

Lesson 8

Geography and Agriculture

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

- agrarian** ADJ. relating to farmers or their way of life (The *agrarian* population diminished as people moved from rural to urban areas.)
- agronomist** N. one who deals with field-crop production and soil management (The *agronomist* encouraged us to rotate the crops yearly.)
- arable** ADJ. suitable for cultivation (Only thirteen percent of China's land is *arable*, so farmers must use high-yield agricultural methods.)
- cataclysm** N. a sudden, violent geological change or upheaval (The eruption of Mount St. Helens was a recent *cataclysm*.)
- conservation** N. the act of protecting from harm or waste; the preservation of natural resources (*Conservation* helps prevent extinction of wildlife.)
- converge** V. to move together; to meet at the same point (The Mississippi and Missouri rivers *converge* just north of St. Louis.)
- ecologist** N. one who studies organisms and their environments (An *ecologist* studied the impact of the pipeline on caribou migration patterns.)
- erode** V. to gradually wear away by natural means (The Colorado River continues to *erode* the Grand Canyon.)
- floe** N. a flat sheet of ice floating over a body of water (An ice *floe* can support a person's weight, but walking on one is not recommended.)
- gradation** N. the act of bringing land to a uniform level or slope (Terraced hillsides formed by *gradation* reduce erosion.)
- herbivorous** ADJ. feeding on plants (The elephant is an example of a *herbivorous* animal.)
- horticulture** N. the science of growing plants (*Horticulture* usually applies to smaller gardens, while agriculture relates to large-scale farms.)
- husbandry** N. the management of livestock and crops (*Husbandry* now includes extensive use of science and technology.)
- igneous** ADJ. formed by the solidifying of volcanic magma (The Hawaiian Islands are composed of *igneous* rock.)
- mammal** N. a vertebrate, warm-blooded, hairy animal with milk-producing glands to nourish its young (The world's largest *mammal* is the blue whale.)
- marsupial** N. an order of mammal, most of which carry and suckle their young in exterior pouches (The kangaroo is the largest *marsupial*.)
- paddock** N. a fenced enclosure used mainly for grazing animals (The startled horses paced nervously around the *paddock*.)
- sediment** N. material that settles to the bottom of liquids or is deposited by wind or rain (The flood left behind a *sediment* of mud and debris.)
- tundra** N. the treeless plain of arctic and subarctic areas with permanently frozen subsoil (Reindeer graze upon the vast, frozen *tundra*.)
- yeoman** N. a small, independent farmer; an industrious, dependable worker (The life of a *yeoman* is filled with hard work and long hours.)