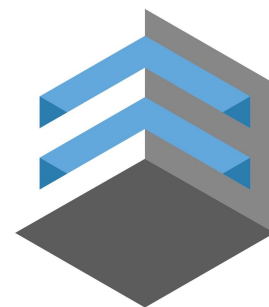


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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Sarah Kurnick: "Aliens built the pyramids" and other absurdities of pseudo-archaeology | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_kurnick_alien_built_the_pyramids_and_other_absurdities_of_pseudo_archaeology

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

archaeology

n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures

(1) the institute of **archaeology**, (2) prehistoric **archaeology**
She teaches **archaeology** at the local university.

excite

v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
synonym: thrill, exhilarate, animate

(1) **excite** the crowd, (2) **excite** rebellion
The news of her promotion **excited** her.

unproven

adj. not tested or proved

(1) **unproven** efficacy, (2) scientifically **unproven**
The new treatment's long-term advantages are still **unproven**.

hieroglyph

n. a writing system using picture symbols, such as the one used in ancient Egypt

synonym: character, cipher, figure

(1) Egyptian **hieroglyph**, (2) the **hieroglyph** of the bird
Each beautiful **hieroglyph** represents either an idea or a sound.

unfounded

adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification

synonym: baseless, groundless, untrue

(1) **unfounded** allegations, (2) **unfounded** fears

The accusations were **unfounded** and lacked evidence.

xenophobic

adj. showing strong dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures; having a strong bias or prejudice against outsiders

synonym: prejudiced, racist, intolerant

(1) **xenophobic** attitude, (2) **xenophobic** statements

The **xenophobic** rhetoric of the politician only seeks to sow division and hatred among people.

colosseum

n. a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

(1) build a **colosseum** for gladiators, (2) **Colosseum** area
Rome's **Colosseum** gets busy in peak season.

supremacy

n. the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

synonym: dominance, superiority, preeminence

(1) a race for **supremacy**, (2) **supremacy** of a country

The empire's military power ensured its **supremacy** over the neighboring states.

disparage

v. to describe or represent as being of little worth or value; to belittle, degrade, or criticize unfairly

synonym: derogate, belittle, criticize

(1) **disparage** my work, (2) **disparage** a company's reputation

He didn't want to **disparage** his colleague in front of their boss.

discredit

- v.* to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable

synonym: disprove, undermine, disgrace

(1) **discredit** a theory, (2) **discredit** a witness

The company's unethical practices have **discredited** its brand image in the eyes of consumers.

ancestor

- n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

synonym: forebear, forefather, progenitor

(1) **ancestor** language, (2) earliest human **ancestor**

My remote **ancestor** immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

fieldwork

- n.* real-world research or study conducted outside a library or laboratory.

(1) meticulous **fieldwork**, (2) perform **fieldwork**

Numerous instances from **fieldwork** show these hypotheses in great detail.

erode

- v.* to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

synonym: wear away, deteriorate, corrode

(1) **erode** coast, (2) **erode** trust

The ongoing budget cuts have **eroded** the quality of education in many schools.

carving

- n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design

synonym: sculpture, engraving, sculpture

(1) a wood **carving**, (2) **carving** instrument

The intricate **carving** on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.

carve

v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

synonym: sculpt, engrave, cut

(1) **carve** a statue, (2) **carve** my name on the plate

This statue is **carved** from a single tree trunk.

sarcophagus

n. a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people

synonym: coffin, tomb, casket

(1) **sarcophagus** lid, (2) ancient **sarcophagus**

The pharaoh was buried in an ornate **sarcophagus** complete with intricate hieroglyphics.

underworld

n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

synonym: hell, netherworld, underworld

(1) god of the **underworld**, (2) criminal **underworld**

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the **underworld**, where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.

reborn

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

synonym: regenerated, revived, renewed

(1) **reborn** soul, (2) **reborn** identity

After recovering from her illness, she felt like a **reborn** person with a new perspective on life.

deity

n. a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture

synonym: god, goddess, divine being

(1) existence of a **deity**, (2) **deity** of commerce

The ancient Egyptians believed that the sun **deity** Ra was the most powerful god.

stylize

v. to show, do, or represent something according to a particular style, especially a conventional one

synonym : conventionalize

(1) **stylize** the behavior, (2) **stylize** the design

She wore a colorful- **stylized** scarf.

