abstract art art focused on structure and form
acre a unit of area for measuring land equal to 4,840 square yards
advocate a supporter
agency reservation headquarters; on Indian reservations the agency was the government’s headquarters where the agent lived
allot divide up
allotment the practice of subdividing Indian reservations into privately owned parcels
allotments individual pieces of land created by the allotment system
amendment a change, particularly to a constitution or law
annualities annual payments of food, equipment, supplies, and funds the U.S. government owed a tribe by treaty
anomaly something peculiar or unexpected
archaeologist a scientist who studies archaeology
archaeology the scientific study of human cultures by analyzing the physical clues that people have left behind
arid dry
artifact an object produced or shaped by human activity
asbestos a lightweight mineral made up of millions of tiny, heat-resistant fibers
assayer a person who determines the value or quality of gold
assimilate to be absorbed into the majority culture
assimilation when one culture is absorbed into the majority culture
atlatl a very effective throwing stick for killing animals at a distance
awl a sewing tool used to punch holes
baby boom dramatic increase in the number of babies born
band saw a saw made of a continuous toothed steel band looped over two wheels
bedroom community a town where people who work in a nearby city live
bindlestiffs migrant lumber workers who carried their bedrolls on their backs
biodiesel a diesel fuel made from seed oils like canola, safflower, or flax seed
biodiversity variety of plant and animal species
bison pound a corral-like enclosure used to trap bison
board foot a measurement of lumber equal to a board 1 foot long, 1 foot wide, and 1 inch thick
bonanza rich mineral deposit
boom-and-bust cycle sudden economic activity followed by decline, then a period of quiet, and then another burst of activity
booster someone who vigorously promotes something
boycott refuse to do business with
brand a mark burned into each animal’s hide that identified which ranch it belonged to
bribe to offer illegal payments
cord unit of volume for measuring cut timber; 128 cubic feet
counting coup earning respect by performing acts of bravery during a battle (Warriors counted coup by touching an enemy or taking his horse, usually without killing him.)
cradleboard a baby carrier with a wooden frame
creation stories traditional stories that tell about the creation of the world
culture a shared system of behaviors, attitudes, and understandings
cure (in reference to grass or meat) to dry
delegate a representative of the people
deregulation removing government controls
derrick a drilling rig
drive line a stone formation like a runway
dryland without irrigation
dude a vacationer who wanted to experience the West
dynamo a machine that converts mechanical energy into electric energy
easement the legal right to use a piece of land
emigrant a person who moves from his or her home country to settle in a new place
epidemic rapid spread of disease
erosion the wearing away of soil and rock by ice, water, or wind
ethanol a fuel made from corn and grain
Euro-American an American with European influence or ancestry
evaporation loss of moisture to the air
executive branch the branch of government that passes laws
executive order an order issued by the president of the United States
extractive industry an industry based on removing natural resources from the earth
faller a lumberjack who fells (cuts down) trees
fallowing plowing fields without seeding them
figurative art representing people, animals, objects, and landscapes
financier an investor who finances huge projects
flint a glassy, brown stone used to make tools
flume channel
forage animal food for grazing
foreclose to take possession of property for failure to repay loans
fossil any remains or impression of ancient creatures
fossil fuels oil, coal, and natural gas formed from sediment
freight train in the pre-railroad days, a string of freight wagons pulled by a team of oxen or mules
gender a person is male or female
gleology study of the earth (geo = earth; logy = study)
GI a nickname for a U.S. serviceman or woman; short for Government Issue
glacial till sediment left behind by glaciers
glacier a mass or slow-moving river of ice
graded (in road building) leveled to a manageable slope for cars
grain elevator where grain is stored for shipping by rail
grassroots made up of ordinary citizens
greenhorn beginner
Greenwich Mean Time the local time in Greenwich, England, at the central meridian of the earth
grub food
headwaters the source of a river
high-water mark the mark on the riverbank below which the water has washed away most of the vegetation
hoist cage a steel elevator that took men down into a mine
holding company a corporation that owns other corporations
horticultural plant-cultivating
human dignity (in the Montana state constitution) every person’s right to be treated with respect
hydroelectric generating electricity from water flow
hydroelectric power electricity generated by water flow
hyper-patriotism loyalty to a person’s country taken to an extreme level
immigration people moving to a new country
indigenous native to a particular land; indigenous rights are the rights of native peoples within their own land
