

Glossary

A

abolition the act of officially ending something (such as slavery) (8)

absolute location a specific spot on planet Earth, sometimes expressed using latitude and longitude (1)

Acadians French Canadians who came to Louisiana beginning in the 1760s; called Cajuns for short (2)

Adams-Onís Treaty a treaty signed in 1819 that specified how much land (530,000,000 acres) the Louisiana Purchase added to the United States (8)

affirmative action the practice of improving the educational and job opportunities for members of groups that have been discriminated against in the past (15)

African American a relatively modern term that refers to all people descended from the Africans brought to North America during its colonial and early national periods (2)

agriculture settled farming (5)

alluvial soil soil that is made up of sediment carried by a river and deposited along its banks (1)

American Revolution the war in which the American colonists fought for their independence from Great Britain (7)

Anaconda Plan a Union strategy in the Civil War to squeeze the Confederates into submission by controlling the Mississippi River and isolating forces west of the river, thus splitting the Confederacy in two (10)

Anglo a person who came into Louisiana from the colonies established by the English; they descended from English-speaking migrants (English, Irish, and Scots-Irish) to North America (2)

antebellum “before the war”; the time in nineteenth-century America before the Civil War began in 1861 (9)

appeal to take a case to a higher court for further consideration (4)

archaeologist a scientist who uses artifacts from the past to try to understand prehistoric people (5)

architecture the art and science of designing and constructing buildings (2)

Articles of Confederation the document, in effect between 1781 and 1787, that set forth the form of government for the colonies during the American Revolution and for the United States after the war until it was replaced by the U.S. Constitution (7)

artifact an object made by humans, especially an ancient tool or weapon (5)

assassination the murder of a prominent person, usually for political reasons (10)

atlatl a throwing stick used by prehistoric people, made up of a shaft of wood with a small cup or groove on the end into which the base of the spear was placed (5)

B

Battle of Liberty Place an incident of September 1874 in which well-armed, but outnumbered, Republicans fought with White Leaguers, who forced the Republicans to retreat and took control of New Orleans government until Republican control was returned by federal troops (11)

Battle of New Orleans the major battle between Great Britain and the United States in the War of 1812, which took place on January 8, 1815; Andrew Jackson’s American troops defeated the British (8)

bayou a waterway closely associated with Louisiana, which ranges in size from short and shallow to long and navigable (1)

Bill of Rights the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (4)

biological resource a natural resource that is a plant or animal (flora and fauna) and is renewable over time (3)

Black Codes laws passed in many southern states after the Civil War that were designed to regulate the labor, movements, and behavior of former slaves (11)

blockade the use of naval forces to isolate a seaport and prevent ships from entering or leaving it (10)

blues a type of music with origins in songs and chants of slaves and sharecroppers as they worked in plantation fields; later the guitar, harmonica, and electric guitar accompanied the songs (2)

bond a certificate promising payment of money, with interest, by a certain date, which is issued by a government or corporation as evidence of debt (13)

Bourbon Democrat a person who had not accepted the changes brought about by the Civil War, particularly the abolition of slavery (12)

boycott a protest in which people refuse to buy certain goods or use certain services until specific conditions are met (14)

Brown v. Board of Education a case decided in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 that was specifically focused on the desegregation of public schools but that also overturned the “separate-but-equal” provisions of the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case (14)

C

Cabildo the reorganized form of colonial government instituted by Governor O’Reilly to replace the French Superior Council; also the name of the building where the government met (7)

Cajun Country one of the five cultural regions of Louisiana; extends across a triangle-shaped area of southwest Louisiana and is further divided into prairie and wetlands areas; traditional home of Acadians (Cajuns) (2)

calumet a ceremonial pipe used by Native Americans (6)

capital punishment the legally authorized killing of someone as punishment for a crime (15)

capital resource a tool used in the production of goods and services (3)

carpetbaggers an insulting term applied to northerners who came south during Reconstruction (carrying only a small carpetbag); they were suspected of taking advantage of postwar conditions to gain political power and to enrich themselves (11)

casket girls *filles à la cassette*; young, marriageable girls sent from France to Louisiana in 1728, each with a small trunk (casket) filled with clothing and goods needed to establish a household (6)

checks and balances a division of powers among the three branches of government, with each branch having the primary responsibility for certain functions of government, and with all branches sharing power and none being authorized to function without the other two (4)

chicory a bitter herb whose root was ground to serve as a replacement for coffee during the Civil War (10)

