

SELETED VOCABULARY

Accommodate to do a kindness or a favor to

Agency in historical studies, the ability of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices

Agitate to disturb or excite emotionally

Agrarian relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land

Alderman a member of a municipal (city) council or assembly

Amenity a desirable or useful feature or facility of a building or place

Antebellum in the United States, the period after the War of 1812 and before the beginning of the Civil War

Artisan a worker in a skilled trade, especially one that involves making things by hand

Atlantic World in historical studies, the interactions between the peoples of the Americas, Africa, and Europe who border the Atlantic Ocean

Auction a public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder

Autonomy independence or freedom, as of the will or one's actions

Bondage the state of being enslaved

Broker a person who buys and sells goods or assets for others

Brutality savage physical violence; great cruelty

Census an official count or survey of a population; in the United States, constitutionally required every 10 years

Cistern a tank for storing water

Clerk a person employed to keep records, accounts, and complete other routine administrative duties

Client a person or organization using the services of a lawyer or other professional person or company

Customs House a building housing the offices whose officials oversaw the importing and exporting goods into and out of a country

Demand in economics, the willingness and ability to purchase a good or service

Drayman the driver of a dray, a low, flat-bed wagon, pulled generally by horses or mules that were used for transport of all kinds of goods

Eccentric unconventional and slightly strange behavior

Economy an area of the production, distribution and trade, as well as consumption of goods and services by different groups including individuals, businesses, and governments

Elaborate involving many carefully arranged parts or details; detailed and complicated in design and planning

Elite a group of persons who by virtue of position or education exercise much power or influence

Fertile referring to soil or land, producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops

Free person of color in the antebellum American South, people of various descent (African or possibly Native American) who were not enslaved

Gang labor system a division of labor on antebellum plantations featuring strict supervision on enslaved individuals

Gilded covered thinly with gold leaf or gold paint

Indigo a blue dye obtained from plants

Industry a distinct group of productive or profit-making enterprises

Inherit to come into possession of or receive upon another's death

Institution a significant practice, relationship, or organization in a society or culture

Insurance a means of protection from financial loss

Irrigation the watering of land by artificial means to foster plant growth

Lethal capable of causing death

Lye a strongly alkaline solution used for washing or cleansing

Malady a disease or ailment

Madeira a fortified wine from the island of Madeira

Manumission release from enslavement

Midwife a person trained to assist women in childbirth

Municipal relating to a city or town or its governing body

Nursemaid a woman or girl employed to look after a young child or children

Ottoman a low upholstered seat or footstool

Pantry a small room or closet in which food, dishes, and utensils are kept



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Patriarchal relating to or characteristic of a system of society or government controlled by men

Privy a toilet typically located in a small shed outside a house or other building

Profit a financial gain, especially the difference between the amount earned and the amount spent in buying, operating, or producing something

Rural in, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town

Scullery a small kitchen or room used for washing dishes and other dirty household work

Staple a main item of trade or production

Supplement something that completes or enhances something else when added to it

Tabby a type of building material made of lime, shells, gravel, and stones, which dries very hard

Transaction an instance of buying or selling something; a business deal

Trust Lot a plot of land intended for public buildings like churches, courthouses, or banks

Urban in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city

Ward an administrative division or district of a city or borough

Wharf a raised, level structure built beside the edge of the sea or a river, where ships can be tied and goods unloaded

Widow a woman who has lost her spouse by death and has not remarried