**Geography Word List**

1. **Custom** - An established way of doing things. Customs are applied to a community or to an individual, learned customs are permanent continuances of a social usage.
   1. It is the custom to give gifts at Christmas time.
2. **Region** – Large area with its own unifying characteristics. Regions can include Physical, cultural, political, and/or economical features.
   1. Tuscany is one of the regions of the Italian Republic.
3. **Weather** - The state of the atmosphere with respect to wind, temperature, cloudiness, moisture, pressure, etc.
   1. The radio announcer will read the weather right after the commercial.
4. **Appalachian Mountains** - A mountain range in E North America, extending from S Quebec province to N Alabama. Highest peak, Mt. Mitchell, 6684 ft.
   1. Historically, the Appalachian Mountains were a barrier to early western expansion. In the early 1840s, railroads began to transport settlers across the mountains, permitting access to the frontier.
5. **Artifacts** - Any object made by human beings, especially with a view to subsequent use.
   1. Artifacts can be found and examined from every major civilization known to man.
6. **Continent** – One of the main landmasses of the globe, usually reckoned as seven in number (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, and Antarctica).
   1. If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from others lands, but a continent that joins to them.
7. **Culture -** The behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group: the youth culture; the drug culture. Examples include inherited ideas, beliefs, values, and knowledge.
   1. Anthropologists consider that the requirements for culture (language use, tool making, and conscious regulation of sex) are essential features that distinguish humans from other animals.
8. **East Asia** – The countries and land area of the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macao, Mongolia, the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, and the Russian Federation in Asia.
   1. More than 1.5 billion people, about 38% of the population of Asia or 22% of all the people in the world, live in geographic East Asia.
9. **Education System** – The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
   1. The educational system of Creighton Public Schools will prepare you for all of life’s challenges. Guaranteed.
10. **Energy (Alternative)** - Energy, as solar, wind, or nuclear energy, that can replace or supplement traditional fossil-fuel sources, as coal, oil and natural gas.
    1. If we truly want an innovative and creative renewable fuel industry, then it needs to be challenged. And if we create a set of protections that allow it to not be as creative and innovative as possible, then we aren’t doing a service to the industry or to the people of this country.
11. **Colonialism** - The control or governing influence of a nation over a dependent country, territory, or people.
    1. A classic example of colonialism is the control of India by Britain from the eighteenth century to 1947.
12. **Ganges River Valley** - A river flowing SE from the Himalayas in N India into the Bay of Bengal: sacred to Hindus. 1550 mi.
    1. The Ganges, above all is the river of India, which has held India's heart captive and drawn uncounted millions to her banks since the dawn of history.
13. **Hindu** – A person, especially of northern India, who adheres to Hinduism.
    1. The word "Hindu" is also attributed to all persons professing any Indian religion (i.e. Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism or Sikhism).
14. **International Date Line** - A theoretical line following approximately the 180th meridian, the regions to the east of which are counted as being one day earlier in their calendar dates than the regions to the west.
    1. Crossing the IDL travelling east results in a day or 24 hours being subtracted, so that the traveler repeats the date to the west of the line.
15. **Latitude** – Distance measuring the angular distance north or south of the equator. Lines run east and west.
    1. Each line of latitude is actually a circle on the Earth parallel to the equator, and for this reason lines of latitude are also known as circles of latitude or parallels.
16. **Longitude** – If the angular distance of a point's meridian from the Prime Meridian.
    1. The measurement of longitude is important both to cartography and to provide safe ocean navigation. Mariners and explorers for most of history struggled to determine precise longitude.
17. **Life Expectancy** – The probable number of years remaining in the life of an individual or class of persons determined statistically, affected by such factors as heredity, physical condition, nutrition, and occupation.
    1. The life expectancy in the United States is higher than Ethiopia for a plethora of reasons.
18. **Map projection** – A means of representing or a representation of the globe or celestial sphere or part of it on a flat map, using a grid of lines of latitude and longitude.
    1. All map projections distort the surface in some fashion. Depending on the purpose of the map, some distortions are acceptable and others are not; therefore different map projections exist in order to preserve some properties of the sphere-like body at the expense of other properties. There is no limit to the number of possible map projections.
19. **Mineral resource** – Any of a class of substances occurring in nature, usually comprising inorganic substances, as quartz or feldspar, of definite chemical composition and usually of definite crystal structure, but sometimes also including rocks formed by these substances as well as certain natural products of organic origin, as asphalt or coal.
    1. Most minerals are crystals, like salt and diamonds.
20. **Natural disaster** – Any event or force of nature that has catastrophic consequences, such as avalanche, earthquake, flood, forest fire, hurricane, lightning, tornado, tsunami, and volcanic eruption.