cosmology

n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

synonym : cosmogony

(1) physical **cosmology**, (2) modern **cosmology**

Cosmology evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.

iconography

n. the visual images or symbols used in a particular field of study, worship, or art; a system or language of imagery used to represent ideas or concepts

synonym : symbolism, iconology, representation

(1) religious **iconography**, (2) digital **iconography**

The **iconography** of the logo was immediately recognizable as belonging to the famous brand.

astronaut

n. a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

synonym : spaceman, cosmonaut

(1) **astronaut** mission, (2) **astronaut** in training

The shuttle **astronaut** trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

marvel

n. someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

synonym : wonder, phenomenon, amazement

(1) a **marvel** of beauty, (2) technical **marvel**

The space shuttle is a modern engineering **marvel**.

exacerbate

v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse

synonym : worsen, aggravate, escalate

(1) **exacerbate** the situation, (2) **exacerbate** symptoms

The heat wave **exacerbated** the drought conditions.

battleground

n. a place where a battle is fought

synonym: arena, field, theater

(1) **battleground** states, (2) the legal **battleground**

The city became a **battleground** during the war.

vigorously

adv. in a way that is very energetic and enthusiastic

synonym: energetically, forcefully, strongly

(1) **vigorously** shake, (2) mix **vigorously** by hand

He **vigorously** scrubbed the stains on the shirt.

deface

v. to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it

synonym: disfigure, blemish, wreck

(1) **deface** private property, (2) **deface** the wall with graffiti

The teacher warned the boys not to **deface** public property.

debunk

v. to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

synonym: expose, discredit, demystify

(1) **debunk** an urban legend, (2) **debunk** theory

The myth was **debunked** by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.

pun

n. a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

synonym: joke, quip, wordplay

(1) witty **pun**, (2) silly **pun**

The comedian's **pun** had the audience laughing out loud.

vigilant

adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties

synonym: watchful, attentive, alert

(1) **vigilant** watch, (2) **vigilant** about hand-washing

The guards had to remain **vigilant** to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.

lawless

adj. lacking in lawful or legal constraints or restrictions; characterized by disorder, chaos, or anarchy; outside the realm of the law or legal system

synonym: unlawful, illegal, criminal

(1) **lawless** society, (2) **lawless** behavior

The underground club was a **lawless** environment where anything could happen.

xenophobia

n. extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries

synonym: fear, hatred, aversion

(1) suffer from **xenophobia**, (2) linguistic **xenophobia**

The **xenophobia** in society makes it hard for immigrants to assimilate and integrate.

descendant

n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal

synonym: child, offspring, heir

(1) **descendant** of a pioneer, (2) third-generation

descendant

Those warriors' **descendants** are still skilled archers.

groundbreaking

adj. producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

synonym: innovative, revolutionary

(1) **groundbreaking** concept, (2) **groundbreaking** settlement

He has produced **groundbreaking** research on the subject.

excavate

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

synonym: dig, unearth, extract

(1) **excavate** a deep hole, (2) **excavate** soil

The archaeologists **excavated** the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

caste

n. a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society

synonym: class, social group, status group

(1) military **caste**, (2) **caste-based** discrimination

He was born into a lower **caste** and faced discrimination throughout his life.

rebellion

n. an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler

synonym: insurrection, uprising, revolt

(1) **rebellion** leader, (2) excite **rebellion**

The antigovernment **rebellion** was put down quickly by the government's military forces.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

artifact

n. a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

synonym: antique, relic, heirloom

(1) paleolithic **artifacts**, (2) Peruvian **artifacts**

The museum has a vast collection of Greek **artifacts**.

radiocarbon

n. a radioactive form of carbon that is used to date ancient biological materials, such as bones or wood, by measuring the amount of carbon-14 remaining in them

synonym: carbon dating, radiometric dating, carbon-14

(1) **radiocarbon** decay, (2) **radiocarbon** analysis

The archaeologists used **radiocarbon** dating to determine the age of the artifacts.

skeptical

adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful

synonym: doubtful, distrustful, suspicious

(1) a **skeptical** attitude, (2) **skeptical** scientists

His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly **skeptical**.

