

## 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.

### biological

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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	adjective
<b>Word forms:</b>	biologic, biologically
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>In a sentence:</b>	Many studies have explored the biological differences between males and females.

### capital

- money or other wealth owned or used by a business

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	capitalism, capitalist
<b>Synonyms:</b>	finances, funds, working capital
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	capitalist, capital
<b>Synonyms:</b>	free enterprise, free market
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	cash crops
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

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

## colonization

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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	colonizer, colonize, colony
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

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

## confederation

- a group of nations or peoples joined together in an alliance or league

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	confederate, confederacy, confederated
<b>Synonyms:</b>	alliance, coalition
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The tribes formed a confederation to defend themselves against the invaders.

## conquistador

- one of the Spanish conquerors of the sixteenth century

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	conquistadores, conquistadors
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The Spanish conquistador Cortés made alliances with indigenous peoples to defeat the Aztecs.

## demographic

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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	adjective
<b>Word forms:</b>	demographics, demographically, demography
<b>Synonyms:</b>	
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

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

## enslave

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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	verb
<b>Word forms:</b>	enslavement, enslaved
<b>Synonyms:</b>	subjugate
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The first Spanish adventurers in the Americas sought to enslave indigenous peoples in order to satisfy their desire for silver and gold.

## epidemic

- an outbreak, usually of disease, that spreads rapidly, afflicting many individuals

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	epidemics
<b>Synonyms:</b>	outbreak, plague, pandemic
<b>In a sentence:</b>	With a mortality rate of 70 percent, the more cases that arise, the deadlier this epidemic becomes.

## exchange

- the act or result of giving or receiving one thing for another

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	exchanges, exchangeable, exchanger
<b>Synonyms:</b>	bargain, interchange, trade, transaction
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The exchange of rings is a part of some wedding ceremonies.

## exploitation

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

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

## famine

- an extreme and widespread shortage of food

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	famines
<b>Synonyms:</b>	starvation, scarcity
<b>In a sentence:</b>	People were starving due to the famine caused by severe flooding in the region.

## finance

- the management of money or other assets

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	finances, financial
<b>Synonyms:</b>	banking, business
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

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

## hegemony

- predominance of one country or social group over others by virtue of leadership or influence

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	hegemonic, hegemonical
<b>Synonyms:</b>	authority, command
<b>In a sentence:</b>	Spain's hegemony over most of Central and South America lasted into the nineteenth century.

## 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

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

## indigenous

- having origin in a country or locality; native

<b>Part of speech:</b>	adjective
<b>Word forms:</b>	indigenuity
<b>Synonyms:</b>	aboriginal, endemic, native
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The turkey is indigenous to North and Central America.

## innovation

- a new method, approach, idea, or the like

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	innovations, innovator, innovative
<b>Synonyms:</b>	creation, invention
<b>In a sentence:</b>	Thanks to the innovation of the Wright brothers, we have aircraft that allow us to travel swiftly and safely today.

## invest

- to spend with the intention of gaining some benefit

<b>Part of speech:</b>	verb
<b>Word forms:</b>	invests, invested, investing, reinvest
<b>Synonyms:</b>	devote
<b>In a sentence:</b>	I've invested ten years of my life building this business.

## labor

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

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

## maritime

- of or concerning seagoing vessels, or intended for use in navigation at sea

<b>Part of speech:</b>	adjective
<b>Word forms:</b>	mariner
<b>Synonyms:</b>	marine, nautical, naval
<b>In a sentence:</b>	Ship captains must obey maritime laws.

## 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

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

## migration

- the act or process of migrating (to move from one region to another)

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	migratory, migrate, migrant, migrants
<b>Synonyms:</b>	journey, movement
<b>In a sentence:</b>	Thousands of workers migrate to this area each year to harvest the crops.

## missionary

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

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	missionaries, mission
<b>Synonyms:</b>	apostle, converter, evangelist, propagandist, proselytizer
<b>In a sentence:</b>	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

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

## pandemic

- a disease that afflicts many people over a vast area

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	pandemics
<b>Synonyms:</b>	epidemic
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The disease spread rapidly and there were fears of a pandemic.

## plantation

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

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

## plantation system

- a capitalist economic system dependent on enslaved labor

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

## sovereign

- having the power of self-government, as a state or country

<b>Part of speech:</b>	adjective
<b>Word forms:</b>	sovereignty
<b>Synonyms:</b>	autonomous, independent
<b>In a sentence:</b>	South Africa is a sovereign nation.

## subjugate

- to win mastery (control) over, as by military conquest

<b>Part of speech:</b>	verb
<b>Word forms:</b>	subjugates, subjugated, subjugating
<b>Synonyms:</b>	subdue, vanquish, conquer
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The Mongols subjugated the lands of Central Asia and Eastern Europe to create the largest land empire in history.

## tribute

- payment given by a subordinate person or power to a dominant one, or an obligation to do so

<b>Part of speech:</b>	noun
<b>Word forms:</b>	tributary
<b>Synonyms:</b>	tax
<b>In a sentence:</b>	The Korean king paid an annual tribute to the Ming emperor of China.