

Ways of Defining Words

Usage: Define the word by using it in a sentence.

Discount rate The Federal Reserve raised the *discount rate* by 0.5% on loans to member banks in an effort to control inflation.

Synonym: Define the word by writing another word that has a similar meaning.

Tariff B custom duty, import tax

Nation-state B country, nation, sovereign state

Antonym: Define the word by writing a word that has a meaning opposite to the word.

Totalitarian B anarchy

Monopoly B pure competition

Classification: Define the word by indicating some of its characteristics (semantic features).

Iron Curtain A political barrier that separated the communist nations of Eastern Europe from the nations of Western Europe during the cold war.

Exemplification: Define the word by providing an example, a picture, or the specific object.

Land In economics, *land* includes soil, water, air, minerals, plants, animals, and other natural resources.

Axis Powers The *Axis Powers* in World War II were Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Comparison: define the word by providing an example and a statement of how the example differs from the referent.

Reservoir A *reservoir* is a man-made lake that stores water for human uses.

Gulf A *gulf* is like a bay, only it is larger.

Physical Relationship: Define the word by showing the relationship of a part to the whole and to the other parts with adjoin it.

Senate The *Senate* is the upper house of Congress which, together with the House of Representatives, makes laws for the United States.

Commonly Used Verbs in the Social Studies Curriculum

Analyze	Break the information, concept, or event down into its parts, and explain the various parts.
Compare	Show how two things are similar as well as different; include details or examples.
Contrast	Show how two things are different; include details or examples.
Critique	Point out both the good and bad (positive and negative) points of something.
Define	Give an accurate meaning of a term with enough detail to show that you understand it.
Describe	Write about the subject so the reader can easily visualize it; tell how it looks or happened, including how, who, what, when, where, and why.
Diagram	Make a drawing of something, and label its parts.
Discuss	Give a complete and detailed answer, including important characteristics and main points.
Enumerate	Write in a list or outline form, giving points one by one.
Evaluate	Give your opinion of the value of the subject; discuss its good and bad points, strengths and weaknesses, advantages and disadvantages.
Explain	Give the meaning of something; give facts and details that make the idea easy to understand.
Illustrate	Make the point or idea clear by giving examples. Note that <i>illustrate</i> rarely means to make a drawing.
Interpret	Tell the importance of the subject or explain the results or the effects of something.
Justify	Give good reasons that support a decision, action, or event.
Outline	Make an organized listing of the important points of a subject.
Prove	Show that something is true by giving facts or logical reasons.
Relate	Show how things are alike or connected together.
State	Give the main points in a brief, clear form.
Summarize	Briefly cover the main points using a paragraph form.
Trace	Tell about an event or process in chronological order.

Signal Words and Phrases Used in Social Studies

Signal words and phrases are commonly used in social studies writing like textbooks, essays, and source documents to indicate the direction or pattern of thought in a paragraph or chapter. They can help readers see how two ideas fit together and relate to each other. Signal words are usually located at the beginning of a sentence and are followed by a comma. They are the writer=s way of getting the reader=s attention and showing the reader how to interpret and predict upcoming information.

Words that signal definition:

refers to	consists of	means
in other words (i.e.)	is equal to	synonymous with

Words that signal example:

for example (e.g.)	such as	including
for instance	is like	to illustrate

Words that signal simple listing or addition of ideas:

also	in addition	moreover
another	furthermore	finally

Words that signal sequential listing (the ordering of steps, events, etc.):

first	before	following	later
second	then	since	finally
next	now	previously	last

Words that signal analysis:

consider	investigate	this means
analyze	examine	the first part suggests

Words that signal comparisons:

similarly	just like	likewise
in the same way	just as	in comparison

Words that signal contrast:

in contrast	however	but
whereas	yet	on the other hand

Words that signal a cause and effect relationship:

because	this led to	therefore	due to
for	as a result	consequently	thus