

Social Studies

6th Grade L to J

1. **Abolitionist** – A person who wanted to end slavery.
2. **Acquittal** – A verdict of not guilty (when President is impeached).
3. **Address** – A formal speech (like Lincoln’s speech at Gettysburg).
4. **Advertisement** – A public announcement that tells people about a product or an opportunity.
5. **Ally** – A partner in an alliance (a friend in war).
6. **Architect** – A person who designs buildings.
7. **Armistice** – An agreement to stop fighting a war (not treaty or cease fire).
8. **Arms control** – Limiting the number of weapons that each nation may have (during Cold War).
9. **Arms race** – A time during which one country builds up weapons to protect itself against another country (during Cold War).
10. **Assassinate** – To murder an important leader by sudden or secret attack (like President).
11. **Assembly line** – System of building things in which a moving belt carries parts from worker to worker (Ford and cars).
12. **Aviation** – Air travel (flying planes).
13. **Baby boom** – The 15 years following World War II during which 50 million babies were born in the United States.
14. **Balanced budget** – A government plan for spending in which it does not spend more money than it makes (Hoover).
15. **Black codes** – Laws limiting the rights of former slaves in the South.
16. **Blockade** – To use ships to isolate a port or island (great war strategy).
17. **Boom** – A time of fast economic growth.
18. **Border state** - During the Civil War, a state – Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland or Missouri- between the North and the South that was unsure which side to support.
19. **Bust** – A time of quick economic decline (when the gold runs out).
20. **Candidate** – A person chosen by a political party to run for office.
21. **Carpenter** – A Northerner who moved to the South to take part in Reconstruction governments (took advantage of the southerners).
22. **Casualty** – A person who has been wounded or killed in a war.
23. **Cease-fire** – A temporary end to a conflict (Vietnam – agreed to stop fighting for a bit).
24. **Civil rights** – The rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution.
25. **Civilian** – A person who is not in the military (often killed during wars).
26. **Cold war** – A war fought mostly with propaganda and money rather than with soldiers and weapons (M & M & M - mind, money, and mouth).
27. **Communism** – A political and economic system in which all industries, land, and businesses are owned by the government (Soviet Union).
28. **Commute** – to travel back and forth to work (to and from work).
29. **Concentration camp** – A prison camp (Jew during WWII).
30. **Confederacy** – The group of eleven states that left the Union during the Civil War, also called the Confederate States of America.
31. **Conservation** – The protection of the environment by keeping natural resources from being wasted or destroyed (Teddy Roosevelt).
32. **Consumer good** – A product made for personal use.
33. **D Day** – June 6, 1944, the day the Allies worked together in Europe in the largest water-to-land invasion in history.
34. **Demonstration** – A public show of a group’s feelings about a cause (MLK or Vietnam).
35. **Depression** – A time when industries do not grow and many people are out of work.

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36. **Desegregate** – To remove racial barriers (RR, drinking fountains, theatres).
37. **Détente** – An easing of tensions, especially between the United States and the Soviet Union.
38. **Dictatorship** – A government in which the dictator, or head of the government, has total authority (Hitler).
39. **Dollar diplomacy** – A policy in which the United States government gave money to other nations in return for some U.S. control over the actions of those nations.
40. **Dove** – A person who was against the Vietnam War.
41. **Economy** – The way people of a state, region or country use resources to meet their needs.
42. **Emancipation** – The freeing of enslaved peoples (document written by Lincoln).
43. **Entrepreneur** – A person who sets up and runs a business.
44. **Equality** – Equal rights (another work for).
45. **Fact** – A statement that can be checked and proved true.
46. **Fascism** – A political idea in which power is given to a dictator and the freedoms of individuals are taken away (lose their identity/face in a way).
47. **Free state** – A state that did not allow slavery before the Civil War.
48. **Free world** – The United States and its allies (during Cold War).
49. **Freedmen** – The men, women, and children who had once been slaves.
50. **Front** – A battle line.
51. **Fugitive** – A person who is running away from something (slaves).
52. **Hawk** – Person who supported the Vietnam War.
53. **Hijack** – To illegally take control of an aircraft or other vehicle (9-11).
54. **Historical map** – A map that provides information about a place at a certain time in history.
55. **Holocaust** – The mass murder during World War II of European Jews and other people whom Adolf Hitler called “undesirable”.
56. **Homesteader** – Person living on land granted by the government (got people to move to the plains around 1900).
57. **Hostage** – A prisoner held until the captors’ demands are met (Iran crisis).
58. **Hydroelectric dam** – Dam that uses the water it stores to produce electricity (Roosevelt).
59. **Immigrant** – A person from one country who comes to live in another country.
60. **Impeach** – To accuse a government official, especially the President, of a crime.
61. **Imperialism** – The building of an empire (US accused of this early part of the century).
62. **Inflation** – An economic condition in which more money is needed to buy goods and services than was needed earlier (gas).
63. **Installment buying** – Taking home a product after paying only part of a price and then making monthly payments until the product is paid for.
64. **Integration** – The bringing together of people of all races.
65. **Interchangeable parts** – Identical machine-made parts, any of which may be used to make or repair an item (don’t have to toss your whole car).
66. **Interest** – The fee a borrower pays to a lender for the use of money (what you’re charged for borrowing money).
67. **International trade** – Trade among nations.
68. **Investor** – Someone who uses money to buy or make something that will yield a profit (like buying stock in the stock market).
69. **Island hopping** – The fighting by the Allied forces to win only certain key islands as they worked their way toward an invasion of Japan.
70. **Isolation** – The policy of remaining separate from other countries (NOT neutral).

