

Social Studies

5th Grade L to J

1. **Abolish** – To end (slavery).
2. **Abolitionist** – A person who wanted to abolish slavery.
3. **Adobe** – A mixture of sand and straw that is dried into bricks (made pueblos).
4. **Ally** – A friend, especially in time of war.
5. **Ambassador** – A representative from one country to another (Jefferson).
6. **Amendment** – An addition or change to the Constitution (made 10 right away).
7. **Annex** – To add on (Texas).
8. **Anti-Federalist** – A citizen who was against ratification of the Constitution.
9. **Apprentice** – A person who learns a trade by living with the family of a skilled worker and working for several years (to become a printer).
10. **Archaeologist** – A scientist who studies the cultures of people of long ago.
11. **Arid** – Very dry (Southwest).
12. **Armada** – A fleet of warships.
13. **Artifact** – An object that early people had made.
14. **Auction** – A public sale (of slaves).
15. **Backcountry** – An area beyond settled lands between the coastal plain and the Appalachian Mountains.
16. **Band** – A small group of people who work together to do activities (nomads).
17. **Barter** – To exchange goods with other people (can also be TRADE).
18. **Bill** – An idea for a new law.
19. **Bill of Rights** – A list of freedoms added to the Constitution as the first ten amendments.
20. **Blockade** – To use warships to prevent other ships from entering or leaving a harbor.
21. **Borderlands** – Areas of land on or near the borders between countries, colonies, or regions (between Spain and other colonies).
22. **Boycott** – A refusal to buy goods or services (tea, paper, etc.).
23. **Broker** – A person who is paid to buy and sell for someone else (for planters).
24. **Cabinet** – A group of the President's most important advisers.
25. **Campaign** – A race for office.
26. **Canal** – A human-made waterway.
27. **Cartographer** – A person who makes maps.
28. **Cash crop** – A crop that people raise to sell rather than to use themselves.
29. **Ceremony** – A service performed for a special purpose, such as for a religion.
30. **Charter** – A document giving a person or group official approval to take a certain action (to come to America).
31. **Checks and balances** – A system that gives each branch of government different powers so that each branch can check the authority of the others.
32. **Citizen** – A member of a town or city, state, or country (immigrants have to become one).
33. **Civilization** – A culture that has developed forms of government, religion, and learning (Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas).
34. **Claim** – To declare that you or your country owns something.
35. **Clan** – A group of families that are related to one another.
36. **Colonist** – A person who lives in a colony.
37. **Colony** – A settlement ruled by another country (often far away).
38. **Columbian Exchange** – The movement of plants, animals, and people from one continent to another. It is named for Christopher Columbus, one of the first explorers to transfer items across the Atlantic Ocean.