Civil Rights Act of 1964 an act requiring that people be given equal access to public facilities throughout the nation regardless of their race; it also outlawed discrimination in employment, forcing most public agencies to integrate their workforces after 1964 (14)

civil service system a system designed to ensure that state jobs went to people on the basis of their experience or qualifications for the job, rather than on the basis of political patronage (14)

climate the average weather of an area over a long period of time (1)

Code Noir Black Code; a set of laws established by Bienville in 1724 that regulated the behavior of slaves and laid out rules for their masters (6)

Code O’Reilly the name given to the new code of laws for the Spanish colony of Louisiana based on the Spanish Laws of the Indies (7)

coffle a large group of slaves who were marched overland from the Upper South to the Deep South, with men chained together and women and children unchained but closely supervised (9)

Colfax Massacre a deadly riot of April 1873 that began when heavily armed white Democrats tried to remove Republican electees from the Grant Parish Courthouse (11)

commandant the officer in command of the French Louisiana colony (6)

command economy an economy in which the government directs the economic system and tries to control how producers answer the four basic economic questions (3)

commerce buying and selling goods (3)

commissary-commissioner the business manager of the French Louisiana colony (6)

common law a system of law that uses earlier decisions—called precedents—as guidelines; it shaped the criminal laws adopted in Louisiana (4)

Compromise of 1850 a multipart compromise whereby California joined the Union as a free state, Utah and New Mexico Territories could decide on slavery by popular sovereignty, and a Fugitive Slave Act was passed (10)

concession a grant of land given by the French proprietary government to a concessionaire—a person who agreed to clear land for the cultivation of food and cash crops (6)

Confederate States of America (CSA) the union, formed in April 1861, of seven (eventually eleven) slave states that had seceded from the United States beginning shortly after the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 (10)

conference committee a committee that includes members from both the Senate and the House, who try to work out differences between two versions of a bill so they can return the revised bill to both chambers for another vote (4)

Confiscation Act an act in the Civil War that allowed the Union army to confiscate the property of those who continued to support the Confederacy (10)

Conscription Act an act first passed in the Civil War to set up a draft (compulsory enlistment for military service) (10)

consecutive following without interruption, as with a term in office (14)

constitution a document of a government that explains its purpose, describes its organization, and states its powers (4)

consumer a person who satisfies a need or want by buying a good or service (3)

Consumer Price Index (CPI) an economic indicator that measures whether prices of goods and services have risen or fallen in comparison to previous months (3)

convict lease system a system under which the state would lease prisoners to private businesses, which saved the state money and was profitable for the businesses but was hard on prisoners (12)

corporation a large, complex business enterprise that has many investors (called shareholders) (3)

Corrupt Bargain the outcome of the presidential election of 1824, in which John Quincy Adams was elected by the House of Representatives, even though Andrew Jackson had won the popular vote (8)

Creole someone born in the New World; in its earliest usage, someone born in a colony, not the nation that claimed that colony; in colonial Louisiana, anyone born in Louisiana whose descendants were from another place (possibly France, Spain, or Africa) (2)

Crossroads region one of the five cultural regions of Louisiana; stretches across the center of the state and takes its name from the way its culture serves as a crossroads between the northern and southern portions of the state (2)

cultural anthropologist a scholar who studies communities and helps identify areas where similar pasts and patterns make a region distinct from its surroundings (2)

cultural diffusion the process in which new customs blend with older ideas and practices to form entirely new cultural expressions (2)

culture the way of life of a group of people, shaped by their ideas, beliefs, customs, and behavior (2)

cutoff lake a lake formed when a river seeks a shorter, straighter course through flat terrain (1)

D

debt peonage the situation when a sharecropper or small farmer could not escape a cycle of credit, debt, and increasing poverty (12)

deduct box Huey Long's system whereby state employees had to contribute 10 percent of their salary to support his political organization; funds were often mingled with campaign and personal funds (13)

demand the quantity of a good or service consumers are willing to buy (3)

disfranchise to take away the right to vote from someone (11)

drainage basin an area of land that drains into tributaries and eventually into larger rivers (1)

dueling a combat between two persons, especially one fought with weapons in front of witnesses (8)

