

## DEBATE

## GLOSSARY

Published in 1828, Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* demonstrates the elegance of the English language in the early 19th century. As the primary resource for the definitions in the Challenge A Guide, this historical dictionary has provided us with a glimpse of that beauty. Enjoy the rich conversations these definitions afford as you compare, contrast, and relate your research to the definitions found in the *Challenge A Guide*.

- ALTITUDE** the elevation of an object in relationship to a given plane, often sea level
- ARCHIPELAGO** a body of water interspersed with many isles
- ARM** a long, narrow passage of water; a creek
- ATOLL** a ring-shaped coral reef, island, or set of small islands nearly or completely surrounding a lagoon
- BANK** a steep slope of ground rising from a lake, a river, or the sea
- BASIN** a hollow place for water; an enclosed part of water, forming a broad space within a strait or narrow entrance; a little bay
- BAY** an arm of the sea, extending into the land, smaller than a gulf and larger than a creek
- BAYOU** a soggy, swampy, slow-moving body of water, obstructed by vegetation
- BEACH** the shore of the sea or of a lake, washed by the tide and waves
- BLUFF** a high bank, almost perpendicular, projecting into the sea
- BOG** soft, wet ground covered with grass or other plants, too soft to bear a man
- BRANCH** a smaller stream running into a larger one or proceeding from it
- BREAKERS** a rock that breaks the waves; a wave that breaks against a rock, a sand bank, or the shore, exhibiting a white foam
- BRINK** the edge, margin, or border of a steep place, as of a precipice or the bank of a river
- BROOK** a small natural stream of water; a current flowing from a spring
- CANAL** an artificial cut or passage for water used for transportation
- CANYON** a long deep hollow with steep, rocky sides worn by a stream or torrent of water
- CAPE** a head land; the head, point, or termination of a neck of land, extending some distance into the sea beyond the common shore
- CAVE** a hollow place in the earth; a subterranean cavern; a den; may be natural or artificial
- CAVERN** a deep, naturally hollow place in the earth, deeper than a cave
- CHANNEL** an arm of the sea; a straight or narrow sea between two continents or between a continent and an isle
- CHASM** a cleft or fissure in a rock or the earth's surface caused by a rupture
- CINDER CONE** a cone-shaped hill of volcanic material surrounding an opening in the earth
- CLIFF** a high, steep almost vertical rock, usually on a coast
- COAST** the edge or margin of the land next to the sea; the seashore
- CONTINENT** a great extent of land, not disjoined or interrupted by a sea
- CONTINENTAL SHELF** the edge of a continent that is submerged in water
- COUNTRY** any tract of land or inhabited land; any region, as distinguished from other regions; a kingdom, state, or lesser district
- COVE** a small inlet or bay; a recess in the sea shore
- CRAG** a steep, rugged rock; a rough, broken rock or point of a rock
- CRATER** the aperture or mouth of a volcano
- CREEK** a small inlet; a recess in the shore of the sea or of a river; a small stream
- CULTIVATED LAND** land prepared for crops
- CURRENT** a flowing or passing of water; a stream
- DALE** a low place between hills; a vale or valley

**DAM** a bank or mound of earth; any wall or a frame of wood raised to obstruct a current of water

**DELL** a small vale with woods

**DELTA** an area of triangular shaped land located at the mouth of a main river from which distributaries flow

**DESERT** a vast sandy plain characterized by minimal precipitation and plant growth

**DIKE** a ditch; a mound of earth, stones, or other materials, intended to prevent low lands from being inundated by the sea or a river

**DIVIDE** a ridge that determines the direction water drains for adjacent water systems; a watershed

**DOWNSTREAM** the direction a river flows; flowing with the current

**DRAINAGE BASIN** area drained by a river and its tributaries; a watershed

**DUNE** hill, mound, or ridge of sand formed by wind

**EARTH** the terraqueous globe that we inhabit

**ELEVATION** elevated ground; a rising ground; a hill or mountain

**ESTUARY** an arm of the sea; the mouth of a river or lake where the tide meets the current

**FALL LINE** the point where rivers descend rapidly due to a distinct decline in elevation

**FIELD** a piece of land enclosed for tillage or pasture

**FJORD** a long, narrow, deep valley formed by glacial erosion and flooded by ocean water

**FOOTHILL** a hill at the base of a mountain

**FORD** a place in a river or other water where it may be passed by man or beast on foot or by wading

**FOREST** an extensive wood; a large tract of land covered with trees

**GLACIER** a field or an immense mass of ice formed in deep but elevated valleys, remaining frozen throughout the heat of summer

