# Key Unit Vocabulary

This guide 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.

## Big History

* a unified account of the entire history of the Universe that uses evidence and ideas from many disciplines to create a broad context for understanding humanity; a modern origin story

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | proper noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | Big History encourages students to see the connections between their lives and the history of the Universe. |

## collective learning

* the ability to share and preserve knowledge that builds over generations

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | collective learners |
| Synonyms: | oral and written history |
| In a sentence: | Collective learning is the human ability to build upon knowledge over generations by sharing information through the use of symbolic language. |

## community

* a group of people living close together or having shared experience and identity

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | communities, communitive |
| Synonyms: | group, people, society, population |
| In a sentence: | The mayor held a public meeting to get opinions from the community concerning the new library. |
| In a sentence: | When I contextualize my grandmother's decision and consider the difficult circumstances she was in, I can sympathize with her better. |

## discipline

* an area of study or learning

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | disciplines, disciplinary |
| Synonyms: | field, subject, major |
| In a sentence: | Astronomy and biology are scientific disciplines. |

## distribution

* the act or process of distributing (to spread over an area)

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | distribute, distributes, distributing, distributive |
| Synonyms: | dole, give out, deliver, transport |
| In a sentence: | Distribution of free t-shirts will occur at the front gate of the stadium. |

## evidence

* knowledge on which to base belief; that which constitutes proof of something

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | evident, evidenced, evidential, evidently |
| Synonyms: | demonstration, proof, testimony, indication |
| In a sentence: | Scientists have been searching for evidence of life on distant planets. |

## frame

* a particular lens or perspective that information is perceived through

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | frames, framed, framing |
| Synonyms: | context, perspective |
| In a sentence: | In order to find patterns, Diego had to read the articles with a particular frame in mind. |

## narrative

* an account, description, or story, or the oral or written work containing such material

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | narratives, narration, narratively, narrational, narrator |
| Synonyms: | account, narration, story, tale |
| In a sentence: | We listened to our grandfather's narrative of his time in the war until late into the night. |

## network

* a system or process that involves a number of persons, groups or organizations

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | networks, networking, networked |
| Synonyms: | web, organization |
| In a sentence: | The CEO of the company relies on a network of employees all across the globe to advertise and sell her products to the general public. |

## perspective

* a visual or mental view, as of a scene or a subject and the interrelationships of its parts or facts

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | perspectives, perspectival |
| Synonyms: | point of view, viewpoint, mindset |
| In a sentence: | Kelly's perspective on the new soccer team was biased because she used to play on the old one. |

## production

* the act or process of creating or manufacturing

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | productive, produce |
| Synonyms: | fabrication, generation, manufacture |
| In a sentence: | The factory has exceeded its goals for production for this quarter. |

## scale

* the degree, extent, or level of something

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | scales, scalar |
| Synonyms: | size, extent |
| In a sentence: | It is hard to imagine the sheer scale of the Universe when we only live on a blip of a planet. |

## scale switching

* moving between events, people, details, questions, and narratives from different perspectives of time and space to develop useful pictures of our global past

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | scale switch, scale switched |
| Synonyms: | zooming in and out |
| In a sentence: | By scale switching, the teacher was able to explain both the specifics of the American Revolution as well as its place in world history. |

## sourcing

* the act of understanding who wrote a document, where they wrote it, and why they wrote it, for the purposes of analysis or interpretation

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | source, sources |
| Synonyms: | contextualization |
| In a sentence: | Sourcing is crucial when writing a research essay because you want to understand the goals, purpose, and perspectives of your sources, not simply just what they've written. |