E

economist a person who studies the economy and seeks to understand the way communities or societies address scarcity and decide how to allocate resources (3)

economy how people manage material resources in a community or other organized body (single household, city, state, nation, or the globe) (3)

Electoral College the group that formally elects the U.S. president and vice president (8)

elevation the height of a place above sea level (1)

emancipation the freeing of slaves (10)

Emancipation Proclamation a proclamation issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863,

that did not end slavery but was designed to create havoc by freeing slaves only in Confederate-occupied areas (10)

environment surroundings (1)

equator an imaginary line on Earth's surface that divides Earth evenly between the North and South Poles (1)

erosion wearing away by the action of water or wind (1)

estuary a place where a river meets the sea (1)

ethnic group a group of people who are or who consider themselves to be different from other members of their community based on factors like where they came from, their racial identity, and cultural, religious, and linguistic similarities (2)

F

factor the financial representative of a plantation owner (9)

fait accompli something that has been done and cannot be changed (13)

Farmers' Alliances groups similar to unions that attempted to use the power of group organizing to advocate for better conditions for farmers (12)

federalism the division of power between the federal and state governments (4)

felony a serious crime, like murder and armed robbery (4)

filibustering in the nineteenth century, a form of adventuring—of trying to interfere with or overthrow legitimate rule; today, using delaying tactics to put off or prevent the passage of laws (8)

Flood of 1927 a devastating flood on the Mississippi River that was one of the worst natural disasters in the nation's history (13)

franchise the right to vote (9)

freedmen the name given to former slaves (11)

Freedmen's Bureau the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, founded

in 1865 to provide emergency relief to poor southerners, both white and black; establish schools and perform marriages for former slaves; and reestablish and regulate labor relations between former slaves and former masters (11)

French and Indian War (Seven Years' War) a war fought between England and France and their allies between 1756 and 1763 (7)

Fugitive Slave Act an act designed to ensure southern slaveholders that they could reclaim slaves who escaped to free states (10)

G

gaming the legal term for gambling (4)

gens de couleur libres free men of color (7)

GI Bill a 1944 federal law that made an educational scholarship available to anyone who had served in uniform during the war; officially called the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (14)

goods tangible items (things you can touch) such as food, clothing, cars, and houses (3)

government the system through which a community is organized; it is empowered to make, enforce, and carry out laws and procedures (4)

grandfather clause a law that gave a person the right to vote if he could demonstrate that his father or grandfather had been a voter before 1867 (12)

grand jury a panel of twelve citizens who serve for six months and, after listening to the district attorney, decide if there is enough evidence to indict a person for a crime (4)

grassroots support support from ordinary people; support from the ground up (13)

Great Depression the severe economic downturn that began with the stock market crash of 1929 and continued into the 1940s (13)

Greater New Orleans one of the five cultural regions of Louisiana; includes thriving urban areas of Jefferson Parish (Metairie and Kenner) and cities across Lake Pontchartrain (Covington and Slidell) (2)

grinding season the time in late autumn for the harvesting of sugarcane (12)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) an economic indicator that measures the total value of the final goods and services produced in the United States in a certain time period, usually one year (3)

growing season the number of days between the last killing frost (below 32°F) in the spring and the first killing frost in the fall (1)

gumbo a food commonly associated with Louisiana; a thick soup or stew served over rice, usually prepared with duck, sausage, or seafood or just with vegetables in gumbo z'herbes (2)

H

habitat the place where a plant or animal normally or naturally grows (3)

head and master statutes laws under which, when a woman married, her husband became her head and master, as her father had been before the marriage (9)

Hills region one of the five natural regions of Louisiana, which covers most of northern Louisiana and a small area in southeastern Louisiana (1)

Hispanic a Spanish-speaking person; such people came to Louisiana beginning in the 1760s from the Canary Islands and the Málaga region of Spain, and more recently from Latin America (2)

holding the number of slaves who lived and worked for a single master (9)

home rule political power given to political subdivisions to govern their own affairs (4); the term used to describe the return of white Democratic political control after Reconstruction (11)

human resource the person who produces goods or services (3)

hurricane a violent storm that forms in the Atlantic Ocean during the summer and fall (1)

