

Explanation of Terms

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- Reef**, a ridge of rocks lying at or near the surface of the sea ; also a vein of rock producing gold, etc.
- Relief**, the conditions of a land-surface as regards elevation ; the arrangement of high and low ground.
- Reservoir**, an artificial pond or tank for storing water.
- Rift Valley**, a valley formed by the cracking and sinking down of a part of the earth's crust.
- Rolling**, with lower and higher portions, like waves ; undulating.
- Roots**, a general name for plants cultivated for their underground parts, as carrots, beet, etc.
- Savanna**, a tract of level ground with low-growing vegetation [Spanish, "a meadow"].
- Schooner**, a small ship with two masts.
- Selvas**, wooded plains, especially in South America [Spanish].
- Shoal**, a shallow part of the sea ; also a great number of fishes swimming together.
- Slit**, fine mud, sand, etc., carried by running water.
- Sirocco**, a dry, hot, dust-laden wind ; originally, a wind which blows from the deserts of Northern Africa to Italy.
- Skerry**, a low, rocky islet, sometimes covered at high water.
- Soundings**, measurements of the depth of water.
- Southern Cross**, a group of stars in the southern hemisphere, shaped like a cross, which seems to revolve round the south pole, as the "Dipper" or "Plough" does round the north pole.
- Sporting**, shooting, fishing, etc., carried on for recreation or amusement.
- Steppe**, a level, treeless plain, especially in Russia.
- Stock**, animals kept on a farm—cattle, horses, etc. ; live stock.
- Stockade**, a strong fence made of upright posts.
- Stockyard**, enclosures into which cattle, etc., are driven for purposes of marketing, shipment, etc.
- Straight**, a narrow channel of the sea between two portions of land.
- Suburb**, an outlying part of a city.
- Surf**, waves breaking in foam on the shore.
- Temperate**, moderate in climate ; without extremes of heat or cold.
- Tepee**, an Indian tent or lodge.
- Terminus**, the extreme point of a railway line ; the end.
- Tide**, the regular daily rise and fall of the sea on the shore, caused mainly by the moon's attraction.
- Totem**, an animal or other natural object used as an emblem by an Indian family or tribe, and treated with superstitious respect.
- Trade Winds**, constant winds found on either side of the equator—N.E. on the north side, and S.E. on the south.
- Trans-continental**, crossing an entire continent.