



# Glossary

This glossary contains those terms that are in bold in the textbook. The chapter in which the term appears is shown in parentheses following the definition.

## A

- absentee ballot** a method that allows registered voters to vote when they are away from home (16)
- ad valorem tax** a tax levied on the assessed value of real and personal property (15)
- alluvial soil** soil that is deposited by water (2)
- amendment** a change in a document (14)
- annexation** the process by which Mississippi municipalities expand their boundaries by adding adjoining land (15)
- antebellum** “before the war”; in the United States, and especially in the South, means before the Civil War (4)
- apportionment** the process by which the number of seats in the senate and the house are determined (14)
- aquifers** groundwater that has accumulated in rock formations (1)
- assessed value** a certain percentage of the property’s true value determined by the tax assessor (15)
- assimilation** a policy pursued by the federal government that theorized that if Native Americans relied on farming rather than on hunting, they would need less land and could then co-exist with the settlers (4)

## B

- bail** an amount of money deposited with the court by the accused to guarantee that he or she will appear in court (16)
- bankruptcy** a legal judgment that a person or an organization cannot pay its debts; the property of the bankrupt is administered to pay off creditors (14)

**BAWI** Balance Agriculture With Industry, a program established by Governor White in 1936 to develop Mississippi’s industrial base to match its agricultural base (8)

**beat system** system under which each supervisor has complete control over the roads in her or his district, gives orders directly to road crews, has an equipment barn for the district’s road crew, and drafts a budget without the assistance of a county administrator (15)

**bicameral** made up of two houses (14)

**Bill of Rights** the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (16)

**bill** a proposed law (14)

**Biloxi catboat, Biloxi schooner** fishing boats that were ideally suited to the shallow waters of the Mississippi Sound and its bays and inlets (13)

**biota** the flora and fauna of a region (2)

**Black Codes** four acts that placed harsh economic and social restrictions on blacks (4, 6)

**Black Prairie** a landform region of the state just west of the Tombigbee Hills; an extension of the “Black Belt” in Alabama (2)

**blues (the)** a type of music popular around 1900 based on black folk music, especially field hollers and work chants; characterized by wavering “blue notes” (13)

**Bluff Hills** a landform region of the state that runs north-south between the North Central Hills and the Yazoo Basin; also known as the Loess Hills (2)

**boll weevil** a small beetle that attacks the bolls where the cotton fibers are formed (7)

**budget** a plan of revenues and expenditures (14)

## C

**capital investment** spending money to build factories, highways, and buildings (8)

**carpetbaggers** in the post Civil War period, a term for northern whites because it was believed that they came to the state carrying their belongings in suitcases made of carpet (6)

**census** an actual count of the people (14)

**central business district (CBD)** a zone of businesses and professional offices usually located in the center of the city (10)

**chancery courts** state courts with jurisdiction over such matters as divorce and alimony, child custody and support, wills and estates, minors' affairs, and cases of insanity (14)

**charter** a city's basic law or constitution that names the city, describes its boundaries, outlines its form of government, and makes the new city a municipal corporation (legal person) (15)

**circuit court** a state court in which felony cases are heard (14)

**citizens** people born in the United States or born to parents who are American citizens living outside the country (16)

**city court** a court in which misdemeanors are heard (14)

**civil rights** the basic rights of citizens, such as free speech, suffrage, privacy, and property ownership (9)

**Civil Rights Act of 1964** an act that made it unlawful for anyone to discriminate on the basis of race if they served the public (9)

**clan** a group of related families (3)

**climate** the long-term average of weather conditions of a place; usually discussed in terms of temperature and rainfall (1)

**Coastal Meadows** the relatively flat landform region of the state extending northward from the Gulf of Mexico (2)

**commission form** a form of municipal government where voters elect a mayor and at least two commissioners (15)

**commodities** agricultural and mining products (11)

**Compromise of 1850** an agreement whereby California was admitted as a free state and slavery in some of the western territories was determined by popular sovereignty (5)

**Confederate States of America** the government formed by those southern states that seceded in the 1860s; better known as the Confederacy (5)