industrialization creation of factories; rapid development of industry brought about by the introduction of machinery
industrialize to develop industries on a large scale
inflation higher prices
infrastructure basic facilities, such as roads, bridges, water, sewer, and communications
initiative (in government) a law passed by the people rather than by the legislature
intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) an armed, self-propelled missile that maintains a predetermined course as it flies
interment imprisonment
intertribal between tribes
invertebrate an animal without a backbone
irrigation bringing in a supply of water to make farmland more productive
judicial branch (in government) the court system, including the state Supreme Court
labor union an organization of employees that bargains with employers
land grant free land that the federal government gives to a company, organization, or state
lath thin, flat strips of wood used beneath plastering
latitude distance north or south from the equator
lava molten rock
legacy something handed down from the past
legislative branch (in government) the legislature, which includes the senate and house of representatives
legislature the branch of government that passes laws
liberal (in politics) favoring strong government as the people’s voice against corporate control
liberty bonds savings certificates that the government sold to raise money for the war
lobby try to influence
longitude  distance east or west from the central
    meridian, which runs from the South Pole to
    the North Pole through Greenwich, England
lousy   full of lice
magma  hot, molten material beneath the earth's crust
    that forms igneous rock
mainstream reflecting the majority's behaviors and beliefs
malnourished seriously underfed
manholes iron escape holes
Manifest Destiny the idea that the United States had a
    moral duty to expand its culture across the continent
mass media communication technologies that can reach
    millions of people
maverick an unidentified calf that wandered off from its
    mother; also means "independent thinker"
mechanize to change a process so that machines do work
    previously done by human or animal labor
medicine wheel a structure made of stones arrayed
    in a circle
megafauna large animals (mega means "large")
meridian line of longitude
Mesozoic  "middle life"; the geologic era covering
    245 million to 65 million years ago
meteorology weather
mint (in reference to money) make
missile silo a site for launching a missile
monopoly exclusive control
muskeg a swampy bog too wet to grow many kinds
    of plants
musket a long, smooth-bore rifle
mutton sheep meet
native copper naturally occurring copper found as nuggets
natural resource economy an economy based on natural
    resource extraction like mining, timber, and agriculture
natural resource extraction industries based on
    removing natural resources
neoclassical reflecting Greek and Roman traditions
nipper a young errand boy who fetched tools, tended
    mules, and did other odd jobs for the mines
Northwest Passage a water route across North America
    from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean
ochre paint made from red clay
open-pit mining removing low-grade ore using huge
    earth-moving equipment
ore rock containing precious metals
outfit (in ranching) a ranching operation
pacifist a person who is opposed to war or other kinds
    of violence for any reason
paleontologist a scientist who studies fossils
Paleozoic "ancient life"; the geologic era covering
    544 million to 245 million years ago
peavey a spiked iron pole used to control floating logs
peddler a person who sells something door-to-door
pemmican a traditional Northern Plains food made of
    dried meat, fat, and berries
pension retirement pay
per-capita income the average annual income per person
petroglyph an image carved into rock
pictograph an image painted on rock
pipestone a reddish, clay-like stone used to make pipes
placer mining separating loose gold and nuggets from dirt,
    sand, and gravel in a creek bed; from the Spanish word
    "placer", meaning "sand bank"
plains high-elevation grasslands
plat to map something
played out no longer yielded gold
plew a beaver hide stretched and flattened for shipping
poke a little buckskin sack
populism politics based on issues important to everyday
    people
Post-contact Period after contact between European and
    American Indian cultures, which began about 1600
POW a military prisoner of war
power contract a right to buy power at a certain price
pow-wow an American Indian celebration
preamble introduction
Precambrian period when the oldest rocks on earth were
    formed; the geologic era covering 4.6 billion years to
    544 million years ago
precipitation rain and snow
Pre-contact Period before many Indians came into
    contact with European cultures
prejudice a pre-formed negative opinion
preservation preserving something from destruction
Prohibition a movement to outlaw alcohol; or the period
    of time when drinking or selling alcohol was illegal
propaganda information designed to persuade people
    of something
prospector a person who searches for gold
prove up fulfill certain obligations for land ownership
