree on how to run the state or country (8)
- poll tax** a tax that a person had to pay in order to vote (10)
- posthumous** after death; refers to an occurrence after death, such as a military award (11)
- poultry** birds (chickens, turkeys, and quail) raised for food or to lay eggs (14)
- precipitation** water in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail (2)
- prejudice** an opinion that is not based on looking at the facts fairly (12)

- prisoner of war (POW)** member of the military who has been captured by the enemy (11)
- procession** a parade; a group moving forward in a ceremonial type of parade (7)
- profession** a job that requires special training and education (16)
- prosecutor** a person who presents a legal case against an accused person (16)
- prosperity** good economic times (11)
- provost** the chief officer of a college (16)

R

- radical** having extreme or very strong views (8)
- ratify** to approve formally, such as an amendment to the United States Constitution (3)
- ration** to limit, such as the amount of something like food during a time of war (11)
- rebel** a person fighting a war against the government in power (13)
- Reconstruction** the time after the U.S. Civil War (8)
- record** a way of hearing music such as a CD or digital tunes (16)
- recruit** to sign up or hire people (10)
- repeal** to cancel something such as a law (8)
- retail** the sale of products to the final consumer (14)
- revenue** money; for governments, comes mostly from taxes (15)
- Ridge and Valley** geographic region that begins just south of Birmingham and extends into Pennsylvania (2)
- rotunda** round, domed section of a building (6)
- rural** areas where most people live on

farms, not in towns; the population is more spread out than in urban areas (7)

S

salt marsh a grassy, wet area that floods with saltwater each day when the sea level rises with the tide (2)

scalawag a white Southerner who cooperated with the military government during Reconstruction (8)

secede to withdraw from something as some states did from the Union in the Civil War era (7)

sectionalism sectional differences; the belief by people of a certain region that their ideas and ways of life are better and more important than other regions (7)

segregation separation of the races (10)

service industry the type of industry that provides work without producing goods; workers include waiters, doctors, attorneys, and teachers (14)

settler a person who goes to live in a new area (1)

sharecropper a farmer who worked someone else's land and gave the landowner a share of the harvest; the landowner provided seeds, tools, and a place to live (9)

site a place where something is or was located or happened (1)

sit-in a form of protest in which people just sit in an area (12)

skirmish a brief fight as in a war (7)

slave a person forced to work for someone regarded as the slave's owner (3)

Social Security Act (SSA) provides retirement and disability benefits; one of the New Deal programs (11)

sociobiology the study of biology through

social systems like those of ants and bees (16)

speculator a person who buys something planning to sell it later for a profit (5)

squatter a person who cleared and settled land without ownership of the land (5)

state-of-the-art modern; latest method of doing something (14)

stock a share of ownership in a business (11)

strip mining surface mining; when a huge machine digs away the rock and soil that covers a layer of coal (14)

suborbital less than a full orbit of Earth (13)

subtropical a part of the world that borders the tropical zones; describes Alabama's temperate climate (2)

suburb an area outside of a city (more densely populated than rural areas) (9)

successor one who follows, such as the next person in a political office (8)

suffrage the right to vote (11)

supply and demand an economic term describing the difference between what industries and/or farms produce (supply) and what they can sell (demand) (11)

surface water the water in rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands (2)

surrender to give up or to "lay down arms" in war (7)

survey to measure and map out an area (3)

swamp a wetland, usually a flooded forest (2)

symbol one thing that stands for another (12)

synagogue a house of worship for a Jewish congregation (6)

synthetic a man-made material (14)

T

- tax** money charged to people and businesses for services provided by the government (3)
- technology** use of knowledge, tools, and skills (2)
- temperature** a measurement of how hot or cold something is; expressed in degrees (2)
- tenant farmer** a farmer who had seeds and tools but farmed someone else's land; the farmer paid the landowner a share of the harvest (9)
- terminal** a place with a waiting room and a place to buy tickets (12)
- terrorist** a person who uses violence to cause fear, usually in an attempt to change the ruler or government (13)
- textile** cloth or fabric (1)
- theme** a subject (1)
- therapy** a treatment to help or cure someone (14)
- tornado** a powerful storm with swirling winds and a funnel-shaped cloud (2)
- trial** a legal process where the facts are studied by a court (15)
- tributary** a stream that flows into a river (14)
- truce** agreement to stop fighting (11)
- tuition** school charges (9)

U

- unemployment** being without a job (11)
- unionist** a person who wanted to stay in the United States and not secede (7)
- United States Constitution** the document that set up the framework and basic laws of our government; signed on September 17, 1787, and ratified in 1788 (3)
- urban** an area of cities or towns; more densely populated than rural areas or the suburbs (7)

V

- vehicle** a way of transportation (10)
- veto** to say no to something, such as the governor or president can do to a bill (15)

W

- War on Terrorism** any action taken to stop terrorists; announced by the United States soon after 9/11 (13)
- waterway** a navigable river that can be used for transportation and carrying goods (2)
- weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** weapons that can kill many people at once, such as chemical and biological weapons (13)
- weather** the conditions outside relating to temperature, precipitation, cloudiness, and wind (2)
- wetland** a place that is wet all or part of the year (2)
- whitewater** fast-moving water; rapids (1)
- wholesale** the sale of products to stores that will then resell the products to the final consumer (14)
- Wiregrass** an area that includes southeast Alabama and parts of Florida and Georgia; known for the type of grass that once covered the region (1)

Y

- yeoman** a person who owns and works a small farm (5)