**GLEN** a valley; a dale; a depression or space between hills

**GORGE** a narrow hollow with steep, rocky sides worn by a stream or torrent of water

**GROVE** a wood of small extent

**GULCH** a small, narrow hollow with steep walls worn by a stream or torrent of water

**GULF** a recess in the ocean from the general line of the shore into the land; a tract of water extending from the ocean or a sea into the land between two points or promontories; a large bay

**HARBOR** a port or haven for ships; a bay or inlet of the sea where ships can moor

**HEADLAND** a cape; a promontory; a point of land projecting from the shore into the sea or other expanse of water

**HILL** a natural elevation of land; a mass of earth rising above the common level of the surrounding land

**HORIZON** the line that terminates the view when extended on the surface of the earth

**ICEBERG** a hill or mountain of ice; a vast body of ice accumulated in valleys in high northern latitudes

**INLET** a bay or recess in the shore of the sea, a lake, or a large river; a narrow body of water between isles

**IRRIGATED LAND** land watered by causing a stream to flow upon it and spread over it

**ISLAND** a tract of land surrounded by water

**ISTHMUS** a neck or narrow slip of land by which two continents are connected or by which a peninsula is united to the mainland

**JUNCTION** the place or point of union

**KEYS** a chain or range of rocks lying at or near the surface of the water; a cay

**KNOB** a round hill or mount

**KNOLL** the top or crown of a hill; a little round hill or mount; a small elevation of earth

**LAGOON** an enclosed or partially enclosed shallow body of salt water divided from the ocean by low sandy dunes or a coral reef

**LAKE** a large and extensive collection of water contained in a cavity or hollow of the earth

**LAND** earth; the solid matter that constitutes the fixed part of the surface of the globe

**LATITUDE** the distance of any place on the globe, north or south of the equator

**LEDGE** a ridge; a prominent row

**LEFT BANK** the slope of ground on the left-hand side of the river when facing downstream

**LEVEE** a bank or causeway, particularly along a river to prevent inundation

**LOCKS** the barrier of a canal that confines the water and can be opened or shut at pleasure

**LONGITUDE** the distance of any place on the globe from another place, eastward or westward; the distance of any place from a given meridian

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- MARSH** a tract of low land, very wet and miry and overgrown with coarse grass
- MEADOW** pasture or grassland annually mown for hay
- MESA** a flat-topped mountain with steep walls
- MINE** a pit or excavation in the earth from which metallic ores, mineral substances, and other fossil bodies are taken by digging
- MOOR** a tract of land overrun with heath; a marsh; a fen; ground covered with stagnant water
- MOUNTAIN** a large mass of earth and rock, rising above the common level of the earth or adjacent land, but of no definite altitude
- MOUNTAIN CHAIN** a line of connected mountain ranges
- MOUNTAIN RANGE** a row of mountains
- MOUTH** the opening or entrance of a cave, pit, well, or den
- NATURAL RESOURCE** materials found in nature, such as land, forests, and minerals, that have economic value
- OASIS** small fertile area in a desert, irrigated by natural springs or other source of fresh water
- OCEAN** the vast body of water that covers more than three-fifths of the surface of the globe, also called the sea
- PASS** a gap in a mountainous area suitable for passing through; a means of passage through a rugged area
- PASTURE** ground covered with grass appropriated for the food of cattle
- PEAK** the top of a hill or mountain, ending in a point
- PENINSULA** a portion of land connected with a continent by a narrow neck or isthmus but nearly surrounded with water
- PIEDMONT** the bottom of a mountain
- PIER** a structure constructed perpendicular to the harbor for securing vessels and receiving goods unladen or to be shipped on board
- PLAIN** large area of flat land
- PLATEAU** flat section of land higher than the surrounding area
- POINT** a small cape, headland, or promontory; a tract of land extending into the sea
- POND** a body of stagnant water usually without an outlet, larger than a puddle and smaller than a lake
- POOL** a small collection of water in a hollow place, supplied by a spring and discharging its surplus water by an outlet, smaller than a lake
- PRAIRIE** an extensive tract of land, mostly level, destitute of trees, and covered with tall, coarse grass
- PRECIPICE** a steep fall or descent of land, perpendicular or nearly so
- RAPIDS** a fast-moving river current, caused by a moderate descent
- REEF** a chain or range of rocks, lying at or near the surface of the water
- RESERVOIR** a place where water is collected and kept for use when wanted
- RIDGE** a long or continued range of hills or mountains; the upper part of such a range
- RIGHT BANK** the slope of ground on the right-hand side of the river when facing downstream
- RIVER** a large stream of water flowing in a channel on land toward the ocean, a lake, or another river, larger than brook
- RIVER MOUTH** the part or channel of a river by which its waters are discharged into the ocean or into a lake
- RIVER SOURCE** the beginning of a river; the headwaters
- SANDBAR** narrow ridge of fine particles of stone created by the current or tide
- SAVANNA** an extensive open plain or meadow; a plain destitute of trees
- SEA** a large body of water nearly enclosed by land
- SEA LEVEL** ocean surface level used as base for measuring elevation and sea depth; the average tide level
- SEAPORT** a harbor of the sea, accommodating seafaring vessels
- SHOAL** a place where the water is shallow or of little depth; a sand bank or bar; a shallow
- SHORE** the coast or land adjacent to the sea, a large lake, or a river

