


Lesson Resources - Glossary Terms from "Urbanization"

[Resources](#) > **Glossary Terms**

Glossary Terms from: 

Show As List

Show As Flash Cards

"Cross of Gold" speech

a famous speech by William Jennings Bryan in which he asserted the economic importance of ordinary people and made the case for currency based on both silver and gold; suggested that a gold standard hurt farmers and other working-class Americans

allegiance

devotion or loyalty to a person, group, or cause

Americanization

to cause something or someone to have characteristics of American culture

analogy

a comparison of things based on ways they are alike

bank run

a panic in which so many depositors withdraw so much money that a bank collapses

black codes

southern laws that severely limited the rights of African Americans after the Civil War

Boss Tweed

the nickname of William M. Tweed, a corrupt politician who controlled the Tammany Hall political machine in the mid to late 1800s

bribery

the practice of influencing someone's decisions by offering money or favors

clear-cutting

the process of cutting down and removing every tree from an area

Compromise of 1877

an agreement by Republican presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes to end Reconstruction in return for congressional Democrats accepting his inauguration as president after the disputed election of 1876

cooperative (co-op)

a group of people who pool their money to buy or sell goods at wholesale rates

corruption

use of power for personal gain

Coxey's Army

a public protest group led by Jacob Coxey that marched on Washington, D.C. in 1894 to ask the government to help the unemployed; unofficial name of the Army of the Commonwealth in Christ

Crédit Mobilier scandal

a scandal in which the Crédit Mobilier company overcharged for building the Union Pacific Railroad and then used some of the extra money to bribe high-ranking federal officials

crop-lien

a system in which store owners extended credit to farmers under the agreement that the farmer would give the store owner a portion of their future harvest

Depression of 1893

an economic downturn caused by low bank reserves, overinvestment in railroad stocks, and low gold reserves in the U.S. Treasury

disenfranchise

to deprive someone of the right to vote

Ellis Island

an island in Upper New York Bay that served as a port of entry for immigrants from 1892–1954

ethnic enclave

an urban area inhabited by members of the same ethnic group

Farmers' Alliance

an alliance formed from regional groups who represented farmers' interests

gild

to coat something in a thin layer of gold

Gilded Age

an era of U.S. history from 1870 to 1900 characterized by political corruption and extremes of wealth and poverty

grandfather clause

in the post-Reconstruction South, a law that excused a voter from a literacy test if his grandfather had been eligible to vote on January 1, 1867

Jacob Riis

an author best known for his book *How the Other Half Lives*, in which he documented the urban living conditions of the poor in the late 1800s

Jane Addams

a reformer who opened Hull House, a settlement house in the Chicago area, as well as exposing poor working conditions in local sweatshops and fighting for workers' rights

Jim Crow laws

laws passed in the South after Reconstruction establishing segregation of whites and blacks

kickback

a form of bribery in which a portion of legally spent money is illegally returned to someone as part of a secret agreement

literacy test

an examination to see if a person can read and write; used in the past to restrict voting rights

lynching

to kill someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime without a proper trial or conviction, especially by hanging

mandate

in politics, approval granted by voters to a candidate they believe will represent their interests

monetary policy

process through which the government can influence the nation's economy through changes in the money supply and the availability of credit

Morrill Acts

acts passed in 1862 and 1890 that provided public land for colleges preparing students for careers in business, medicine, law, agriculture, and other trades

nativism

a policy of favoring native inhabitants as opposed to immigrants

Omaha Platform of 1892

statement of the Populist Party's grievances and agenda for reform

Panic of 1873

an economic downturn caused by low bank reserves and overinvestment in railroad stocks

parochial school

a school sponsored by a church

Pendleton Civil Service Act

an anti-patronage law that required some federal jobs to be awarded based on a merit-based civil service exam

Plessy v. Ferguson

1896 Supreme Court case that established the legality of racial segregation as long as facilities were kept “separate but equal”

political machine

a group that controls local politics by trading favors for influencing votes

poll tax

money that a voter has to pay to vote; used to keep poor voters from voting

populism

the belief in the rights, wisdom, and virtue of common people

Populist Party

a political party of the late 1800s that represented the interests of farmers and other working-class Americans; also called the People’s Party

pull factor

a condition that attracts people to move to a new area

push factor

a condition that drives people from their homeland

realism

the theory or practice of fidelity in art and literature to nature or to real life and to accurate representation without idealization

satire

a work of literature that makes fun of its subject, often mocking vice or folly

settlement house

an institution located in a poor neighborhood that provided numerous community services such as medical care, child care, libraries, and classes in English

sharecropper

a person, usually from the South, who raises crops for a landowner in exchange for a portion of the crops

Sherman Silver Purchase Act

an 1890 law that required the U.S. government to buy silver and issue silver-backed dollars; repealed in 1893

social gospel

a philosophy that stated that all Christians should be as concerned about the conditions of life in the secular world as those in the afterlife

spoils system

the practice of naming family members, friends, and political supporters to posts regardless of their experience or skills; also called a patronage system

subtreasury plan

a plan that called for the government to hold crops to control supply and increase prices for farm goods while also loaning money to farmers for 80 percent of the value of those crops

Tammany Hall

a Democratic Party political machine that influenced politics in New York from the 1790s through the 1960s

tenement

a building that has been divided into many small apartments

the Grange

a group that helped farmers by providing community support and lobbying for farm-friendly laws

Thomas Nast

a political cartoonist of the mid to late 1800s who was known for challenging bigotry and corruption; often mocked Boss Tweed and the Tammany Hall political machine

urbanization

the process by which cities develop, including increased population, business, and structures

Whiskey Ring

a plot by whiskey distillers to avoid federal taxes by bribing government officials and other business owners

William Jennings Bryan

the Populist politician and Democratic presidential candidate most remembered for his popular "Cross of Gold" campaign speech