

Lesson 9

Geography

All the words in this lesson may be associated with geography.

adapt V. to adjust to new conditions (People moving to another country *adapt* to a new way of life by learning new customs.)

arable ADJ. suitable for planting (The farmer decided that the rocky soil was not *arable* land.)

barren ADJ. unable to produce anything (Nothing grew in the *barren* field.)

contour N. outline of a figure; shape (The *contour* of Italy is similar to that of a boot.)

cultivate V. to prepare and use land to raise crops (Farmers use plows to *cultivate* the land in the spring.)

deciduous ADJ. shedding leaves at the end of a growing season (Elms and maples lose their leaves in the fall because they are *deciduous* trees.)

dense ADJ. close together, thick (It was difficult to walk through the *dense* undergrowth in the forest.)

devastate V. destroy, ruin (A hurricane can *devastate* land and people by wrecking buildings and flooding cities.)

diverse ADJ. varied, different (There were people from many countries in the city's *diverse* population.)

famine N. having no food; time of starving (During the *famine* in Ethiopia, thousands of children died from hunger.)

fault N. a break in the earth's crust (The *fault* caused by the earthquake looked like a crack in the ground.)

foliage N. leaves of a plant; greenery (The tree's *foliage* made the yard shady in summer.)

Import V. to bring in from another country for sale (Because it is difficult to grow bananas in the United States, we must *import* them from South and Central America.)

Irrigate V. to water farm land with a system of ditches or by using sprinklers (Where there is little rain, farmers must *irrigate* their crops.)

metropolitan ADJ. of a large city (There are many large office buildings and stores in a *metropolitan* area.)

precipice N. a very steep face of a rock; cliff (The rock climber looked over the edge of the *precipice* and saw the valley far below.)

residential ADJ. having to do with homes or houses (Although the business district of the town was crowded and noisy, the neighborhoods in the *residential* section were quiet and peaceful.)

semiarid ADJ. having little rainfall (Although there was some rain, the *semiarid* climate at the edge of the desert was not good for growing crops.)

survey V. to measure for size, shape, and boundaries (The highway department had to *survey* the land before constructing the new road.)

tributary N. a stream or river that flows into a larger body of water (The Wisconsin River is a *tributary* of the Mississippi.)

Exercise 1

Write the letter of the word that best completes the sentence.

1. We paddled our canoe down a small _____ until we reached the big river.
A. famine B. tributary C. precipice D. fault

2. There is not much _____ land in the high mountains because the soil is thin.
A. deciduous B. semiarid C. barren D. arable

3. Have someone _____ your land to determine the boundaries.
A. import B. devastate C. survey D. cultivate
4. Some scientists believe that dinosaurs became extinct because they could not _____ to the changing environment.
A. adapt B. cultivate C. import D. survey
5. The _____ of the California coast is very jagged.
A. foliage B. famine C. contour D. tributary
6. Because my father liked having neighbors, he chose to live in a(n) _____ area.
A. residential B. barren C. deciduous D. arable
7. In autumn, the leaves of some _____ trees turn red.
A. barren B. deciduous C. arable D. semiarid
8. Because of the poor harvest, the country had to _____ grain.
A. adapt B. survey C. import D. devastate
9. The farmer used the water from the river to _____ his land.
A. irrigate B. survey C. adapt D. import
10. The _____ was too steep to climb, so the hikers took an alternate route.
A. fault B. precipice C. contour D. tributary

Exercise 2

Write the letter of the word that most nearly has the *same* meaning of the italicized word.

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| 11. <i>cultivate</i> | A. climb | B. ruin | C. plow | D. wash | _____ |
| 12. <i>diverse</i> | A. various | B. huge | C. similar | D. shiny | _____ |
| 13. <i>barren</i> | A. red | B. fruitless | C. high | D. hungry | _____ |
| 14. <i>semiarid</i> | A. dry | B. crowded | C. windy | D. quiet | _____ |
| 15. <i>metropolitan</i> | A. slow | B. cluttered | C. urban | D. wet | _____ |
| 16. <i>dense</i> | A. heavy | B. green | C. thick | D. sparse | _____ |
| 17. <i>fault</i> | A. crack | B. trail | C. lake | D. signal | _____ |
| 18. <i>famine</i> | A. city | B. cry | C. opening | D. hunger | _____ |
| 19. <i>foliage</i> | A. leaves | B. bark | C. roots | D. branches | _____ |
| 20. <i>devastate</i> | A. work | B. move | C. destroy | D. build | _____ |