

# Glossary

## A

**abolitionist** one who wished to end slavery right away (10)

**absolute location** identifies a precise position on Earth's surface, stated in terms of latitude and longitude (5)

**abstain** to not vote (11)

**acquitted** found not guilty (3)

**Allegheny Highlands region** geographic region of West Virginia that lies west of the Potomac Section region (6)

**Allegheny Plateau region** geographic region of West Virginia that lies west of the Allegheny Highlands region (6)

**ally** to form an association with another for mutual benefit (9)

**al-Qaeda** an extremist group of Islamist terrorists, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001 (17)

**amend** to change or add to an official document (1)

**anthropologist** a scientist who studies artifacts, cave drawings, and oral history to learn about the culture of a group (7)

**appeasement** a policy of giving an aggressor nation what it wants in order to avoid war (15)

**apportionment** the act of distributing something according to a plan (2)

**appropriate** to set aside for a specific purpose (16)

**archaeologist** a scientist who studies the items left behind by ancient peoples (7)

**artifacts** items left behind by ancient people, such as pipes, bowls, tools, and jewelry (6)

**atlatl** a carved stick that had a base at right angles to the shaft into which a hunter set a spear; enabled the hunter to fling the spear forward with more force and speed (7)

**attorney general** elected official who serves as the state's lawyer and is head of the state's legal department (2)

## B

**baby boom** a period of time from 1946 to 1964 when many babies were born (16)

**bicameral** refers to a two-house legislature (1)

**biennial** every other year (13)

**bill** proposed legislation (1)

**Bill of Rights** the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution (1)

**biological resources** plants (flora) and animals (fauna); biological resources are renewable (3)

**bituminous** refers to soft coal, best used for making steel (3)

**blacklist** a list containing the names of individuals or companies to be avoided or punished (13)

**blockade** the use of naval forces to stop shipping (12)

**blogs** websites that are maintained by individuals as well as business and government groups; short for "Weblogs" (17)

**board of public works** group composed of the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and state superintendent of schools (2)

**bond** a document that serves as proof of a debt and requires the payment of the debt plus interest (13)

**boycott** to refuse to do something, often to do business, until demands are met (16)

**budget** a plan for receiving and spending money for a specific period of time (4)

## C

**cabinet** the group of department heads chosen by a president as advisers (12)

**canal** a waterway that joins one river or body of water to another (10)

**capital resources** money or property used to produce goods and services; examples include factories, tools, bridges, machines, and other items (3)

**cash crop** a crop produced for sale and not for family use (3)

**casualty** one who is killed or wounded (9)

**census** an actual count of the people (2)

**certificate of deposit** a bank certificate that draws interest and is written for a specific period of time (4)

**charter** a document similar to the state or federal constitution; includes the city's official name, boundaries, and powers (2); official permission to operate something, such as a colony (8)

**checking account** an account against which the depositor can write checks to pay bills on demand (4)

**checks and balances** the principle of government by which each branch is given some power to control or prevent some actions of the other two branches (1)

**circuit court** West Virginia's trial court of record (2)

**citizen** a native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection (1)

**clan** an extended family of people with a common ancestor (7)

**climate** the average weather of a region over a long period of time; West Virginia has a humid continental climate (5)

**coalition** an alliance (17)

**Cold War** a term to describe a period of distrust and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union from the mid-1940s to the early 1990s (16)

**collective bargaining** a process where unions and companies negotiate with each other for wages and working conditions (14)

**colony** a geographical area politically controlled by a distant country (4)

**command economy** an economy in which the government controls the economy and answers the four basic economic questions (3)

**commerce** the buying and selling of goods (4)

**commissioner of agriculture** elected official who sets standards, grades all farm products, identifies markets for farm products, and publishes agriculture and forestry reports and bulletins (2)

**commission form** a form of municipal government in which voters elect individuals to specific administrative positions, such as finance; all commissioners make up the city commission (2)

**committee** a small group of delegates or senators who studies bills on a particular subject and makes recommendations on those bills to the full membership of each house (1)

**common law** unwritten law based on earlier court decisions (14)

**Compromise of 1850** a series of laws by which California was admitted to the Union as a free state, part of

Texas was given to New Mexico, the slave trade was banned in the District of Columbia, a stronger fugitive slave law was passed, and slavery in New Mexico and Utah was decided by popular sovereignty (11)