- SHORELINE** the place where a body of water meets the land
- SLOPE** any ground whose surface forms an angle with the plane of the horizon
- SNOWLINE** the altitudinal border above which a mountain is always covered in snow
- SOIL** the upper stratum of the earth; the compound substance that furnishes nutriment to plants or which is particularly adapted to support and nourish them
- SOUND** a narrow passage of water; a strait between the mainland and an isle; a strait connecting two seas or connecting a sea or lake with the ocean
- SPIT** a small point of land running into the sea; a long narrow shoal extending from the shore into the sea
- STEPPE** a prairie; a grassy plain characterized by a lack of trees and a shortage of rain
- STRAIT** a narrow pass or passage, either in a mountain or in the ocean, between continents or other portions of land
- STREAM** a current of water like a river, brook, or rivulet; a current of water in the ocean
- SUMMIT** the highest point of a mountain
- SWAMP** spongy land; low ground filled with water; soft, wet ground
- TABLELAND** a large, flat section of land higher than the surrounding area
- TERRACE** a raised bank of earth with sloping sides
- TIDE** the cyclical rise and fall of sea water, resulting from the gravitational attractive force between the earth and the moon
- TIMBER** wood that is proper for building or for tools, utensils, furniture, ships, and the like
- TIMBERLINE** the altitudinal border above which trees do not grow
- TOPOGRAPHY** the detailed description of a particular place, city, town, manor, parish, or tract of land
- TRIBUTARY** smaller streams or rivers flowing into a larger body of water
- TUNDRA** a vast treeless plain in the arctic region in which the ground is perpetually frozen
- TUNNEL** a large subterranean arch through a hill
- UPSTREAM** against the current
- VALE** a tract of low ground or of land between hills; a valley
- VALLEY** a hollow or low tract of land between hills or mountains
- VEGETATION** the process of growing plants by means of nourishment derived from the earth or from water and air and received through roots and leaves; vegetables or plants in general
- VOLCANO** an opening in the surface of the earth or in a mountain from which smoke, flames, stones, lava, or other substances are ejected
- WATERFALL** a fall or perpendicular descent of the water of a river or stream; a cascade; a cataract
- WATERSHED** an area that drains into a river; the divide that leads streams of water in two opposite directions
- WAVES** a moving swell or volume of water; usually, a swell raised and driven by wind
- WHARF** a perpendicular bank, mound, timber, or stone and earth, raised on the shore of a harbor or extending some distance into the water, for the convenience of lading and unloading ships and other vessels
- WHIRLPOOL** an eddy of water; a vortex or gulf where the water moves round in a circle
- WOODS** a large, thick collection of trees; a forest