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39. **Committee of Correspondence** – A group set up in each of the colonies to quickly share information about taxes and other issues by writing letters to groups in the other colonies (reminds us of the Pony Express).
40. **Common** – An open area where sheep and cattle grazed (New England town).
41. **Compass** – An instrument used to find direction. It has a needle that always points north.
42. **Compromise** – To give up some of what you want in order to reach an agreement (give a little to get a little).
43. **Conestoga** – A large covered wagon used by farmers to carry their produce to market towns.
44. **Confederation** – A loosely united group of governments (Iroquois League).
45. **Congress** – A meeting of representatives who have the authority to make decisions.
46. **Conquistador** – Any of the Spanish conquerors in the Americas during the early 1500s.
47. **Constitution** – A plan of government (written out).
48. **Continental** – A soldier in the first colonial army, which was headed by George Washington.
49. **Continental Congress** – A meeting of representatives of the British colonies (met when having troubles with Britain).
50. **County** – A large part of a colony. Today, it is a part of a state. A county has its own local government (Blair).
51. **County seat** – The main town for a large part of a colony. Today, it is the city where a county government is located (southern colonies had these – think of Blair for us).
52. **Coureur de bois** – A French word meaning “runner of the woods”. This was a person who traded with American Indians for furs.
53. **Cultural diffusion** – The spread of a culture from one place to another (passing gas).
54. **Culture** – A way of life (religion, language, clothing, food, etc.).
55. **Debate** – To argue opposite sides of an issue.
56. **Debtor** – A person who had been in prison for owing money (taken to Georgia colony).
57. **Declaration** – An official statement (we wrote one for independence from Britain).
58. **Delegate** – A representative (another word for).
59. **Democracy** – A government in which the people take part (similar to republic).
60. **Diversity** – Differences, such as those among different peoples (another word for).
61. **Drought** – A long dry spell.
62. **Due process of law** – A process that guarantees the right to a fair public trial (speedy, lawyer, fair treatment, etc. in the Bill of Rights).
63. **Dugout** – A boat made from a large, hollowed-out log (Chinooks and Makahs).
64. **Earthwork** – A mound, or hill of earth, that people built (Serpent Mound).
65. **Electoral college** – A group of electors chosen by citizens to vote for the President.
66. **Emperor** – The ruler of an empire.
67. **Empire** – A conquered land of many people and places governed by one ruler (Aztecs).
68. **Encounter** – A meeting, such as one between peoples who have never met before (often negative).
69. **Enlist** – To join (the army).
70. **Evidence** – Proof (that they crossed Beringia for example).
71. **Executive branch** – The branch of government that carries out the laws (President).
72. **Expedition** – A journey made for a special reason (Lewis and Clark).
73. **Exploration** – Searching the unknown (across oceans).
74. **Export** – A good sent out of our country to another to be sold.
75. **Fact** – A statement that can be proved true (you can look it up).

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76. **Fall line** – A place where the land drops sharply, causing the rivers to form waterfalls (ran into these when crossing the Appalachians).
77. **Federal system** – A governing system in which the states share authority with the national government (state have some powers, national government has some, and they share some).
78. **Federalist** – A citizen who was in favor of ratifying the Constitution (they were FOR it).
79. **Forty-niner** – A gold seeker who arrived in California in the year 1849.
80. **Frontier** – The land beyond a settlement (think west of the Appalachians).
81. **Fundamental Orders** – The first written system of government in North America (adopted in Connecticut – must have been FUN to write and follow).
82. **Glacier** – A huge sheet of ice (not an iceberg).
83. **Grievance** – A complaint (about British taxes).
84. **Hacienda** – A large farm in Spanish territory (where cattle and sheep are raised).
85. **Hogan** – A cone-shaped house built by covering a log frame with mud or grass.
86. **House of Burgesses** – An assembly that met in the colony of Virginia to make laws.
87. **Human rights** – Freedoms that all people should have (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness).
88. **Immigrant** – A person who comes to live in a country from his or her home country.
89. **Import** – A good brought into the country from another, to be sold.
90. **Impressment** – Forcing people into military service (on British ships).
91. **Indentured servant** – A person who agrees to work for another person without pay for a certain length of time (to pay off a debt, maybe for coming to America).
92. **Independence** – Freedom to govern on one's own.
93. **Indigo** – A plant from which a blue dye is made (for clothes, cash crop).
94. **Industrial Revolution** – A time during the late 1700's and early 1800's when new inventions changed the way people lived, worked, and traveled (made things faster, cheaper, easier, and safer).
95. **Inflation** – An economic condition in which it takes more and more money to buy the same goods (gas).
96. **Interchangeable parts** – Identical copies of parts made by machines so that if one part breaks, an identical one can be installed (you don't have to toss your whole car).
97. **Interpreter** – A person who translates from one language to another (Sacagawea).
98. **Iroquois League** – A group of Iroquois tribes that worked together for peace.
99. **Judicial branch** – The branch of government that settles differences about the meaning of the laws.
100. **Jury** – A group of citizens who decide a case in court (listen to both sides).
101. **Justice** – A judge who serves on the Supreme Court.
102. **Kachina** – One of the spirits that are important in the religion of the Hopis and other Pueblo peoples (have dances when these spirits enter their bodies).
103. **Kiva** – A special underground room where the Anasazi held religious services (some people went UP, they went DOWN).
104. **Legislative branch** – The branch of government that makes the laws.
105. **Legislature** – The lawmaking branch of a colony, a state government, or the national government.
106. **Liberty** – Freedom (another word for).
107. **Locomotive** – A railroad engine.
108. **Lodge** – A circular house built over a shallow pit and the roof (plains Indians' permanent home).
109. **Loft** – The part of a house between the ceiling and the roof (where kids slept – snowy at times).

