



America's Neighbors

Vocabulary Words Week 1



- 1. dictators** A person who rules absolutely, usually using his or her power and authority unfairly
- 2. annexed** To join to something bigger or more important. {Hawaii was annexed to the United States in 1898}
- 3. hacienda** A large piece of land, usually a Spanish-speaking country, that is used for farming or raising cattle
- 4. peon** A poorly paid farmer in Mexico who worked on a hacienda
- 5. ejido** A farm that is owned and worked by a group of farmers
- 6. mariachi** A member of a Mexican band of strolling singers and musicians
- 7. vaquero** An Indian who rode horses and rounded up cattle
- 8. finca** A large estate with its own village
- 9. ole** A cheer of enthusiasm or approval
- 10. serape** A shawl or blanket, often striped in bright colors, worn by Spanish Americans



America's Neighbors

Vocabulary Words Week 2



- 1. Baja Peninsula** A long, narrow piece of land that juts out from the northwest corner of Mexico
- 2. Sierra Madres** A mountain system in Mexico
- 3. Mexico City** Capital and largest city in Mexico
- 4. Yucatan Peninsula** A peninsula in southeastern Mexico and northeastern Central Mexico
- 5. subsistence** Maintenance, upkeep; nurture, sustenance (food)
- 6. farming** The occupation of business of raising crops and animals on a farm
- 7. barter** To exchange (one kind of goods or services for another)
- 8. fiesta** A holiday or festival
- 9. piñata** A paper-mache person or animal filled with candy & toys, which is hung above the heads of children, and given chances to break open the piñata to receive its contents
- 10. siesta** A nap or rest taken at noon or in the afternoon
- 11. matador** A bullfighter whos role is to kill the bull in a bullfight



America's Neighbors

Vocabulary Words Week 3



- 1. prime minister** The national leader of Canada
- 2. bilingual** Uses two languages
- 3. premier** The leader of a province of Canada
- 4. referendum** A vote by the people to decide an important issue
- 5. monarch** King, sovereign, majesty
- 6. cabinet** The group of Presidential advisors who head the executive departments
- 7. Ottawa** Capital of Canada
- 8. Vancouver** A port city in southwestern British Columbia, Canada and an island of British Columbia, Canada
- 9. Yukon Territory** A territory in northwestern Canada
- 10. Northwest Territory** Formerly a territory of the United States bounded by the Ohio River, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River
- 11. Quebec** The largest province of Canada in the eastern part of the country
- 12. Manitoba** Canada's first plains province in 1870



America's Neighbors

Vocabulary Words Week 4



1. **totem pole** A carved pole showing the history of a family and placed in front of as house, usually to honor an older family member
2. **potlatch** A feast among the Northwest Coast and Arctic Indians held when a host wants to honor a person or a family
3. **habitant** A settler in New France who worked for a seigneur
4. **portage** The carrying of boats and supplies over land between bodies of water
5. **seigneur** A French noble who controlled land in New France
6. **voyageur** A person hired by the fur companies to transport furs and supplies in New France
7. **taiga** A forested area south of the tundra
8. **Canadian Shield** A low-lying plateau of ancient rocks that cover more than half of Canada, extending from Labrador southwest around Hudson Bay and northwest to the Arctic Ocean
9. **Ontario** A province in eastern Canada
10. **Saskatchewan** A province of Canada in the south-central part of the country
11. **province** A part of Canada that is like a state in the United States