**concurrent powers** powers shared by the national and state governments (2)

**Confederate States of America** the government formed in 1861 by the states that seceded from the Union (11)

**conservation** the careful management of a natural resource to prevent its destruction (3)

**constitution** a document that describes the rights of the people and the framework of the government (1)

**consumer** a person who purchases a product or service (3)

**council-manager form** a form of municipal government in which voters elect council members who set policy and pass ordinances and who hire a professional city manager to handle the city's daily operation (2)

**counterculture** a culture with antiestablishment values or lifestyles (16)

**county commission** the form of government for the state's counties; a commission has at least three members (2)

**county seat** the center of a county government (2)

**COVID-19** a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus; it first appeared in the United States in January 2020 and has caused sometimes severe illness and the deaths of over one million people (17)

**credit** the ability to buy things now and pay for them over time (4)

**cribbing** paying miners for the stated amount of a coal car instead of what it actually holds (13)

## D

**deficit spending** spending more money than one has (2)

**demand** the quantity of a good or service consumers are willing and able to buy (3)

**demographics** a view of the population that can include age, gender, income, education, and employment (4)

**denomination** a particular religious group (8)

**depression** a prolonged decline in economic activity that may include reduced sales, unemployment, bankruptcies, foreclosures, and stock market declines (13)

**desegregate** to end the separation of races (16)

**dictator** an individual who rules a country through military might (15)

**discriminate** to deny someone or some group their rights because of prejudice (8)

**disfranchise** to take the right to vote away (13)

**draft** compulsory enrollment for military service (14)

**drought** a prolonged period of dry weather (5)

**due process** the rules established by courts to protect a person's rights (1)

## E

**economics** the study of the consumption, production, distribution, and exchange of goods and services (3)

**Electoral College** a group of people (electors) from each state whose job it is to vote to determine the president (1)

**email** messages sent electronically on the computer (17)

**emancipation** freeing of the slaves (10)

**embargo** the stopping of all trade (16)

**emigrant** one who leaves his or her native country to settle in another (8)

**equator** the imaginary line that goes around the globe halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole (5)

**erosion** the gradual wearing down of the land or rock by wind and water (5)

**ethnic** refers to a group of people who have common history, language, and customs (14)

**evict** to force out (14)

**excise tax** tax levied on specific products such as gasoline, beer, liquor, firearms, and cigarettes; sometimes called a luxury tax (2)

**expedition** a journey for a specific purpose, such as exploration (8)

**expenditures** amounts spent (2)

**expenses** amounts spent on needs and wants (4)

**expressed powers** those powers specifically given to Congress in the United States Constitution (1)

**extinct** no longer existing, such as an animal (5)

**extractive industries** industries that remove natural resources from Earth (4)

## F

**family court** state court that hears cases involving divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, family support, paternity, child custody, and visitation (2)

**famine** an extreme shortage of food (7)

**fascism** form of government in which a dictator controls the economic and social lives of citizens, stresses nationalism at the expense of human rights, and eliminates all opposition (15)

**federalism** a system in which the national government and state governments share authority over the same territory and the same people (1)

**felony** a serious crime, like robbery or murder, that is punishable by a prison term (2)

**financier** one who provides the funds for an undertaking (10)

**freedmen** the newly freed slaves (13)

**Freedmen's Bureau** an agency established in 1865 to help both freedmen and poor whites cope with their everyday problems (13)

**free state** a state that did not permit slavery (11)

**free trade** international trade free of government intervention (4)

**frontier** the area just at the edge of or beyond a settled area (8)

## G

**general strike** a strike involving all unionized mines (14)

**geography** the science of studying Earth as the home of humans (5)

**geologist** a scientist who studies the origin, history, and structure of Earth (7)

**GI Bill** the Servicemen's Readjustment Act; it provided funds to veterans for buying a house or going to college (16)

**global marketplace** an international system for the buying and selling of goods and services (4)

**goods** tangible items such as food, clothing, cars, video games, and smartphones (3)

**government** the organization that has the authority to make and enforce laws (1)

**governor** the head of the executive branch of state government (2)

**graduated income tax** a tax structure that divides income into brackets and taxes each bracket at a different rate (2)

**grandfather clause** a law stating that any man who had been eligible to vote on January 1, 1867, or who was the son or grandson of a man eligible to vote on that date, would be permitted to vote—even if he could not pay the poll tax or pass the literacy test; designed to prevent blacks from voting while allowing poor whites to vote (13)

