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History-Social Science Standard 5.8.4.

Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Nature and Newcomers

Dictionary

A

agriculture

The practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, fiber, or other uses by humans.

arable

Land that is suitable for growing plants for human use.

C

climate

The weather in an area averaged over a long period of time.

crop

A type of plant, or the seasonal production of plants, grown by humans for food, animal feed, or fiber.

drought

A long time with little or no precipitation.

D

ecosystem

A community of plants, animals, and their surroundings that depend on each other.

E

energy

The capacity to do work or the source of power to do work.

F

fresh water

Water in rivers, lakes, and other freshwater ecosystems that contains little dissolved salt.

frontier

The edge of the settled part of a country, next to land that has not been settled.

L

life cycle

The changes organisms go through as they develop from eggs or seeds to adults that reproduce before they die.

M

migration

The movement of animals, including humans, from one location to another.

N

natural resources

Materials, such as water, minerals, energy, and soil, that people use from nature and natural systems.

natural system

The parts, processes, and cycles in an environment, and the interactions among plants, animals, and other organisms with their environment.

O

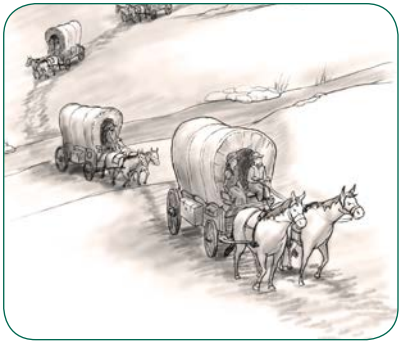
overland trails

A system of land trails that crossed the United States, used by settlers traveling to the West in the 1700s and 1800s.

P

pioneers

The first people to explore or settle an area.



precipitation

Water that falls from clouds to Earth as rain, mist, hail, sleet, ice, or snow.

raw materials

Natural resources that have not yet been processed or used to manufacture a product.

R

settlement

A community or populated area, such as a camp or town; or the process of populating a community or area.

S

settler

A person who moves to a new region to find a new place to live.

T

terrain

The natural features on the surface of land.

U

urban

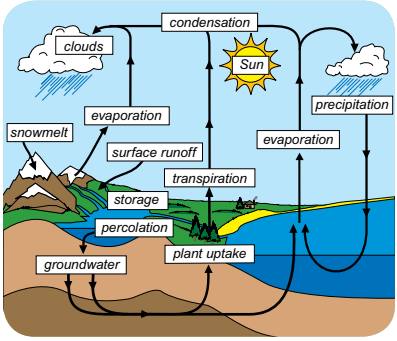
Related to cities and things in cities.

V

vegetation

The plant life in an area or a region.

W



water cycle

The continuous movement of water between the atmosphere and Earth.

Unit Title: **Nature and Newcomers**
Grade: **5**

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