I

immunity natural resistance to disease (5)

impeachment the process of bringing charges of wrongdoing against a public official while that official is still in office (11)

impressment the practice by the British in the early 1800s of overtaking American ships at sea and pressing (forcing) common sailors into service; one factor that led to the War of 1812 (8)

incarceration putting people in prison (15)

indigo a plant that is used to make blue dye (6)

internal improvements the development of the infrastructure (things like roads, bridges, and canals) (9)

Isleño a Spanish-speaking person who immigrated from the Canary Islands and settled in St. Bernard Parish (2)

isolationists people who want to avoid international political and economic relations and instead focus energies and resources on solving a country's own economic problems (14)

J

jambalaya a Louisiana dish that includes rice and a combination of meat, seafood, and sausage, and sometimes tomato; similar to Spanish paella (2)

jazz an important American art form that grew out of the creations of African American and Italian American musicians in New Orleans at the beginning of the twentieth century; it evolved over time and spread all over the world (2)

Jim Crow laws laws enacted by southern legislators that restricted the freedom of African Americans and required separate-but-equal public facilities for whites and for blacks (12)

joint stock company an early form of the modern corporation in which many people invested by buying stock (6)

jury a group of citizens who hear evidence on a legal case and make a decision based on the evidence (4)

K

Knights of the White Camellia a secret paramilitary organization formed in St. Mary Parish that used methods intended to create terror among potential black Republican voters (11)

Ku Klux Klan a secret white supremacist organization first founded after the Civil War that reemerged in the twentieth century (15)

L

laissez-faire a doctrine of noninterference by a government in economic affairs (7)

laissez les bon temps rouler a phrase that means "let the good times roll"; it is often used in connection with Mardi Gras, and it became a slogan of Edwin Edwards (15)

landform any natural feature of Earth's surface (1)

latitude an imaginary line that measures a location's distance north or south of the equator (1)

lobby to attempt to influence legislators about issues (4)

loess soil windblown dust that builds up and forms a ridge of bluffs as it approaches higher elevations (1)

longitude an imaginary line that measures how far east or west a location is from the prime meridian (1)

Louisiana Purchase the 1803 agreement, negotiated by Americans James Monroe and Robert Livingston, through which the United States purchased all of Louisiana from France for \$15,000,000 (8)

M

maize corn (5)

Malaguenos people who came to Louisiana from Málaga, Spain; their descendants helped found New Iberia (7)

mandate authorization or approval given to an elected official by the voters (15)

maneuvers a large-scale armed forces training exercise (14)

manumission the setting free of slaves by their masters (8)

Mardi Gras Louisiana's most famous festival; its season of parades and balls begins on Epiphany and continues through Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent (2)

market economy an economy in which economic decisions are made at an individual, not a government, level, with the four basic economic questions answered by producers (3)

marsh an area found along a coast that is a transition area between land and water (1)

marsh lake a lake created behind low groups of ridges in the marshlands (1)

Marsh region one of the five natural regions of Louisiana, which lies along Louisiana's border with the Gulf of Mexico (1)

Mechanics' Institute Riot a deadly 1866 confrontation as former slaves and Republicans battled former Confederate Democrats at the Mechanics' Institute building in New Orleans (11)

mercantilism the idea that colonies existed to contribute to the wealth and power of the mother nation (3)

midden an ancient garbage dump (5)

militia a military force composed mainly of citizen-soldiers (7)

mineral resource a natural substance found inside Earth, which is formed by slow geological processes (3)

misappropriate to take something dishonestly, for one's own use (13)

misdemeanor a less serious crime, like speeding (4)

Mississippi Bubble the expansion, then collapse, of the Company of the Indies, a French company that invested in the Louisiana colony (6)

Mississippi Floodplain region one of the five natural regions of Louisiana, which runs along both sides of the Mississippi River in the eastern part of the state (1)

Missouri Compromise an 1820 compromise that brought Missouri into the Union as a slave state and Maine as a free state; it established a demarcation line for slavery at latitude 36°30' N (10)

mistrial a trial that is not valid because of an error or because the jury cannot decide a verdict (15)

mound an artificial hill built by Meso people as early as 5000 BC; believed to be used, in the earliest form, for special ceremonies, but not for burials (5)

mouth the place where a stream, like the Mississippi River, enters a larger body of water, like the Gulf of Mexico (6)

municipality a unit of local government—a village, town, or city (4)