**conservation** the careful management and use of resources (11)

**constitution** a document that sets up the framework of a government and determines its powers and limitations (3)

**council-manager form** a form of city government where the voters elect a mayor and council, which in turn hire a city manager (15)

**country music** a music style that combined European-American ballads, African American folk music, and American popular music (13)

**court of appeals** a state court established to ease the work load of the supreme court (14)

**craftsmanship** the making of useful and artistic objects by hand (13)

**credit** the ability to buy something now and pay for it later (7)

**cuisine** food customs (13)

**culture** the way we think about and do things (13)

## D

**depression** a continued downturn in economic activity (8)

**dialect** the manner of speaking of the people in a particular locality (12)

**disfranchise** to take the right to vote away from an individual or group (6)

**Dixiecrats** a group that adopted the Confederate battle flag as the symbol of their resistance to civil rights for blacks and "Dixie" as their song (9)

**drainage basin** the geographical area draining into a river or reservoir (1)

**due process** the rules established by courts to protect a person's rights (16)

**durable goods** goods that can be used for longer than three years. They include such items as furniture and fixtures, motor vehicles and equipment, lumber and wood products, and electric and electronic equipment (11)

## E

**ecology** the interrelationship between life forms/organisms and their environment (2)

**economy** all of the activities involved in the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services (11)

**ecoregions** geographic areas on Earth's surface where organisms interact with the environment and function similarly (2)

**ecosystem** a group of organisms and the environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature (2)

**elastic clause** a clause that gives Congress the authority to make all laws "necessary and proper" for carrying out the expressed powers granted in the U.S. Constitution (14)

**electoral college** a special committee to choose the president (14)

**elevation** the height of the land above sea level (2)

**emancipation** freedom (5)

**Emancipation Proclamation** a document issued in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln declaring that on January 1, 1863, all slaves owned by persons in the Confederate states were free (5)

**ethnic group** a group of people who possess a common tradition and strong feelings of belonging (10)

**exogamy** marrying outside the clan (3)

**expressed powers** those powers specifically given to Congress in the Constitution (14)

## F

**fauna** the animal life of a particular area (2)

**felonies** serious crimes like robbery or murder that are punishable by prison or death (14)

**fiberboard** a building material made of compressed wood fibers (8)

**filibuster** continuous speechmaking to delay action by a legislative body (6)

**Flatwoods** a narrow landform region of the state west of the Pontotoc Ridge (2)

**flora** the natural vegetation on the land (2)

**folk culture** culture that is passed on informally by storytellers, musicians, artists, and craftspeople in the form of home remedies, tall tales, ballads, quilts,

baskets, and so on (13)

**free states** states that did not permit slavery (5)

**freedmen** former slaves (6)

**Freedmen's Bureau** a temporary agency that helped former slaves with food, shelter, education, and health care. It also helped them find jobs and arranged fair wages for them from planters (6)

## G

**general election** an election held to determine who will hold a particular office (16)

**general sales tax** the leading revenue producer for the state (14)

**geographic information system (GIS)** an information system specifically designed to analyze environmental information about Earth (2)

**global positioning system (GPS)** a satellite-based system used to determine the precise location of a place (1)

**gold standard** the financial standard that meant that the dollar was convertible into (or backed by) gold only (7)

**gospel music** church music with roots in the folk spiritual tradition (13)

**grand jury** a group of people appointed by the court to determine if enough evidence exists to issue an indictment (16)

**groundwater** water that has seeped below Earth's surface into the spaces and cracks in the rocks (1)

## H

**hinterland** large area beyond the city limits and the suburbs (10)

**homestead exemption** a state law that gives homeowners a tax break for property that is their primary residence (15)

**human-environment interaction** a theme of geography that describes how humans use and interact with the environment (1)

**humor of the old southwest** nineteenth-century frontier literature associated with the Southwest (12)

**hurricane** a tropical storm that arises in the Atlantic

Ocean and covers hundreds of square miles and whose winds measure at least 74 miles an hour; winds blow counterclockwise around a calm “eye” (1)