**Great Depression** a severe, prolonged downturn in the economy that began in 1929 and lasted until the early 1940s in the United States (15)

**Gross Domestic Product** GDP; the total value of all final goods and services produced in a country or state in a given year (4)

**guerrilla warfare** harassment or attacks by small, independent groups (14)

## H

**hippie** a person who rejected many conventional standards and customs of society to follow a liberal lifestyle (16)

**human resources** the people who produce goods or provide services (3)

## I

**immigrant** one who moves into a new country to settle there (6)

**immunity** natural resistance to disease (7)

**impeach** to bring charges against an elected official while that official is still in office (1)

**implied powers** powers that are not specifically stated in the Constitution but come from Congress's right to make all laws "necessary" to carry out its expressed powers (1)

**income** money earned for working, providing services, selling goods or property, or from investments (4)

**indentured servant** one who agreed to work for a period, usually seven years, as a servant in America in exchange for passage to the New World (8)

**industry** the manufacture, production, and sale of goods (3)

**inflation** a steady increase in the prices of goods and services over time (16)

**infrastructure** roads, bridges, ports (1)

**injunction** an order issued by a local judge that stops a particular action or forces a particular action (13)

**insurrection** rebellion (11)

**integration** bringing different groups into society as equals (16)

**interest** money paid for the use of money (4)

**internal improvements** improvements to roads, bridges, and other transportation needs (10)

**interstate commerce** business or trade between states (3)

**invest** to buy an asset hoping that it will provide future profit or income (4)

## J

**Jim Crow laws** laws passed to establish "separate-but-equal" facilities (such as separate restrooms, water fountains, railroad cars, waiting rooms, lodging facilities, dining areas, and schools) for whites and for blacks (14)

**judicial review** the ability to set aside the actions of the legislative or executive branches or any government agency (1)

**jury** a group of citizens chosen to hear evidence in a legal case and to make a decision based on the evidence presented (1)

## K

**Ku Klux Klan** a secret organization, begun in 1865, that evolved into a group that tried to keep freedmen from voting (13)

## L

**labor union** an organization of workers formed to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions (13)

**laissez-faire** belief in noninterference in the affairs of others; opposition to government regulation in commerce (15)

**latitude** the distance north (N) or south (S) of the equator; also called parallels (5)

**literacy test** a test to determine whether a person could read or write before being allowed to vote (13)

**lobbyist** one who presents to legislators the views of the organization that he or she represents (1)

**lockout** a procedure used by management whereby workers would not be allowed to enter the workplace (13)

**longitude** the distance east (E) or west (W) of the prime meridian that a place is located; also called meridians (5)

**Loyalists** those who did not want to separate from Great Britain; also called Tories (9)

## M

**magistrate court** state court that has jurisdiction over most misdemeanors, civil cases involving lesser amounts of money, traffic and natural resources offenses, preliminary hearings in felony cases, brief commitment under mental hygiene law, and initial hearings in juvenile cases if designated as a juvenile referee (2)

**mandate** authority given to someone to perform a certain task or apply certain policies (11)

**market economy** an economy in which individuals answer the four basic economic questions based on supply and demand (3)

**martial law** using military forces to keep order when civilian authority breaks down (14)

**martyr** a person who suffers death in support of a belief, cause, or principle (11)

**mass production** the manufacture of large quantities of similar goods (4)

**matrilineal** describes a society where the “line” is traced through the “matri” or mother (7)

**mayor-council form** a form of municipal government in which the people elect both the mayor and council members; the mayor manages the city, carrying out the policies and ordinances set by the city council (2)

**mercantilism** a trade policy that stated a country had to export more than it imported to be economically successful (4)

**migrant** person from another country (1)

**migration** moving from one area or country to another (7)

**militia** a military force composed mostly of citizen-soldiers (8)

**millennium** a period of one thousand years (17)

**mineral resource** a nonrenewable organic substance that is formed by Earth’s geological processes (3)

**minimum wage** the least amount of money an employer can pay an employee for a certain number of hours worked (15)

**misdemeanor** a crime less serious than a felony, usu-

ally punishable by a sentence in a local jail (2)

**Missouri Compromise** an 1820 compromise over slavery that allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state; slavery would not be permitted north of a line drawn westward from Missouri’s southern border (11)

**moderate** one who is not an extremist (11)

**money market account** a special account whose interest fluctuates with the national interest rate (4)

**monopoly** the sole possession or control of something (8)

**municipality** a political unit smaller than the county; may be classified as a city, town, or village (2)

## N

**NAACP** National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; an organization formed in 1909 by blacks and liberal whites to ensure the constitutional rights of African Americans (14)