N

Napoleonic Code a complete collection of civil laws commissioned by French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte around 1800, which influenced Louisiana's first civil code adopted in 1808 (4)

natural resource something useful to humans that comes from Earth or nature (3)

navigable water that is deep enough to travel by boat (1)

nomadic wandering from place to place (5)

nutria a rodent that was once highly valued for its fur but now causes harm to our marshes (1)

O

open primary system Louisiana's form of elections, in which all candidates, no matter their political party, compete in the first (or primary) election and voters can vote for any candidate, regardless of party; then the two candidates with the most votes advance to a runoff election (4)

overseer the white man who acted as manager of the slaves and farming operations of a plantation (9)

P

parish the primary local government division in Louisiana (4)

patronage the power of public officials to give jobs or provide other help to people as a reward for their support (12)

physical geography the study of differences in the terrain and character of the land in a given place or region (1)

Pinckney's Treaty a treaty negotiated by American representative Thomas Pinckney and signed in 1795 that gave Americans the right to trade and deposit goods in New Orleans; with terms to be renegotiated after three years (8)

Plantation Country region one of the five cultural regions of Louisiana; takes its name from the many former plantations that once dominated the region's geography and culture (2)

police jury the governing body for most parishes in Louisiana (4)

political party an organization of people who come together because they have shared ideas about how government should operate (4)

polling questioning persons to obtain information or opinions (15)

poll tax a tax that had to be paid before a person could vote (12)

popular sovereignty the ability of the people of an area to decide an issue, such as whether to allow slavery, for themselves (10)

populism belief in the rights, wisdom, or virtues of the common people (12)

precipitation any form of water, liquid or solid, that falls from the atmosphere and reaches the ground (1)

prehistoric the time before written history (5)

prime meridian the 0° line of longitude that divides Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres (1)

privatize to remove something from government control and place it in private control or ownership (15)

producer the person or group of people who use resources to make goods or provide services (3)

profit the amount left after costs are subtracted from price (3)

profiteering making an unfair profit on essential goods during emergency times (10)

progressive movement a movement based on the belief that government could and should be used to help address social problems like poverty, illiteracy, and improving the conditions for all workers (12)

prohibition forbidding by law the making and selling of alcoholic beverages (13)

propaganda information spread widely in order to promote or discourage a particular proposal or political point of view (4)

proprietaryship the system of letting an individual businessman take control of a colony in the hopes that he could make it profitable (6)

Public Service Commission an independent state agency that regulates Louisiana's public utilities and motor carriers; formerly called the Railroad Commission (13)

Q

R

Radical Republicans members of Congress who thought the people of the South should be punished for seceding and, in their view, causing the war (11)

raft lake a lake created when a huge logjam blocks the flow of a river (1)

rationing limiting the consumption of scarce resources or supplies, such as during a war (14)

reapportionment revising the legislative district boundaries based on population numbers (4)

Reconstruction the name given to the period between the end of the Civil War and 1877, the year the federal government withdrew its last troops from the South; describes attempts to reconstruct the nation in the aftermath of secession and civil war (11)

Reconstruction Acts four pieces of legislation passed by Congress in 1867 and 1868 that divided the states of the former Confederacy into five districts and put them under military control (11)

Redeemers Democrats who, after the end of Military Reconstruction, saw themselves as redeeming southern honor as they returned white Democratic political control in the South (11)

Red River Valley region one of the five natural regions of Louisiana, which runs along the Red River with natural levees and lower-lying areas behind them (1)

reforestation replanting trees in areas that have been cut (3)

refuge protection from danger or distress (7)

relative location where a place is located in relation to another place or places (1)

relief the difference between the highest and lowest levels in a given area (1)

reparations materials or money paid by a country losing a war to the winners to make up for damages done in the war (14)

returning board a board founded during Reconstruction that had the power to

determine whether election outcomes (returns) were legitimate or the product of fraud or intimidation (11)

right-to-work laws laws that state that no one can be forced to join a union to get a certain kind of job (3)

S

sales tax a tax paid on the purchase of goods and services, which is collected by the seller (14)

salt dome a geological formation found in Louisiana's salt marsh, which is covered by layers of rock that, under great pressure, have folded upward in domelike formations (1)

scarcity the condition that exists when people and societies try to satisfy unlimited wants with limited resources (3)

scrip a kind of currency that could only be used in company stores (12)

sectionalism the thinking of northerners and southerners that their own part of the country was fundamentally different from the other, based in large part on the issue of slavery (10)

sediment material that settles to the bottom of a liquid (1)

services the work or activities people perform, often for a fee (3)