**hydrologic cycle** a never-ending cycle whereby water is exchanged between the earth and the atmosphere (1)

## I

**impeach** to bring charges against a public official while that person is still in office (14)

**implied powers** powers given to Congress in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (15)

**improvisation and innovation** the search for new ideas within familiar ways passed down from earlier generations (13)

**indictment** formal charges (16)

**integration** the process of bringing different groups (races) into society as equals (9)

**interposition** placing the state’s power above that of the federal government (9)

## J

**Jackson Prairie** the landform region in central Mississippi that is surrounded by the North Central Hills, the Loess (Bluff) Hills, and the Pine Hills (2)

**judicial review** the ability to set aside the actions of the legislative or executive branches of any government agency (14)

**junior college** a school that offers the first two years of college work (8)

**jurisdiction** courts’ area of authority (14)

**jury/jurors** a group of citizens chosen from the list of registered voters to hear evidence on a case and to make a decision based on the evidence presented (14)

**justice court** the court used if a crime is committed in a rural area (14)

## K

**Ku Klux Klan** an organization that used violence and intimidation to keep blacks from the polls (6)

## L

**landforms** physiographic divisions (2)

**latitude** a measure of the distance north or south of the equator (1)

**legends** stories handed down through generations (12)

**legislature** the law-making body for the state of Mississippi (14)

**libel** a printed or published statement maliciously (with intent to harm) made to injure a person’s character or reputation (16)

**lieutenant governor** the second-highest ranking official in the executive branch; assumes the governor’s duties when that office becomes vacant (14)

**loams** a combination of the three textures (sand, silt, clay) of soil (2)

**lobbyist** a person paid to represent the interests of a company or special group (7)

**location** a theme of geography that focuses on where a place is in relation to other places (relative location) or in terms of latitude and longitude (absolute location) (1)

**loess** well-drained, brown, silty loam soils of the Loess Hills in western Mississippi (2)

**Loess Hills** a landform in the western part of the state that extends in a north-south direction (also known as the Bluff Hills) (2)

**longitude** a measure of the distance east or west of the prime meridian at Greenwich, England (1)

**loyalists** an integrated group of Mississippians who challenged the Democratic party regulars at the 1968 national convention (9)

**lynching** mob murder by hanging, shooting, or burning (7)

## M

**maize** corn (3)

**mayor-council form** a form of municipal government where the voters elect a mayor and a city council (15)

**metropolitan statistical area (MSA)** sprawling urban areas sometimes combined with one or more counties (10)

**migration** the movement from one state to settle in another (8)

**mill** 1/10 of a cent (\$0.001); generates \$1 in taxes for each \$1,000 of assessed value (15)

**minor** a person under 21 years of age (16)

**misdemeanor** any offense that carries a punishment of up to a year in the county jail (14)

**Mississippi Colonization Society** a group formed to support the emancipation (freedom) of slaves and remove them to Africa (5)

**Mississippi Writers and Musicians Project** features information on almost 400 writers and artists (musicians, actors, and painters) (12)

**Mississippi Writer's Page** Internet guide to Mississippi writers, run by the University of Mississippi at [www.olemiss.edu/mwp](http://www.olemiss.edu/mwp) (12)

**Missouri Compromise** the 1820 agreement passed by Congress whereby Missouri entered the union as a slave state and Maine as a free state; slavery was not allowed in any states formed north of a line even with Missouri's southern border (5)

**moonshine** illegally distilled liquor (8)

**moundbuilders** tribes that built burial mounds over tombs and sometimes shaped those mounds like birds or animals (3)

**movement** a theme of geography that concerns the ways in which people are linked with regions, cultures, and people beyond our immediate environment (1)

**municipalities** cities, towns, and villages that provide local government to specific areas and can be classified according to population size (15)

**mural** a form of wall painting (13)

## N

**natural environment** physical environment; includes such elements as climate, water, landforms, soil, energy and mineral resources, vegetation, and different species of wildlife (1)

**natural resources** those materials that are in or supplied by our environment such as water, air, minerals, soil, or wood (11)

**naturalization** a process by which persons from other

countries (called aliens) can become American citizens (16)

**net migration** the difference between the number of persons that leave an area (the out-migration) and the number of persons that move into an area (the in-migration) (10)

