

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.

administrator

• a person who manages, especially business or public affairs

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	administrators, administration, administrative
Synonyms:	executive, bureaucrat, operator
In a sentence:	The middle school's administrators include the principal, vice principal, and dean of academics.

colonialism

• the practice of a foreign government exercising political or economic control of another community

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	colonial, colonialist, colonize
Synonyms:	imperialism
In a sentence:	Colonialism imposed European control over most of Africa in the nineteenth century.

color line

• the role race and racism had in American society after the abolition of slavery

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	racial segregation
In a sentence:	DuBois wrote about the color line in an attempt to bring awareness to the injustices stemming from racial segregation after the abolition of slavery.

customs

• the governmental office that administers trade and collects taxes on imports and exports

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	custom
Synonyms:	tariffs, taxes
In a sentence:	The Customs House is where British officials determined tax policies for the Gold Coast colony.

emigrate

• to leave one country or region, usually the country of origin, in order to settle in another

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	emigrates, emigrating, emigrated
Synonyms:	migrate
In a sentence:	The family emigrated to a new country to escape war.

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exploitative

• making unfair use of a situation for profit or benefit

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	exploitable, exploiter
Synonyms:	manipulative, oppressive
In a sentence:	The employer's practices were exploitative of immigrants desperate for work.

famine

• an extreme and widespread shortage of food

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	famines
Synonyms:	starvation
In a sentence:	The region was facing famine after a poor harvest.

formal colonialism

• direct colonial control of a community by a foreign empire

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	formal imperialism
In a sentence:	The system of European formal colonialism in the Caribbean was replaced by the informal colonialism of the United States.

immigration

• how humans move from one place to another

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	immigrational
Synonyms:	migration
In a sentence:	Immigration to the Americas increased as new modes of transportation such as steam ships made travel easier.

imperialism

• the policy of extending the rule or authority of one nation over others by territorial acquisition or through economic or political dominance

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	imperialist, imperialistic, imperialistically
Synonyms:	militarism
In a sentence:	Nineteenth-century European nations promoted imperialism as a way to "civilize" other parts of the world.



industrial capitalism

• an economic system that combines capitalism with intense manufacturing production in factories, characterized by division of labor to increase efficiency

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	industrial capitalist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	Industrial capitalism brought about many changes in how goods were produced, including the creation of the factory system.

migrant

• a person who travels from place to place to find employment

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	migrants, migration
Synonyms:	nomad
In a sentence:	Migrants often leave their home country in search of work.

modernization

• the process or act of updating or redesigning something to make it look new or contemporary

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	modernize, modernizing, modernized
Synonyms:	innovation, modification
In a sentence:	Modernization allows for technological and scientific advancements to be made.

persecution

• a purposeful course of harassing, punishing, or exterminating others, especially because of their race or their religious, moral, or political beliefs

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	persecute, persecuted
Synonyms:	oppression, maltreatment
In a sentence:	Protestants fled European monarchs' persecution of them based on their religious beliefs.

poverty

• the condition of being poor or lacking the necessary means of support

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	indigence, destitution
In a sentence:	Despite their work in the linen mill, the family lived in poverty.

profit



• a financial gain

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	profits, profited, profiting
Synonyms:	gain, proceeds, revenue
In a sentence:	Colonialism generated a lot of profit for many European capitalists.

racism

• the theory or opinion that a certain race or races of people, usually one's own, are superior to others because of certain inborn characteristics and any policy or practice based on said belief

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	race, racist
Synonyms:	discrimination, prejudice
In a sentence:	West Indian psychiatrist Frantz Fanon emphasized the different forms of racism that exist, as those facing colonialism in Africa face different issues than those enslaved in the United States.

rebellion

• an uprising or armed resistance against established authority or a government

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	rebel, rebelling, rebelled
Synonyms:	insurgence, insurrection, revolt, uprising
In a sentence:	The rebellion against the colonizers was filled with warfare and bloodshed.

reparation

• the act or process of making amends for wrongdoing or injury; payment required of a defeated nation by the victors, for damages, alleged atrocities, or other injury

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	reparations
Synonyms:	restitution, compensation
In a sentence:	The Chinese government had reparations to pay to the British government after losing the war.

rural

• relating to, or describing the country

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	agricultural, agrarian, pastoral
In a sentence:	Many people moved from rural areas where they were farmers to more urban areas to find work.



segregation

• an act of segregating (separating), or the condition of being segregated, especially as a policy imposing social separation according to racial or ethnic groups

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	segregate, segregated, segregating
Synonyms:	discrimination
In a sentence:	Racial segregation was a legal policy in the United States for many years after the abolition of slavery.

Social Darwinism

• a late-nineteenth-century pseudoscientific theory in which Darwinism is applied to the understanding of human society, as in the belief of the genetic superiority of some individuals or groups over others

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	Social Darwinist
Synonyms:	
In a sentence:	She believed some people are born better than others, and was intrigued by the theory of Social Darwinism.

subjects

• noun: a person who owes allegiance to a monarch or to a state; adj: under the power, authority, or influence of someone or something; verb: to bring under one's power, authority, or influence

Part of speech:	noun, adjective, verb
Word forms:	subject
Synonyms:	citizens, subordinates
In a sentence:	The emperor addressed his subjects.

urban

• of or pertaining to a city or town

Part of speech:	adjective
Word forms:	urbanization
Synonyms:	metropolitan
In a sentence:	New York City is one of the most populous urban areas in the United States.