Seven Years' War See French and Indian War (7)

severance tax an amount charged for removing natural resources—such as timber, oil, and gas—from the state; based on the idea that, once natural resources are removed, they will not be available for future generations (4)

sharecropping a labor system in which a planter would rent a portion of his land to a farmer who agreed to raise a cash crop and give a share to the farmer, in exchange for the land and access to a house (12)

Share Our Wealth program Huey Long's proposal that all Americans should have a home, enough food, and security in their old age; it would be financed through higher taxes on the nation's wealthiest citizens (13)

siege a tactic where an army tries to capture a fort or town by surrounding it and preventing supplies from reaching it (10)

slave quarters the area where slaves lived on the plantation, where they gathered to cook, talk, sing, dance, mourn, and share their lives with one another (9)

smuggling secret and illegal trade (3)

special session a legislative session called to discuss specific subjects (4)

Sportsman's Paradise region one of the five cultural regions of Louisiana; known for rolling hills, forests, and lakes that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation like fishing and hunting (2)

states' rights the principle that the rights of individual states should prevail over the rights of the federal government (10)

subsidence the slow process of land sinking into the sea (1)

subsidize to grant money toward a useful cause (7)

suffrage the right to vote (12)

supply the quantity of a good or service available for sale (3)

T

tariff a tax placed on a good imported into the United States to protect a U.S. producer from the cheaper goods from international competitors (3)

taxes amounts charged citizens by their governments (federal, state, and local) to support governments and the services they provide (4)

ten percent plan President Lincoln's 1863 plan for Reconstruction; under its terms, once ten percent of the number of men who voted in the 1860 election swore a loyalty oath to the Union, and the state agreed to accept abolition of slavery and promised not to compensate former slaveholders, a state could form a new government, elect representatives to Congress, write a new constitution, and return to the Union. (11)

Terraces region one of the five natural regions of Louisiana, which is made up of the blufflands, prairies, and flatwoods (1)

tornado a dark funnel-shaped cloud with swirling winds that can measure over two hundred miles an hour (1)

traditional economy an economy that depends on agriculture and bartering, in which economic decisions are often based on customs, beliefs, or habits (3)

treaty a formal agreement between two or more nations (5)

Treaty of Fontainebleau a treaty of 1762 in which France kept Louisiana out of British hands by secretly transferring it to Spain before peace negotiations began (7)

Treaty of Paris of 1763 the treaty that formally ended the French and Indian War; in it, France lost all of its North American holdings except for a few Caribbean islands, and Spain transferred control of Florida to the British in exchange for the return of Cuba (7)

Treaty of Paris of 1783 the agreement that ended the American Revolution and made the United States an independent nation (7)

Treaty of San Ildefonso a secret agreement between France and the Spanish king, first signed in 1800, by which Spain returned Louisiana to France (8)

tribe a group of native people who share a name, common ancestry, language, and way of living (5)

U

United States Constitution the document, written in 1787 and ratified in 1788, that set up our nation's current framework for government (4)

universal manhood suffrage the granting of voting privileges to all free white men who had reached the age of twenty-one (9)

unorthodox different from what is usually done or accepted (13)

urban relating to a city (2)

V

veranda a long open porch, usually with a roof, which was an important feature of a plantation home (9)

victory garden a garden planted by residents of cities in their yards or on nearby lots to grow their own food during World War II (14)

Voting Rights Act of 1965 legislation that required southern states to allow African Americans to return to the voting rolls and that outlawed poll taxes (14)

W

war matériel equipment and supplies used by soldiers (14)

weather the current condition of the atmosphere on any given day (1)

wetlands swamps, marshes, and other areas that have a natural supply of water and are covered or soaked with water at least part of the year (1)

white flight the movement of white residents from cities to less racially integrated suburban communities (15)

White League a paramilitary group, formed in 1874, that was committed to restoring the state to white Democratic rule by whatever means necessary (11)

Wilmot Proviso proposed legislation, which was never passed, that would prohibit slavery in any new territory acquired from the Mexican-American War (10)

XYZ

zydeco a form of lively dance music created by black Creoles in rural southwest Louisiana; features fiddles, accordions, and a percussion instrument called a *frottoir* (2)