**New Deal** a wide variety of programs passed during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt that were designed to improve the economy and society and to relieve the suffering of the unemployed (8)

**nondurable goods** goods consumed in the short run that include food and food-related products, clothing, textile products, and chemicals and allied products (11)

**nonrenewable resources** resources that cannot be replaced once they are used (11)

**North Central Hills** the landform region of the state that lies between the Flatwoods on the east and the Loess (Bluff) Hills on the west (2)

**Northwest Ordinance** framework for the government of territories established by the United States in 1787 (3)

**nullify** prevent the enforcement of (5)

## O

**oral narratives** stories in Mississippi before 1917 that define a tradition (the customs of a particular culture) (12)

## P

**Panic of 1837** an economic downturn that occurred when state-chartered banks could not back up with specie the paper money that they had issued; led to the depression of 1837-1841 (4)

**patronage** appointing people to government positions as rewards for political support (7)

**personal property** movable items such as automobiles (15)

**Pine Hills** the landform region that lies in the southeastern portion of the state; also referred to as the Piney Woods (2)

**place** a theme of geography that focuses on the physi-

cal and human or cultural characteristics of a particular location (1)

**plantations** relatively large farms where most cotton was grown with slave labor (4)

**political action** committees (PACs) private organizations whose members share similar views and who try to influence (lobby) legislators to favor the group's position (16)

**polygyny** having more than one wife (3)

**Pontotoc Ridge** the landform region of the state that divides the Tennessee-Tombigbee river basins and the Mississippi River basin (2)

**popular sovereignty** a vote by those living there (5)

**populists** members of the People's party, which was formed in 1891, who tried to use state government to better their constituents' lives (7)

**precipitation** rain, snow, sleet, and hail (1)

**primary** an election to nominate candidates for office in which all of a political party's members vote for the candidates of their choice (7)

**primary sector** those who work in agribusiness in which they extract (remove or take out) resources directly from the earth (11)

**probable cause** good reason (16)

**progressive movement** people who believed that government (local, state, and national) was best equipped to correct the ills of society (7)

**Prohibition** a period when the making and selling of alcoholic beverages was illegal (8)

**pulpwood** soft wood used in making paper (9)

## Q

**quaternary sector** a portion of the service industry that includes insurance, trade, legal services, banking, advertising, wholesaling, retailing, consulting, information generation, and real estate transactions (11)

**quilting** the making of bed covers from pieces of cloth (13)

**quinary sector** a portion of the service industry that mainly involves consumer-related services such as education, government, recreation/tourism, health/medicine, and household services such as housecleaning and lawn service (11)

## R

**ratify** to approve something, such as an amendment (14)

**real property** land and permanent structures on the land (15)

**reapportionment** redrawing the lines of voting districts throughout the state (6)

**reasonable suspicion** any information that points to illegal activity and may include rumor, student and teacher tips, and anonymous telephone calls (16)

**Reconstruction** a plan to rebuild the South and restore the southern states to the Union after the Civil War (6)

**recyclable resources** resources that can be reused and made into other useful products (11)

**redeemers** white Mississippians who wanted to return control of state government to native whites (6)

**regions** a theme of geography that allows geographers to define an area in terms of one or more characteristics (1)

**remote sensing** the process of collecting, storing, and extracting environmental information from images of the ground acquired by devices not in direct physical contact with the features being studied (2)

**renewable resources** natural resources, such as wildlife, fish, livestock, or trees that naturally renew themselves (11)