**NAFTA** North American Free Trade Agreement; a treaty that eliminated tariffs on products traded among the United States, Canada, and Mexico (4)

**naturalization** the process by which persons from other countries (called migrants) can become American citizens (1)

**natural resources** things of value that come from nature and are part of the natural environment; examples include water, trees, and minerals (3)

**navigable** suitable for a boat to sail on (10)

**neutral** not taking sides in a disagreement (9)

**New Deal** name given to the series of programs enacted during the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt to bring about economic recovery, relieve the suffering of the unemployed, reform defects in the economy, and improve society (15)

**nomad** a wanderer (7)

**nonaggression pact** an agreement between two or more countries not to wage war against each other (15)

**nonrenewable resources** natural resources that cannot be replaced by nature once they are used (3)

**nullify** to take away the legal status of something (9)

## O

**Ohio River Valley region** a geographic region of West Virginia that lies along the Ohio River (6)

**OPEC** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; an organization of a number of oil-producing countries that work to stabilize oil production and pricing in world markets (16)

**ordinance** a regulation or decree; often used to refer to a municipal law (12)

## P

**pandemic** an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects a significant proportion of the population (17)

**panhandle** a long, narrow strip of a larger territory (5)

**personal property** movable items such as automobiles (2)

**plateau** an elevated tract of more or less level land (6)

**platform** a statement of the principles and policies a political party supports (11)

**political action committee** PAC; a private organization whose members share similar views and who try to influence legislators to favor the group's position (1)

**poll tax** a tax that had to be paid before a person could vote (13)

**popular sovereignty** the right of those living within a territory to decide upon an issue, such as whether to allow slavery (11)

**Potomac Section region** geographic region of West Virginia that contains the eastern panhandle (6)

**preamble** the introductory part of a document; a statement of purpose (2)

**precipitation** rain, snow, sleet, or hail (5)

**prehistoric** people or cultures who lived before written records (7)

**prejudice** an irrational hostility toward a person, a group, or a race (14)

**prime meridian** an imaginary line running from the North Pole through Greenwich, England, and part of Africa to the South Pole (5)

**proclamation** an official or public announcement (12)

**Proclamation of 1763** an announcement issued by British King George III that forbade settlement west of the Allegheny Front (9)

**producer** the person or business that makes goods or provides services people want (3)

**profit** the amount left after costs are subtracted from

the sale price (3)

**prohibition** the complete banning of alcohol (14)

**property assessment** the estimated worth of property (2)

**proportional representation** representation based on population (1)

## R

**racial profiling** the tendency to believe people are more likely to have committed a crime because of their race (16)

**ratify** to approve officially (1)

**ration** to limit the use or consumption of something (15)

**raw material** any material that is processed to make another project (3)

**real property** land and permanent structures on land (2)

**reapportion** to redraw voting districts (1)

**rebellion** open resistance to authority (9)

**recruit** to hire; to secure the services of (14)

**referendum** a process whereby the people are permitted to vote on legislation (14)

**region** an area with common characteristics, such as soil, vegetation, climate, landforms, recreation, or economic opportunities (6)

**relative location** describes where a place is compared to other places (5)

**relief** money and goods given to people in special need (15)

**renewable resources** natural resources that can replace themselves over time (3)

**representative democracy** a democracy in which individual citizens elect people to serve, vote, and make decisions for them (1)

**republic** a type of government in which the power to govern comes from the people (1)

**retaliation** a counterattack (9)

**revenue** income from taxes and other sources (2)

**rock salt** solid masses of salt found deep below Earth's surface (3)

**rural** countrylike (6)

## S



**sabotage** to willfully damage or destroy machinery, materials, or property (11)

**sales tax** a tax imposed on almost all retail sales (6)

**savings account** a holding place for money for the future (4)

**scab** a person who is willing to work for the company when regular workers go on strike (13)

**scarcity** a limited supply or amount (3)

**school board** the governing body for the school district; consists of five members (2)

**scrip** tokens or paper certificates used instead of money (14)

**secede** to withdraw from the Union (11)

**secretary of state** the keeper of the Great and Less Seals of the State; is also in charge of all official state papers and records and serves as the chief election officer (2)

