

Key Era Vocabulary

This report provides a summary of key vocabulary for this era. 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 scientific origin story

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.

causation

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

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.

collective learning

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

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

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.

compare

- to note the likenesses and differences of

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	compares, comparing, compared, comparison
Synonyms:	liken
In a sentence:	The professor compared the economic system in the US with the economic system in China.

consequence

- that which follows; result

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	consequences, consequently
Synonyms:	result, effect, outcome
In a sentence:	The tenant's fall in the stairway was a direct consequence of the landlord's neglect of the property.

contextualize

- to put into a context, or provide a context for; context = the set of circumstances or events in which a particular event occurs; situation

Part of speech:	verb
Word forms:	contextualizes, contextualizing, contextualized, contextualization
Synonyms:	research, consider
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

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	disciplines
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)

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	distribute, distributes, distributing
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

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

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.

Homo sapiens

- the scientific name for human beings or for mankind in general

Part of speech:	noun
Word forms:	
Synonyms:	human race, humanity
In a sentence:	The term <i>Homo sapiens</i> 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

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.

narrative

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.