tweet

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

synonym: peep, chirp, post (on Twitter)

(1) a chick's **tweet**, (2) his latest **tweets**

We could hear the **tweet** of baby birds.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. exa_____te symptoms | <i>v.</i> to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse |
| 2. religious ico_____hy | <i>n.</i> the visual images or symbols used in a particular field of study, worship, or art; a system or language of imagery used to represent ideas or concepts |
| 3. st_____e the design | <i>v.</i> to show, do, or represent something according to a particular style, especially a conventional one |
| 4. prehistoric arc_____gy | <i>n.</i> the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures |
| 5. scientifically un_____en | <i>adj.</i> not tested or proved |
| 6. linguistic xen_____ia | <i>n.</i> extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries |
| 7. Peruvian ar_____cts | <i>n.</i> a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest |
| 8. sar_____us lid | <i>n.</i> a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people |
| 9. the hie_____ph of the bird | <i>n.</i> a writing system using picture symbols, such as the one used in ancient Egypt |
| 10. de_____e private property | <i>v.</i> to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it |
| 11. ex_____te soil | <i>v.</i> to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something |

ANSWERS: 1. exacerbate, 2. iconography, 3. stylize, 4. archaeology, 5. unproven, 6. xenophobia, 7. artifact, 8. sarcophagus, 9. hieroglyph, 10. deface, 11. excavate

12. Egyptian hiero_____ph	<i>n.</i> a writing system using picture symbols, such as the one used in ancient Egypt
13. military ca__e	<i>n.</i> a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society
14. de__y of commerce	<i>n.</i> a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture
15. mix vig_____ly by hand	<i>adv.</i> in a way that is very energetic and enthusiastic
16. xen_____ic statements	<i>adj.</i> showing strong dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures; having a strong bias or prejudice against outsiders
17. meticulous fi_____rk	<i>n.</i> real-world research or study conducted outside a library or laboratory.
18. er__e coast	<i>v.</i> to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
19. di_____it a theory	<i>v.</i> to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable
20. des_____nt of a pioneer	<i>n.</i> children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
21. god of the und_____ld	<i>n.</i> the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 12. hieroglyph, 13. caste, 14. deity, 15. vigorously, 16. xenophobic, 17. fieldwork, 18. erode, 19. discredit, 20. descendant, 21. underworld

22. de___k an urban legend	<i>v.</i> to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
23. di_____it a witness	<i>v.</i> to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable
24. technical ma___l	<i>n.</i> someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
25. exa_____te the situation	<i>v.</i> to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
26. gro_____ing concept	<i>adj.</i> producing fresh findings; using novel techniques
27. rad_____on decay	<i>n.</i> a radioactive form of carbon that is used to date ancient biological materials, such as bones or wood, by measuring the amount of carbon-14 remaining in them
28. un_____ed allegations	<i>adj.</i> not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
29. un_____ed fears	<i>adj.</i> not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
30. de___e the wall with graffiti	<i>v.</i> to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it
31. the legal bat_____und	<i>n.</i> a place where a battle is fought
32. an_____or language	<i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
33. gro_____ing settlement	<i>adj.</i> producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

ANSWERS: 22. debunk, 23. discredit, 24. marvel, 25. exacerbate, 26. groundbreaking, 27. radiocarbon, 28. unfounded, 29. unfounded, 30. deface, 31. battleground, 32. ancestor, 33. groundbreaking

34. vi____nt about hand-washing	<i>adj.</i> keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
35. a ma____l of beauty	<i>n.</i> someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise
36. ca__e my name on the plate	<i>v.</i> to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
37. la____s behavior	<i>adj.</i> lacking in lawful or legal constraints or restrictions; characterized by disorder, chaos, or anarchy; outside the realm of the law or legal system
38. perform fi____rk	<i>n.</i> real-world research or study conducted outside a library or laboratory.
39. de____k theory	<i>v.</i> to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless
40. di____ge my work	<i>v.</i> to describe or represent as being of little worth or value; to belittle, degrade, or criticize unfairly
41. witty p_n	<i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
42. ex____e the crowd	<i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
43. digital ico____hy	<i>n.</i> the visual images or symbols used in a particular field of study, worship, or art; a system or language of imagery used to represent ideas or concepts
44. his latest tw__ts	<i>n.</i> a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