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71. **Isthmus** – A narrow strip of land that connects two larger landmasses (Panama).
72. **Jazz** – A music style influenced by the music of West Africa as well as by spirituals and blues.
73. **Jury** – A group of citizens who decide a case in court (here both sides).
74. **Labor union** – A group of workers who join together to improve their working conditions (may go on strike).
75. **Long drive** – A trip made by ranchers to lead cattle to market or to the railroads.
76. **Mass production** – The system of producing large amounts of goods at one time.
77. **Merit system** – A system through which a person is tested to make sure he or she can do the job before the job is offered (no more political bosses).
78. **Migrant worker** – Someone who moves from place to place with the seasons, harvesting crops (Mexicans).
79. **Migration** – The movement of people (African Americans to the North and West).
80. **Militarism** – The idea that using military force is a good way to solve problems (one cause of WWI).
81. **Military draft** – A way of making the people of a nation join the armed forces.
82. **Minimum wage** – The lowest amount of money by law that a person can be paid per hour.
83. **Monopoly** – a company that has little or no competition (take over all related companies and charge whatever they want).
84. **Nationalism** – Pride in one's country.
85. **Neutral** – Not taking a side in a conflict (remaining in the middle).
86. **New immigration** – People who came from southern and central Europe and other parts of the world after 1890 to settle in North America.
87. **No-man's-land** – In a war, land not controlled by either side and filled with barbed wire, land mines, or bombs buried in the ground.
88. **Nonviolence** – The use of peaceful ways to bring about change (MLK).
89. **Old immigration** – People who came from northern and Western Europe before 1890 to settle in North America.
90. **Open range** – Land on which animals can graze freely (caused friction between ranchers and farmers).
91. **Opinion** – A statement that tells what a person thinks or believes (can't be proven).
92. **Panhandle** – A portion of land that sticks out like the handle of a pan (Alaska and Oklahoma).
93. **Parallel time lines** – Two time lines that show things happening in two different places at the same time.
94. **Patriotism** – Love of one's country.
95. **Pension** – Retirement income paid to people who stop working at a certain age.
96. **Petroleum** – Oil (another word for).
97. **Political boss** – An elected official – often a mayor – who has many dishonest employees and who is able to control the government with the help of those employees (Boss Tweed).
98. **Prejudice** – An unfair feeling of hate or dislike for members of a certain group because of their background, race, or religion.
99. **Progressive** – A person who worked to improve life for those who were not wealthy.
100. **Prohibition** – The plan to stop people in the United States from drinking alcoholic beverages.
101. **Prospector** – A person who searches for gold, silver, or other mineral resources.
102. **Rationing** – The limiting of the supply of what people can buy (during wartime).
103. **Recession** – A period of slow economic activity (one step better than depression).
104. **Reconstruction** – The time during which the South was rebuilt after the Civil War.

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105. **Recycle** – Using items again (during wartime and now).
106. **Refinery** – A factory in which materials, especially fuels, are cleaned and made into usable products (mining towns, too).
107. **Relocation camp** – During World War II, an army-style settlement in which Japanese Americans were forced to live.
108. **Renaissance** – A time of great interest and activity in the arts (Harlem).
109. **Reservation** – An area of land set aside by the government for use only by Native Americans.
110. **Resist** – To act out against (slavery).
111. **Responsibility** – A duty; something a person is expected to do (for your country).
112. **Retreat** – To fall back (in war).
113. **Rural** – Country; away from the city.
114. **Satellite** – An object that orbits a planet (Soviets and NASA).
115. **Scalawag** – A rascal; someone who supports something for his or her own gain (took advantage of Southerners during Reconstruction).
116. **Scandal** – An action that brings disgrace (Nixon).
117. **Secede** – To leave (southern states left the Union).
118. **Secret ballot** – A voting method in which no one knows how anyone else voted.
119. **Sectionalism** – Regional loyalty (North, South, and West).
120. **Segregation** – The practice of keeping people in separate groups based on race or culture.
121. **Settlement house** – A community center where people can learn new skills (Hull House).
122. **Sharecropping** – A system of working the land in which the worker was paid with a “share” of the crop.
123. **Siege** – A long-lasting attack.
124. **Skyscraper** – A tall steel-frame building.
125. **Slave state** – A state that allowed slavery before the Civil War.
126. **State’s rights** – The idea that the states, rather than the federal government, should have final authority over their own affairs (John C. Calhoun).
127. **Stock** – A share of a business or company (that you buy).
128. **Stock market** – A place where people buy and sell shares of a company or business.
129. **Strike** – The stopping of work in protest of poor working conditions.
130. **Suburb** – A community or neighborhood that lies outside a city (not city or country).
131. **Superpower** – A nation that is one of the most powerful in the world (US).
132. **Tariff** – A tax on goods brought into a country.
133. **Tenement** – A poorly built apartment building.
134. **Terrorism** – The use of violence to promote a cause (9-11).
135. **Transcontinental railroad** – The railway line that crossed North America, connecting coast to coast.
136. **Urban** – City; not country.
137. **Veteran** – A person who has served in the armed forces but no longer does.
138. **Veto** – To reject (President can do this to a bill to keep an eye on Congress).
139. **V-J Day** – Victory over Japan Day; August 15, 1945, the day in World War II on which Japan agreed to surrender and fighting stopped.
140. **Volunteer** – A person who works without pay.
141. **Yellow journalism** – Style of newspaper writing in which reporters exaggerate the facts of a story in order to sell newspapers (Spain Blew the Maine).