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110. **Longhouse** – A long wooden building in which several Indian families lived together (Eastern Woodlands).
111. **Loyalist** – A colonist who supported the British monarch and laws.
112. **Maize** – Spanish word for corn.
113. **Majority** – The greater part of a whole (more than half).
114. **Manifest destiny** – The belief shared by many Americans that it was the certain future of the U.S. to stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
115. **Map key** – A part of a map that explains what the symbols on the map stand for.
116. **Map title** – Words on a map that describe the subject of the map (what it's showing).
117. **Mass production** – A way of manufacturing that produces large amounts of goods at one time.
118. **Massacre** – The killing of people who cannot defend themselves (happened in Boston).
119. **Mayflower Compact** – An agreement by those on the Mayflower to make and obey laws for their colony (first example of self-rule by American colonists).
120. **Mercenary** – A hired soldier (Hessians for Britain).
121. **Mesa** – A high, flat-topped hill (think of the Anasazi pueblos that were hidden).
122. **Militia** – A volunteer army.
123. **Minuteman** – A member of the Massachusetts colony militia who could quickly be ready to fight the British.
124. **Mission** – A small religious community (in Spanish territory).
125. **Missionary** – A person who teaches his or her religion to others.
126. **Monarch** – A king or queen (another word for).
127. **Nationalism** – Pride in a country (after War of 1812).
128. **Naval stores** – Products made from pine tar that were used in building and repairing ships (New England colonies).
129. **Navigation** – The study or act of planning and controlling the course of a ship (Prince Henry).
130. **Neutral** – Not taking a side in a conflict.
131. **Nomad** – A wanderer who has no settled home (NO home).
132. **Northwest Passage** – A water route that explorers wanted to find so that traders could cut through North America to Asia (didn't exist).
133. **Olive branch** – A symbol of peace (on our national seal AND we sent a petition called this).
134. **Opinion** – A statement that tells what a person believes (can't be proven).
135. **Ordinance** – A law or a set of laws (for splitting up the Northwest Territory).
136. **Origin story** – A story that tells of a people's beliefs about the world and their place in it (Native Americans' beginning).
137. **Override** – To cancel (Congress can do this to a President's veto).
138. **Overseer** – A person who was hired to watch slaves to see that they did their work.
139. **Pacifist** – A believer in a peaceful settlement of differences (like calming a baby).
140. **Parliament** – The part of the British government in which members make laws for the British people (the other power besides the King).
141. **Pathfinder** – Someone who finds a way through an unknown region.
142. **Patriot** – A colonist who was against British rule.
143. **Patriotism** – Love of one's country.
144. **Permanent** – Long-lasting (teeth and St. Augustine).
145. **Petition** – A request for action signed by many people (sent one to the King).
146. **Pilgrim** – A person who makes a journey for a religious reason (one of the first groups in the colonies).