    1. Each year there are many natural disasters in the world.
21. **Nuclear Power Plant** – Nuclear power is produced by controlled (i.e., non-explosive) nuclear reactions. Commercial and utility plants currently use nuclear fission reactions to heat water to produce steam, which is then used to generate electricity.
    1. There are over 100 operating nuclear power plants in America and 16 non-operational power plants, and a large number of nuclear fuel and weapons facilities.
22. **Pacific Rim** – The regions, countries, etc, that lie on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, especially in the context of their developing manufacturing capacity and consumer markets.
    1. There are many economic centers around the Pacific Rim.
23. **Precinct** – A district, as of a city, marked out for governmental or administrative purposes, or for police protection.
    1. A precinct is generally the lowest-level governmentally related division in the United States, and in that context is also known in some places as an election district.
24. **Preservation** – To keep alive or in existence. To keep up or maintain.
    1. Preservation is to protect something, that might include endangered animals, to keep them safe or to preserve food, remaining fresh for longer periods of time.
25. **Technology** – Is the usage and knowledge of tools, techniques, crafts, systems or methods of organization in order to solve a problem or create an artistic perspective.
    1. Technologies significantly affect human as well as other animal species' ability to control and adapt to their natural environments. The human species' use of technology began with the conversion of natural resources into simple tools.
26. **Assimilation** – The term assimilation is often used with regard to immigrants and various ethnic groups who have settled in a new land. New customs and attitudes are acquired through contact and communication.
    1. Assimilation usually involves a gradual change and takes place in varying degrees; full assimilation occurs when new members of a society become indistinguishable from older members.

1. **Cumberland Gap** – A pass in the Cumberland Mountains at the junction of the Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee boundaries. 1315 ft. he Cumberland Gap was discovered in 1750 by Dr. Thomas Walker, a Virginia physician and explorer. Long used by Native Americans, the path was widened by a team of loggers led by Daniel Boone, making it accessible to pioneers, who used it to journey into the western frontiers of Kentucky and Tennessee.
   1. Famous in American history for its role as one key passageway through the lower central Appalachians, it was an important part of the Wilderness Road and is now part of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.
2. **Population Density** – Is population divided by total land area.
   1. The world's population is 6.8 billion,and Earth's total area (including land and water) is 510 million square kilometers (197 million square miles). Therefore the worldwide human population density is 6.8 billion ÷ 510 million = 13.3 per km² (34.5 per sq. mile).
3. **Economic Alliance** – an agreement or friendship between two or more parties, made in order to advance common goals and to secure common economic interests.
   1. In international relations, the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, signed in 1373 between the Kingdom of England (succeeded by the United Kingdom) and Portugal, is the oldest alliance in the world which is still in force.
4. **Everglades** – The Everglades are subtropical wetlands in the southern portion of the U.S. state of Florida, comprising the southern half of a large watershed. The system begins near Orlando with the Kissimmee River, which discharges into the vast but shallow Lake Okeechobee.
   1. Approximately 50 percent of the original Everglades has been turned into agricultural or urban areas.
5. **Hydroelectric Power** – Electricity generated by hydropower; the production of electrical power through the use of the gravitational force of falling or flowing water.
   1. Hydropower has been used since ancient times to grind flour and perform other tasks.
6. **Infant Mortality Rate** – The number of infant deaths (one year of age or younger) per 1000 live births. Traditionally, the most common cause worldwide was dehydration from diarrhea. However, the spreading information about Oral Re-hydration Solution (a mixture of salts, sugar, and water) to mothers around the world has decreased the rate of children dying from dehydration. Currently, the most common cause is pneumonia.
   1. The current infant mortality rate in the United States is 6.8 deaths per 1,000 births.
7. **Interdependence –** Two states that cooperate with each other are said to be interdependent. It can also be defined as the reliance on one another socially, economically, environmentally and politically.
   1. Interdependence is a dynamic of being mutually and physically responsible to, and sharing a common set of principles with others.
8. **Inuit –** The Inuit are a group of culturally similar indigenous peoples inhabiting the Arctic regions of Canada, Denmark, Russia and the United States.
   1. Inuit are the descendants of what anthropologists call the Thule culture, who emerged from western Alaska around 1000 AD and spread eastwards across the Arctic.
9. **Invasion of Iraq –** The 2003 invasion of Iraq (March 20–May 1, 2003), was the start of the conflict known as the Iraq War or Operation Iraqi Freedom in which a combined force of troops from the United States, alongside the United Kingdom, and smaller contingents from Australia and Poland invaded Iraq and toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein in 21 days of major combat operations.
   1. According to U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the reasons for the invasion were "to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, to end Saddam Hussein's alleged support for terrorism, and to free the Iraqi people."
