# 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.

## agrarian

* devoted to agriculture (farming and herding); rural; agricultural

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| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | agrarianism, agrarians |
| Synonyms: | agricultural, pastoral |
| In a sentence: | In agrarian societies, most people cultivate the land to supply food for their families and society. |

## agriculture

* the raising of crops and livestock

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | agricultural, agriculturally |
| Synonyms: | farming, animal husbandry |
| In a sentence: | With improved methods of farming, agriculture flourished in the rural society. |

## anthropology

* the scientific study of human culture including beliefs, customs, and archaeological records

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | anthropologist |
| Synonyms: | sociology |
| In a sentence: | People who study anthropology often conduct research on modern foragers to discover how early humans may have lived. |

## archaeology

* a field of study focused on prehistoric people and their culture

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | archaeologist |
| Synonyms: | classicist, excavator |
| In a sentence: | Archaeology has revealed information about how early humans lived and the tools they used. |

## artifact

* any object made by human beings

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | artifacts, artifactual |
| Synonyms: | fossil, remains |
| In a sentence: | The museum had an exhibit of ancient Mexican artifacts. |

## authority

* the right, power, or ability to give orders, make decisions, or demand or compel obedience

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | authorities, authoritative, authoritatively |
| Synonyms: | command, control, power |
| In a sentence: | As the principal, she has the greatest amount of authority in this school. |

## causation

* the act or process of causing (to make happen; creating or influencing)

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | cause, causes, causality |
| Synonyms: | reason, motivation, source |
| In a sentence: | When looking through articles about the fall of the Han, you want to focus on causation as well as long-term effects. |

## claim testers

* strategies to decide whether a story or concept should or should not be trusted

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | claim tester, claim testing |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The four strategies for testing a claim that we use in OER Project are intuition, authority, logic, and evidence. |

## climate

* the weather conditions most prevailing in a place, averaged over several years

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | climates, climatic |
| Synonyms: | weather patterns |
| In a sentence: | Antarctica is known for its cold climate and penguins. |

## cognitive

* of, pertaining to, or involving the use of the mind for acquiring knowledge and processing thought

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | cognitively |
| Synonyms: | mental, intellectual |
| In a sentence: | Thinking and memorizing are cognitive tasks that require a lot of mental concentration. |

## culture

* the sum of the language, customs, beliefs, and art considered characteristic of a particular group of people

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | cultures, cultural, culturing, cultured |
| Synonyms: | Civilization, folkway |
| In a sentence: | The Catholic Church has played a large role in the development of French culture. |

## domesticate

* to tame (an animal), especially in order to keep as a pet or to use on a farm or ranch

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | verb |
| Word forms: | domesticates, domesticating, domesticator, domesticated |
| Synonyms: | tame, subdue, train |
| In a sentence: | Many wild horses of the Old West were domesticated to fill the needs of miners and ranchers. |

## forager

* a person who searches for food or supplies

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | foragers, forage, foraged, foraging |
| Synonyms: | collector, searcher, gatherer |
| In a sentence: | The foragers went out early in the morning to collect berries in order to avoid the heat of day. |

## hierarchy

* a body of persons or entities graded according to rank or level of authority

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | hierarchies, hierarchical |
| Synonyms: | ranking, classification |
| In a sentence: | An admiral ranks at the top of the naval hierarchy. |

## *Homo sapiens*

* the scientific name for human beings or of mankind in general

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | human race, humanity |
| In a sentence: | The term *Homo sapiens* describes humanity as we know it today as well as our ancestors from hundreds of thousands of years ago. |

## language networks

* systems of communication, often including shared language, that make possible the exchange and collection of ideas

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | language network |
| Synonyms: |  |
| In a sentence: | The language networks of the Inca allowed for the ruling of a long, vast empire through the use of messengers and other forms of communication. |

## migration

* the act or process of moving from one region into another

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | migrations, migrant, migratory, migrate |
| Synonyms: | journey, movement, exodus |
| In a sentence: | Their ancestors' migration from the east finally led to them settling in this small western mining town. |

## Neolithic

* designating the latter part of the Stone Age, from about 10,000 BCE to about 3000 BCE, characterized by the use of polished stone tools and the beginnings of farming

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | New Stone Age |
| In a sentence: | Farming and the emergence of agrarian societies were key characteristics of the Neolithic Era. |

## nomadic

* pertaining to, being, or resembling a member of a group or tribe that has no permanent home and moves from place to place

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | Nomad, nomads |
| Synonyms: | migratory, vagabond |
| In a sentence: | The nomadic tribes moved as the weather changed and prey migrated. |

## Paleolithic

* designating the earliest period of the Stone Age, from about 2 million BCE to about 10,000 BCE, characterized by the use of primitive stone tools

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: |  |
| Synonyms: | Old Stone Age |
| In a sentence: | During the Paleolithic Era, communication development was key to people's survival as they developed names for plants and instructions for how to find them. |

## pastoralist

* a person who herds animals

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| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | pastoralists, pastoralize |
| Synonyms: | herder, shepherd |
| In a sentence: | Pastoralists often moved around with their animals in order to find areas to graze. |

## petroglyph

* a carving made in rock, usually prehistoric

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | petroglyphs |
| Synonyms: | rock carving |
| In a sentence: | A common petroglyph made by numerous Indigenous cultures is thought to represent a fingerprint. |

## sedentism

* the act of living or staying in one place for an extended period of time

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | sedentary, sedentarily, sedentariness |
| Synonyms: | stationary, immobile |
| In a sentence: | Scholars found that some Neolithic communities that lived in lush areas fell into the trap of sedentism, or staying in one place where they exhausted their resources. |

## state

* the population of a specific area unified under a single government

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | states |
| Synonyms: | nation |
| In a sentence: | The leaders of many foreign states will attend the meeting. |

## surplus

* the quantity that exceeds what is needed or required; an extra amount

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | noun |
| Word forms: | surpluses |
| Synonyms: | excess, oversupply |
| In a sentence: | The farmer had a very prosperous harvest and now has a large surplus of corn. |

## symbolic

* of, relating to, or represented by a symbol

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| --- | --- |
| Part of speech: | adjective |
| Word forms: | symbol, symbolically |
| Synonyms: | representative |
| In a sentence: | Drinking rice wine has a symbolic meaning in a Japanese wedding ceremony. |