**Republican party** a political party formed in 1854 to oppose the expansion of slavery (5)

**resource** anything that can be consumed or used by people (11)

**right-to-work law** a law that allows workers to get and keep jobs without having to join a union (9)

**rock and roll** a music style that evolved from rockabilly but was less regional and more mainstream (13)

**rockabilly** a music form that combined southern blues and country music (13)

**rural** the countryside and small communities of less than 2,500 persons (10)

## S

- scalawags** native southern whites (also called turncoats) who supported the Republican party during the Reconstruction period (6)
- search warrant** a document that must be presented by a law enforcement officer before the officer can legally enter the premises and search (16)
- secession** withdrawal from the Union (5)
- secondary sector** the manufacturing portion of industry where workers receive and process the commodities (agricultural and mining products) and raw materials produced in the primary sector and change them into *tangible* (capable of being touched) goods (11)
- sectionalism** an allegiance to local interests (3)
- segregation** separation of the races (7)
- self-incrimination** the idea that individuals being prosecuted cannot be forced to testify against themselves (16)
- sense of place** a feeling of the land, community, and family that has a hold on Mississippi writers (12)
- separate-but-equal concept** a concept that allowed states to pass laws to segregate public facilities for blacks and whites (9)
- sharecroppers** persons who did not own the land they farmed, the house they lived in, or often the tools they used (7)
- sit-ins** demonstrations where people enter a public facility and refuse to leave until their demands are heard (9)
- slander** a spoken statement made with the purpose of harming a person's character or reputation (16)
- slave states** states that did permit slavery (5)
- Sovereignty Commission** an organization designed to identify, watch, and defeat the enemies of segregation (9)
- special elections** elections held for a particular purpose, such as to replace elected officials who have died or resigned from office or to settle a controversial issue (16)
- specie** gold and silver used as money (4)
- spirituals** the sacred folk songs of African Americans (13)
- states' rights** the principle that the rights of the indi-

vidual states should prevail over the rights of the federal government (15)

- stoicism** indifference to pain and emotion (12)
- suburbs** spillover areas where people live outside the legal limits of an incorporated city (10)
- suffrage** voting rights (6)
- supreme court** the highest court in the state that hears appeals from circuit and chancery courts (14)
- surface water** the water in lakes, ponds, rivers, and the ocean (1)

## T

- tariff** a tax on imports designed to keep out foreign competition (5)
- tax** an amount of money charged citizens by their government (federal, state, and county) (15)
- tax rate** a rate based on the financial needs of the local government; often expressed in mills (15)
- tax roll** a list of the properties on which taxes are levied compiled by the tax assessor (16)
- tertiary sector** a portion of industry that includes transportation, communication, and utility services (11)
- Tet** an Asian celebration of the beginning of the lunar New Year (13)
- the local color tradition** a style in American writing after 1880 that played upon the dialect, dress, mannerisms, and topography of a regional community (12)
- Tombigbee Hills** a landform region in the northeastern corner of the state (2)
- topography** physical features such as mountains or plateaus (2)
- tornado** a severe windstorm whose winds can reach speeds of up to 300 miles an hour; characterized by a funnel-shaped cloud (1)
- tort** a civil wrong (for example, negligence) not involving contracts (14)
- tradition** the customs of a particular culture (12)
- Trail of Tears** the trail followed by Native Americans to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) (4)
- transfer payments** income payments for which no goods or services are exchanged (9)

**treaty** a formal agreement between two or more nations (3)

**trickster stories** myths in which animals appeared as human beings and were imposters and cheaters (12)

**true value** the actual worth of property (15)

## U

**understanding clause** a clause added to the state constitution in 1890 as a loophole to allow illiterate whites to register and vote (6)

**unit system** a system under which the supervisors set policies and hire county employees, such as a county administrator, to handle the day-to-day functions of county government (15)

**universal male suffrage** extended the vote to male citizens of any race or color (6)

**urban** places that have 2,500 persons or more (10)

**urban area** the urban place together with its suburban area (10)

## V

**verdict** the decision the jury makes (14)

**veto** rejection of a bill (14)

**visionary artist** an artist with little or no formal training

who does not let the lack of training stop him or her (13)

**voting precincts** subdivisions of the county or city that registered voters are assigned to for election purposes (16)

## W

**weather** the day-to-day conditions and changes in the atmosphere for temperature, rainfall, wind, cloudiness, humidity, and air pressure (1)

**White Citizen's Council** a group that distributed materials supporting segregation, organized political pressure, founded a newspaper, and made radio and television broadcasts (9)

**workers' compensation** a form of government insurance for accidental death or injuries in the workplace (9)

**writ of habeas corpus** a court order requiring that a person being held be brought before the court to determine if that person is being held lawfully (16)

## Y

**Yazoo Basin** the flat landform region that lies along the western border of the state; also referred to as the Delta (2)