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147. **Pioneer** – A person who first settles a new place (not settler, think frontier).
148. **Pit house** – A house built partly over a hole dug in the earth so that some of its rooms are under the ground (used for storing goods, kind of like a fridge?).
149. **Plantation** – A huge farm (in the south).
150. **Political cartoon** – A cartoon that expresses opinions about politics or about government.
151. **Political party** – A group of people involved in government who try to get others to agree with their ideas and who choose leaders who share the group’s points of view (we have two big ones).
152. **Portage** – The carrying of canoes and supplies around waterfalls and rapids or overland between rivers (French with their birch bark canoes).
153. **Potlatch** – A special Native American gathering at which the host gives away valuable gifts (flaunt their wealth like “My Sweet 16”).
154. **Preamble** – The introduction to the Constitution.
155. **Presidio** – A fort in Spanish territory.
156. **Proprietary colony** – A colony that was owned and ruled by one person who was chosen by a king or queen.
157. **Proprietor** – An owner (of a colony, not the king).
158. **Public school** – A school paid for by taxes and open to all children
159. **Pueblo** – A group of adobe houses that the Anasazi and other Pueblo people lived in.
160. **Purchase** – To buy (another word for).
161. **Puritan** – A member of the Church of England who settled in North America to follow Christian beliefs in a more “pure” way.
162. **Pyramid** – A building with three or more triangle-shaped sides that slant toward a point at the top (Aztecs and Mayas, often had a temple on top).
163. **Quarter** – To provide or pay for housing (colonists had to do this for British soldiers).
164. **Ratify** – To agree to something (the Constitution).
165. **Reform** – A change for the better.
166. **Religion** – Belief about God or gods.
167. **Renaissance** – A French word meaning “rebirth”, used to name a time of advanced in thought, learning, art, and science.
168. **Repeal** – To undo a law or tax (Stamp Act).
169. **Representation** – Acting or speaking on behalf of someone or something (didn’t have this in Parliament).
170. **Republic** – A form of government in which people elect representatives to run a country.
171. **Revolution** – A sudden, complete change of government (for America).
172. **Right** – A freedom (another word for A freedom, not just freedom – not liberty).
173. **Royal colony** – A colony controlled by a king or queen.
174. **Ruling** – A decision in court (guilty or not).
175. **Scarce** – Not plentiful (water).
176. **Scurvy** – A sickness caused by not getting enough vitamin C, which is found in fruit and vegetables (Magellan’s crew’s teeth fell out).
177. **Sectionalism** – Regional loyalty (North, South and West).
178. **Self-government** – A system of government in which people make their own laws.
179. **Self-sufficient** – Self-supporting (rely on no one else for goods).
180. **Separation of powers** – The division of the national government into three branches instead of having one all-powerful branch.
181. **Shaman** – A religious leader and healer (Hopi).

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182. **Siege** – A long-lasting attack.
183. **Slavery** – The practice of holding people against their will and making them carry out orders (African Americans).
184. **Sod** – Earth cut into blocks or mats that are held together by grass and its roots (earth lodge).
185. **Specialize** – to work mostly on one job that could be done well (as early Americans began to advance).
186. **Suffrage** – The right to vote (sounds negative).
187. **Surplus** – More than is needed (they would store the extra food).
188. **Tariff** – A tax on goods brought into a country.
189. **Tax** – Money that is paid by people to run the country.
190. **Technology** – The use of scientific knowledge or tools to make or do something.
191. **Temple** – A place of worship (often on pyramids to be closer to God/gods).
192. **Tepee** – A cone-shaped tent made of poles covered with animal skins (Plains Indians).
193. **Territory** – Land that belongs to a national government but is not a state (Louisiana).
194. **Textile mill** – A factory where fibers such as cotton and wool are woven into cloth.
195. **Theory** – A possible explanation for something (crossed Beringia).
196. **Time line** – A diagram that shows the events that took place during a certain period of time.
197. **Totem pole** – A wooden post that is carved with shapes of people and animals (Makahs).
198. **Town meeting** – An assembly in the New England colonies in which male landowners could take part in government.
199. **Township** – A square of land in the Northwest Territory that measured six miles per side (then divided into 36 sections that were 1 mile X 1 mile).
200. **Travois** – A kind of carrier made up of two poles fastened to the harness of an animal.
201. **Treason** – Working against one's own government (Benedict Arnold).
202. **Treaty** – An agreement between countries (often after war).
203. **Triangular trade route** – A shipping route that included Britain, the British colonies, and Africa.
204. **Tribe** – A group made up of many bands of people with a shared culture and land.
205. **Tributary** – A branch of a river or stream (feeds into a bigger river like the Mississippi).
206. **Unconstitutional** – Going against the Constitution (Supreme Court can rule a bill is this in the system of check and balances to keep an eye on Congress).
207. **Veto** – A power the President has to reject a bill passed by Congress.