provision (in the constitution) something that the
    constitution provides for
quartz mining hard-rock mining
rain shadow an area on the inland side of a mountain
    range that is dryer because it is sheltered from rain-
    bearing clouds
ratify formally approve
ration to limit people's access to goods or food
reapportionment to apportion, or distribute, in a
    new way
reclaim to claim back, convert to usable land, or make
    useful again
referendum when the people vote to reject a law passed
    by the legislature
refining (in mining) separating precious metal from rock
relocation camp a prison camp where Japanese Americans
    were sent to live during World War II
rendezvous a French word that means a meeting in
    arranged in advance
renewable resource a natural resource that is capable
    of restoring itself
repeal cancel
reservation an area of land that a tribe or tribes reserved
    for their own use through treaties
revenue income, especially to a state, corporation, or
    industry
right-of-way the legal right to cross someone else's
    property
ritual ceremonial practice
roundup a cooperative effort to round up all the cattle in a region, sort them out, brand the new calves, and trail each herd to its home range
rustle (in mining) to round up (or get) work
rustling (in ranching) rounding up cattle or horses for thievery
rustling card a card allowing a miner to “rustle up” (or get) work
rustling card system the Anaconda Copper Mining Company’s system of requiring a Company-issued card before a miner could get work.
sabotage deliberately destroy
sawyer a lumberjack who works with a saw
scrap drive a campaign to get people to turn in household items, rubber, or metal for re-use by the military
seasonal round the pattern of harvesting various foods according to the season
secede separate
sedentary not moving around
sediment solid matter that settles to the bottom of fluid
sedition speech or conduct that encourages rebellion against the government
self-propelled moving under its own power
service economy an economy based on providing health care, education, and other services
sextant a tool that measures the angle between two points
sinew animal tendon
sluice a long wooden trough with an open top and cleats along the bottom
smoke jumping parachuting out of an airplane into a fire zone to help fight fires
snag (in forestry) a standing dead tree
socialist the belief that major industries and services should be owned and regulated by the state; also a person who holds this belief
society a large group of people who live in a particular place, speak a common language, and share interests, relationships, basic beliefs, and social identity
sovereign independent and self-governing
sovereignty powers of self-government
spooning making out
stockyard pens for holding animals before shipping to market
strike an organized protest in which workers refuse to work
strip town a town with one main business street
strip-farm to plant crops and fallow in alternating strips
subsidies financial help from the government
subsurface compacting compressing the soil beneath the surface
suffrage the right to vote
Superfund site a hazardous waste site that is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund pollution clean-up program
superpower a nation with greater economic, political, and military power than most nations
survey to measure land for mapping
sweetgrass a plant used for ceremonies
telegraph an electric message system that transmitted coded signals along a wire
termination the end of something; a federal program to terminate its special relationship with some Indian tribes
theory a set of logically connected ideas
threshing separating wheat from straw
tipi rings stone circles left after tipi encampments
title legal ownership of land
topography land features; the arrangement of hills, mountains, and slopes
traction friction between the tire and the road
transcontinental all the way across the continent
transistor radio a small, portable radio that runs on batteries
travois a transport device made of two joined poles and drawn by an animal
treaty an agreement between governments
treaty rights tribal rights established by treaty
trust when something is owned by one person but managed by another
tundra semi-frozen shallow soil where plants grow low to the ground
tycoon a wealthy businessman
urbanization the growth of cities
vaquero a Spanish word for “cowboy”
vein (in mining) layer, as in a gold vein
vermiculite a yellowish mineral that expands when heated
veteran a person who has served in the military
veto reject
vigilance keeping a careful watch
vigilantes men who formed a Vigilance Committee; people who took the law into their own hands
vision quest a time of fasting and praying alone in a special place to gain spiritual understanding
volcanologist a scientist who studies volcanoes
war bonds savings certificates issued by the government as a way to raise money for the war
whipsaw a long, two-handled saw; also called a pit saw
wildcatter an independent oil prospector
wildland/urban interface the area where the city and the wilderness meet
work relief relieving poverty by giving people jobs
youth culture a feeling among urban young people that they had more in common with each other than with older people, even in their own families or communities