

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Layers of Language:
Practice Reading and Spelling Long Content Area Words

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Handout 2

Common Words from High School Social Studies Textbooks

exploration	navigation	pilgrimage	governor	celebration
assembly	revolution	abolitionist	assassination	representation
secession	expansion	anthropology	hurricane	hemisphere
latitude	equatorial	meteorology	precipitation	immigration
democracy	sequential	proletariat	acropolis	amphitheater
cuneiform	hieroglyph	gladiator	constellation	sacrificial
viaduct	polytheism	archbishop	monarchy	mummification
Renaissance	subjugation	antitrust	corporation	monopoly
sabotage	refinery	fascist	communism	transcontinental
isolationist	totalitarian	nuclear	ballistic	counterintelligence
federalism	feminism	dissolution	legislative	surveillance
citizenship	entrepreneur	naturalize	judicial	discrimination
referendum	suffragist	supremacy	urbanization	segregationist
adolescence	introvert	extroversion	introspection	electroconvulsive
catatonic	olfactory	hypochondria	intrinsic	pseudoinsonnia

Common Words from High School Math Textbooks

addend	dividend	symbol	divisor	thousandths
borrowing	calculator	fraction	quotient	reciprocal
decimal	regrouping	subtraction	denominator	multiplication
numerator	adjacent	geometry	algebra	protractor
prism	heptagon	octagonal	radius	circumference
diameter	congruent	rectangular	pentagonal	parallelogram
horizontal	vertical	rhombus	diagonal	dimension
linear	nonagon	polygon	sphere	rotation
scalene	pentomino	symmetry	triangular	volume
millimeter	centimeter	centiliter	kilogram	milligram
deciliter	extension	median	average	algorithm
permutation	probability	inequality	validate	manipulative
equivalent	mathematical	estimate	abscissa	coefficient

disjunction	associative	asymptote	exponential	contrapositive
quadrant	quadratic	trinomial	polynomial	supplementary
isosceles	hypotenuse	hyperbolic	concentricity	trigonometric
calculus	logarithmic	matrices	summation	multivariable

Common Words from High School Science Textbooks

ammonite	trilobite	skeleton	mammoth	archaeopteryx
dinosaur	stegosaurus	brontosaurus	triceratops	tyrannosaurus
Cenozoic	Mesozoic	Jurassic	Paleozoic	Precambrian
Cretaceous	pteranodon	pterodactyl	diplodocus	Quaternary
glaciers	asteroids	igneous	metamorphic	sedimentary
astronomy	atmosphere	environment	meteor	meteorite
cirrus	cumulous	nimbus	telescope	constellation
gravity	tornado	hurricane	precipitation	cumulonimbus
adaptation	amphibian	amphibious	biological	deciduous
chlorophyll	ecosystem	pesticide	nutrition	microorganism
zoology	coniferous	interpretation	prediction	photosynthesis
classification	spontaneous	aluminum	catalyst	petroleum
oxygen	hydrogen	nitrogen	megaphone	spectrum
translucent	transparent	ultraviolet	periscope	galvanometer
transistor	electronic	technology	analysis	variable
monozygotic	ontogeny	pancreas	phylogeny	reproduction
digestion	metaphase	dizygotic	centriole	chemosynthesis
oxidative	phenotype	taxonomy	zygote	phosphorylation
ionization	isomer	luminance	luminous	luminescence
suspension	substrate	univalent	solvent	electromagnetic
amperage	conduction	electron	electrostatic	ferroelectricity
centrifugal	centripetal	parabolic	relativity	semiconductor
inductance	magnitude	mechanics	momentum	theoretical
altitude	elliptical	recalibration	aphelion	magnetosphere
ascension	estival	sidereal	stratosphere	supernova
globular	binary	thermosphere	troposphere	occultation
zodiac	ecliptic	luminosity	ionosphere	isothermal
tsunami	stalagmite	stalactite	pollution	phosphorescence

Notice that the great majority of content area words are of Latin or Greek origin. Numerous activities can be used with words found in your high school students' classroom. Give students words to read and spell. Have them identify if the word is of Latin or Greek origin; or, if not, have them find the origin in the dictionary. Have students identify morphemes, or divide the words into syllables. Ask if students can suggest the meaning of the words based on the word parts. Have them look up several unknown words in the dictionary.