10. **Isthmus –** Is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas usually with water forming on either side.
    1. The Isthmus of Corinth connects the peninsula of Peloponnese with the rest of the Greek peninsula.
11. **Khyber Pass -** Is a mountain pass that links Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Pass was an integral part of the ancient Silk Road and throughout history, it has been an important trade route between Central Asia and South Asia and a strategic military location.
    1. Recorded invasions through the Khyber begin with the conquests of Darius I and Alexander the Great and also include later Muslim invasions of South Asia, culminating with the establishment of the Mogul Empire from 1526.
12. **Levee –** Is a natural or artificial slope or wall to regulate water levels. It is usually earthen and often parallel to the course of a river or the coast.
    1. Because a levee is only as strong as its weakest point, the height and standards of construction have to be consistent along its length.
13. **Nationalism –** Involves a strong identification of a group of individuals with a political entity defined in national terms, i.e. a nation. It can also include the belief that the state is of primary importance, or the belief that one state is naturally superior to all other states.
    1. Before the development of nationalism, people were generally loyal to a city or to a particular leader rather than to their nation.
14. **Strip Mining –** Is the practice of mining a seam of mineral by first removing a long strip of overlying soil and rock.
    1. In most forms of strip mining, heavy equipment, such as earthmovers, first remove the topsoil.
15. **Chernobyl Nuclear Accident –** Was a well-known nuclear accident of catastrophic proportions that occurred on 26 April 1986, at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have been burdened with the continuing and substantial decontamination and health care costs of the Chernobyl accident. Fifty deaths, all among the reactor staff and emergency workers, are directly attributed to the accident. It is estimated that there may ultimately be a total of 4,000 deaths attributable to the accident, due to increased cancer risk.
    1. The Chernobyl nuclear accident raised concerns about the safety of the Soviet nuclear power industry as well as nuclear power in general, slowing its expansion for a number of years while forcing the Soviet government to become less secretive about its procedures.
16. **Command Economy –** It is an economic system in which the central government controls industry such that it makes major decisions regarding the production and distribution of goods and services.
    1. Beginning in the 1980s and 1990s, many governments presiding over command economies began deregulating (or as in the Soviet Union, the system collapsed) and moving toward market-based economies by allowing the private sector to make the pricing, production, and distribution decisions.
17. **Comparative Advantage –** Refers to the ability of a party (an individual, a firm, or a country) to produce a particular good or service at a lower opportunity cost than another party. It is the ability to produce a product with the highest efficiency given all the other products that could be produced.
    1. Comparative advantage explains how trade can create value for both parties even when one can produce all goods with fewer resources than the other.
18. **Ethnocentrism –** Is the tendency to believe that one's ethnic or cultural group is centrally important, and that all other groups are measured in relation to one's own. The ethnocentric individual will judge other groups relative to his or her own particular ethnic group or culture, especially with concern to language, behavior, customs, and religion.
    1. The term ethnocentrism was coined by William G. Sumner, upon observing the tendency for people to differentiate between the in-group and others. He described it as often leading to pride, vanity, beliefs of one's own group's superiority, and contempt of outsiders.
19. **Gross Domestic Product –** The market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.
    1. Gross domestic product is in direct correlation with standard of living.
20. **Gross National Product –** Is the market value of all products and services produced in one year by labor and property supplied by the residents of a country. Unlike Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which defines production based on the geographical location of production, GNP allocates production based on ownership.
    1. Gross National Product (GNP) is often contrasted with Gross Domestic Product (GDP). While GNP measures the output generated by a country's enterprises - whether physically located domestically or abroad - GDP measures the total output produced within a country's borders - whether produced by that country's own firms or not.
21. **Market Economy –** Is an economy based on the power of division of labor in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system set by supply and demand.
    1. In the real world, market economies do not exist in pure form, as societies and governments regulate them to varying degrees rather than allow self-regulation by market forces.
22. **Push Factors -** Involves a force which acts to drive people away from a place.
    1. Several push factors have contributed to me wanting to leave my village and move to Cairo like low grain prices and drought.
23. **Push Factors –** Is what draws them to a new location.
    1. The pull factor of many people and great education of Beijing was what made me decide to move.
24. **Zoning regulation –** Is a device of land use planning used by local governments in most developed countries. The word is derived from the practice of designating permitted uses of land based on mapped zones which separate one set of land uses from another. Zoning may be use-based (regulating the uses to which land may be put), or it may regulate building height, lot coverage, and similar characteristics, or some combination of these.
    1. Theoretically, the primary purpose of zoning is to segregate uses that are thought to be incompatible. In practice, zoning is used to prevent new development from interfering with existing residents or businesses and to preserve the "character" of a community.