

Lesson Glossary

abolitionist

a person who worked to end slavery

acute angle

an angle that is greater than 0° but less than 90°

American Southwest Region

the region of North America made up of the land that is now Arizona, Mexico, and Western Texas that was once home to many American Indian tribes

Arctic Region

the region of North America made up of the land on the western coast of Alaska and the northern coast of Canada that was once home to many American Indian tribes

artillery

large firearms that are mounted on stands

banish

to force to leave a place

beaver ponds

areas of deeper water created by beaver dams

Beringia (Bering Land Bridge)

a land bridge believed by some scientists to have connected Eastern Asia and Alaska during one of the Ice Ages

boycott

to refuse to support or buy

budget

a plan for spending money

John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto)

an explorer famous for searching for the Northwest Passage and for landing in North America in 1497

Cahokia

American Indian settlement from the Mississippian period located near present-day Collinsville, Illinois

capital

resources that have monetary value such as tools and equipment

cash crop

a crop grown for the purpose of selling to make money

Celsius Scale

a kind of temperature scale that is used in many countries; water freezes at 0 degrees Celsius and boils at 100 degrees Celsius

circle graph (pie chart)

a graphic that shows the relationship of parts to a whole

conduction

the movement of heat from one object to another

cotton gin

a machine invented by Eli Whitney to separate cotton seeds from the cotton fiber used to make cloth

Council of Three Tribes

a group of three American Indian tribes (the Ottawa, the Chippewa, and the Potawatomi) belonging to the Algonquin language family

culture

a group's beliefs and ways of life

currency

anything that is used as a means of exchange

degree

a unit of measurement for temperature or longitude and latitude

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dissenter

a person who does not agree with the views of his or her leader

Early Mississippian period

division of the Mississippian period lasting from approximately 800-1200 A.D.

Eastern Woodlands Region

the region of North America made up of the land east of the Mississippi River that was once home to many American Indian tribes

environment

one's surroundings including climate, landforms, habitat, and other living things

exports

goods or materials shipped from a country

Fahrenheit Scale

the temperature scale that is used in the United States; water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit and boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit

Robert Fulton

American artist and inventor, known for inventing a new kind of steamboat

Great Plains Region

the region of North America made up of the land between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River that was once home to many American Indian tribes

Human geography

the study of people and their environment

imports

goods or materials received by a country

indigo

a plant native to India that is used to make a blue dye

land bridge theory

a popular scientific theory that suggests that the first humans reached North America by walking over a land bridge from Asia during one of the Ice Ages

Late Mississippian period

division of the Mississippian period lasting from approximately 1400 until the arrival of Europeans in North America

lead line

an early navigational tool used to measure water depth and location

log

an early navigational tool used to determine the speed of travel

magnetic compass

a navigational tool that indicates geographic direction

Middle Mississippian period

division of the Mississippian period lasting from approximately 1200-1400 A.D.

Morse code

a system invented by Samuel Morse in which dots and dashes are used to represent letters

navigate

to plan and control a course of travel

Northwest Passage

a water route from Europe to Asia that passes through North America

observation

gaining information through the use of one or more senses, such as sight, smell, etc.

obtuse angle

an angle that is greater than 90° but less than 180°

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ocean theory

a scientific theory that suggests that the first humans to reach North America came by sea

patent

a right given to an inventor by the government to use, make, and sell an invention

Parliament

a group of English law-makers

Charles Willson Peale

American who received permission to build polygraphs in America from the English inventor John Isaac Hawkins

pelt

the skin of an animal with the fur still attached

perimeter

the sum of lengths of all sides of a polygon

plantation

a large farm that also has other trades or craftspeople working on it

polygraph

an invention that uses two pens to make a copy of a document as it is written

retaliate

to fight back

right angle

an angle that measures exactly 90°

scale

a ratio that compares the real measurements of an object with the measurements of a model

scale model

a model that is bigger or smaller than a real object

Richard Shuckburg

a surgeon in the British army who many people believe was the original author of the song "Yankee Doodle"

sponsor

someone who financially supports another person

Stamp Act

British law requiring merchants to buy stamps and put them on all printed papers like newspaper and playing cards

steamboat

a boat powered by a steam engine

surface currents

large streams of flowing water on the surface of the ocean

telegraph

a system that uses a signal to carry encoded messages from one place to another

temperate climate

a mild climate without extreme heat or cold

treaty

an agreement to make peace

triangular trade

the movement of goods among the Americas, Africa, and England

Giovanni da Verrazano

an explorer famous for searching for the Northwest Passage and for exploring much of the Atlantic coast of North America

vertex

the point where rays intersect

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Eli Whitney

an American inventor best known for inventing the cotton gin

Ephraim Williams

a colonel in the Massachusetts militia who died in the Battle of Lake George and may have been the inspiration for the song “Yankee Doodle”

“Yankee Doodle”

a song that was sung by American soldiers during the Revolutionary War as they marched against British troops