**sectionalism** putting one's section of the country ahead of the nation as a whole (7)

**separation of powers** the principle that the power of the government should be divided among the various branches (1)

**services** activities people do for a fee, such as car repairs, house painting, concerts, and babysitting (3)

**severance tax** a tax on the amount and value of the minerals and materials severed (taken) from Earth (2)

**siege** a military encounter where armed forces try to capture a fort or fortified town by surrounding it and preventing any supplies from reaching it (9)

**sit-in** a nonviolent demonstration where people refuse to leave until their demands are met (16)

**slavery** the practice of owning people as property and forcing those people to work for a slaveholder (8)

**slave state** a state that permitted slavery (11)

**social networking website** an Internet website that allows users to connect and share thoughts, pictures, and other items of interest with friends (17)

**sovereignty** the principle that power rests with the citizens (1)

**special interest group** a group of individuals who are interested in one particular issue (1)

**speculator** one who buys something, such as land, hoping it will increase in value and, when sold, provide a profit (8)

**stalemate** to become deadlocked (16)

**state auditor** elected official who serves as the state's bookkeeper (2)

**states' rights** the principle that the rights and responsibilities of states should take precedence over the rights

and responsibilities of the federal government (11)

**state superintendent of schools** state official appointed by the governor who oversees the state's public school system, including teacher certification and textbook adoptions (2)

**state treasurer** elected official who receives state revenues and pays the state's bills (2)

**steamboat** a boat that used steam power (10)

**strategy** a detailed plan for accomplishing something, such as using military forces (12)

**strike** a work stoppage by workers in order to change unfair work conditions or achieve better wages (13)

**subsistence farmer** a farmer who raises only enough crops to feed his or her family (3)

**subsistence homestead fund** a program to provide housing and employment for unemployed industrial workers (15)

**suburbs** residential areas around cities (16)

**suffrage** the right to vote (10)

**supply** the quantity of a good or service offered for sale (3)

**supreme court of appeals** the highest court in the state (2)

**surface mining** strip mining; a method of mining for minerals close to Earth's surface where the top layers of the earth are scraped away to get at the mineral (5)

**surveyor** one who measures and maps out the size, shape, position, and so on of an area of land (8)

## T

**Taliban** the fundamentalist political and religious rulers of Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001 (17)

**tariff** a tax imposed on goods that are imported into a country (4)

**telecommunicate** to work at home while keeping in touch with the office through the computer (17)

**temperance** moderation or abstinence from the consumption of alcohol (14)

**terrain** land and its natural features (15)

**terrorism** an act of violence aimed at demoralizing or intimidating others (17)

**test oath** law passed in 1865 requiring all eligible voters to swear they had never taken up arms against the United States or held office in any illegal (Confederate) government during the war (13)

**toll** a fee for the use of a road (10)

**topography** physical features of the land, such as mountains or plateaus (5)

**tourist** someone who travels away from home to another place and who does not plan to stay permanently in the new location (6)

**trade** the voluntary exchange of goods and services (4)

**trade-off** the process of giving up one thing in order to achieve a more desirable outcome (3)

**traditional economy** an economy in which customs, habits, and beliefs determine how the four basic economic questions are answered (3)

**treason** the crime of trying to overthrow one's own government (11)

**treaty** a formal agreement between two or more nations (9)

**tribe** a group of people who share a common ancestry, name, and way of living (7)

**tributary** a stream or river that flows into a larger river (5)

**turnpike** a road on which a toll for use was charged (10)

## U

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**ultimatum** a final statement of terms offered by one party to another with the threat of force if the offer is not accepted (14)

**Underground Railroad** a network of houses and other places used to help slaves from the South escape to the North or Canada (11)

**unicameral** describes a one-house legislature (1)

**urban** of or like a city or town (6)

**use tax** a tax for items residents purchase from other states through mail-order firms, catalogs, and television shopping networks (2)

## V

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**vaccine** a preparation of killed, weakened, or fully infectious microbes that is injected to produce or increase immunity to a particular disease (17)

**veto** to refuse to sign a bill (1)

**virus** a tiny infectious agent that can grow and multiply only in living cells and that causes important disease in plants and animals (17)

## W

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**weather** the day-to-day conditions and changes in the atmosphere for a region (5)

**wildcatter** one who drills in untapped areas (6)

**workers' compensation** insurance for workers who become disabled on the job or who suffer from job-related illnesses (15)

## Y

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**yellow-dog contract** a contract between an employer and a worker by which the worker promised not to join a union as a condition of getting hired (13)