

Key Unit Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this unit. For each word, you will find the definition, part of speech, word forms (plurals/tenses), synonyms, and examples of how the word, or forms of the word, are used in a sentence.

administration

- the act of directing or managing

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	administrations, administrative
Synonyms:	management, supervision
In a sentence:	She has great skill in the administration of her business.

biological

- of or pertaining to the growth, development, and functioning of living things

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	biologic, biologically
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The plants and animals transferred in the Columbian Exchange eventually decreased global biological diversity.

bureaucrat

- an official in a government office, especially one who follows rules and routines rather than personal judgment

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	bureaucrats, bureaucratic
Synonyms:	official, politician, civil servant
In a sentence:	European empires often sent bureaucrats to run day-to-day operations in their colonies.

capital

- money or other wealth owned or used by a business

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	capitalism, capitalist
Synonyms:	finances, funds, working capital
In a sentence:	We will be expanding our business as soon as we get enough capital.

capitalism

- an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned and prices are chiefly determined by open competition in a free market

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	capitalist, capitalists
Synonyms:	commercialism, competition, free market
In a sentence:	The individual's right to pursue material wealth with little interference from government is considered one of the defining principles of capitalism.

cash crop

- a crop grown for sale to others rather than for personal use

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	cash crops
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	During the 1800s, tobacco was one of the biggest cash crops in the United States.

chattel slavery

- the ownership of a person as property or chattel

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	bondage
In a sentence:	The horrific system of chattel slavery endorsed the buying and selling of people as property.

coerce

- to intimidate or force a person usually by fear of violence

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	coerced, coercer, coercible
Synonyms:	force, compel, bully
In a sentence:	The plantation owners coerce the enslaved by threatening to beat them if they did not do what was asked of them.

colonization

- the act or process of forming colonies (territories governed by a distant country, often occupied by a number of citizens of that country)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	colonizer, colonize, colony
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The earliest explorations and attempts at colonization of Florida by Europeans were made by the Spanish.

commodity

- a raw material that can be bought and sold

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	commodify, commodities
Synonyms:	goods
In a sentence:	Commodities like sugar and cacao were carried across the Atlantic Ocean to European cities.

demographic

- of or relating to the study of human populations, involving statistical analysis of size, distribution, density, migration, fertility, and the like

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	demographics, demographically, demography
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Demographic information helps advertisers decide the best locations to launch their ad campaigns.

economic

- of or pertaining to the production and distribution of goods, wealth, and services

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	economy, economies
Synonyms:	fiscal, commercial
In a sentence:	Women's economic position improved during World War II, as they took over jobs previously held by men.

enslaved

- to cause to be a slave or to be in a condition of bondage

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	enslaves, enslaving, enslave
Synonyms:	subjugated, coerced, imprisoned, forced
In a sentence:	The Romans enslaved thousands of people, with many being owned by the state to work in agricultural and mining industries.

exploitation

- the selfish or unfair using of someone or something for one's own advantage

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	exploit, exploiting, exploited
Synonyms:	abuse, taking advantage
In a sentence:	The exploitation of the enslaved kept labor costs down for plantations in early America.

export

- to send or transport abroad, usually for sale or trade

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	exports, exported, exporter
Synonyms:	ship, transport, sell overseas
In a sentence:	China will export more goods than it imports into the country.

finance

- the management of money or other assets

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	finances, financial
Synonyms:	banking, business
In a sentence:	The treasury is that part of a government that is concerned primarily with finance.

free market

- an economic system in which prices are determined by unrestricted competition between privately owned businesses

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	capitalism, laissez-faire
In a sentence:	Much of the world today operates within a free-market economy.

indentured servant

- a person who is bound to work without pay in the service of another for a specified length of time, especially in exchange for the cost of travel, food, and lodging

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	indentured servitude
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	She originally came to the colonies as an indentured servant, but ran away before the end of her contract.

labor

- the entire body of workers, especially as distinguished from management

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	labors, laborer
Synonyms:	work force
In a sentence:	The suggested compromise wasn't satisfactory to either labor or management.

mercantilism

- the doctrine, developed in the West after the decline of feudalism, that a nation's economy could be strengthened by governmental protection of home industries, by increased foreign exports, and by accumulating gold and silver

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	mercantilist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	England developed many colonies under the economic policy of mercantilism in order to increase its trading territory.

missionary

- a person desiring to convert others to a principle or set of beliefs

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	missionaries, mission
Synonyms:	apostle, converter, evangelist, propagandist, proselytizer
In a sentence:	Various missionary societies have established schools tied to a particular faith.

monopoly

- complete control over a service or commodity within a given market, so that competition is eliminated

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	monopolies, monopolistic
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	At the time, one telephone company had a monopoly over phone services in the entire region.

plantation

- a large estate used for cultivating commercial crops such as rubber, tea, cotton, sugar, or coffee

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	plantations
Synonyms:	estate, homestead
In a sentence:	Haiti was once the most profitable island in the Caribbean with many sugar plantations.

plantation system

- a capitalist economic system dependent on enslaved labor

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	The plantation system in America forced the enslaved to endure harsh conditions.

resistance

- the act of refusing to comply with something

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	resist, resisted
Synonyms:	Defiance, opposition, struggle
In a sentence:	Resistance to European colonization took many different forms, from violence and rebellion to quiet noncooperation.