ANSWERS: 34. vigilant, 35. marvel, 36. carve, 37. lawless, 38. fieldwork, 39. debunk, 40. disparage, 41. pun, 42. excite, 43. iconography, 44. tweet

45. earliest human an____or	<i>n.</i> a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
46. existence of a de__y	<i>n.</i> a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture
47. sk_____al scientists	<i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful
48. ca_____g instrument	<i>n.</i> the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
49. as_____ut mission	<i>n.</i> a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
50. un_____en efficacy	<i>adj.</i> not tested or proved
51. ca__e-based discrimination	<i>n.</i> a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society
52. silly p_n	<i>n.</i> a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay
53. the institute of arc_____gy	<i>n.</i> the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
54. di_____ge a company's reputation	<i>v.</i> to describe or represent as being of little worth or value; to belittle, degrade, or criticize unfairly
55. criminal und_____ld	<i>n.</i> the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies

ANSWERS: 45. ancestor, 46. deity, 47. skeptical, 48. carving, 49. astronaut, 50. unproven, 51. caste, 52. pun, 53. archaeology, 54. disparage, 55. underworld

56. ex___e rebellion	<i>v.</i> to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
57. bat_____und states	<i>n.</i> a place where a battle is fought
58. s__t beliefs	<i>n.</i> a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
59. re___n identity	<i>adj.</i> brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
60. secret s__t	<i>n.</i> a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
61. ex_____te a deep hole	<i>v.</i> to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something
62. a sk_____al attitude	<i>adj.</i> doubting that something is accurate or useful
63. re_____on leader	<i>n.</i> an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler
64. er___e trust	<i>v.</i> to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
65. Co_____um area	<i>n.</i> a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

ANSWERS: 56. excite, 57. battleground, 58. sect, 59. reborn, 60. sect, 61. excavate, 62. skeptical, 63. rebellion, 64. erode, 65. colosseum

66. suffer from xen_____ia	<i>n.</i> extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries
67. ancient sar_____us	<i>n.</i> a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people
68. a wood ca_____g	<i>n.</i> the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design
69. third-generation des_____nt	<i>n.</i> children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
70. vig_____ly shake	<i>adv.</i> in a way that is very energetic and enthusiastic
71. a chick's tw__t	<i>n.</i> a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
72. xen_____ic attitude	<i>adj.</i> showing strong dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures; having a strong bias or prejudice against outsiders
73. paleolithic ar_____cts	<i>n.</i> a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest
74. rad_____on analysis	<i>n.</i> a radioactive form of carbon that is used to date ancient biological materials, such as bones or wood, by measuring the amount of carbon-14 remaining in them
75. modern co_____gy	<i>n.</i> the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

ANSWERS: 66. xenophobia, 67. sarcophagus, 68. carving, 69. descendant, 70. vigorously, 71. tweet, 72. xenophobic, 73. artifact, 74. radiocarbon, 75. cosmology

76. vi_____nt watch	<i>adj.</i> keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
77. excite re_____on	<i>n.</i> an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler
78. ca__e a statue	<i>v.</i> to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
79. a race for su_____cy	<i>n.</i> the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
80. su_____cy of a country	<i>n.</i> the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status
81. build a co_____um for gladiators	<i>n.</i> a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80
82. la_____s society	<i>adj.</i> lacking in lawful or legal constraints or restrictions; characterized by disorder, chaos, or anarchy; outside the realm of the law or legal system
83. re___n soul	<i>adj.</i> brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature
84. as_____ut in training	<i>n.</i> a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
85. physical co_____gy	<i>n.</i> the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
86. st_____e the behavior	<i>v.</i> to show, do, or represent something according to a particular style, especially a conventional one

ANSWERS: 76. vigilant, 77. rebellion, 78. carve, 79. supremacy, 80. supremacy, 81. colosseum, 82. lawless, 83. reborn, 84. astronaut, 85. cosmology, 86. stylize

ANSWERS:

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The news of her promotion _____ her.
v. to make someone feel suddenly enthusiastic or eager
2. Numerous instances from _____ show these hypotheses in great detail.
n. real-world research or study conducted outside a library or laboratory.
3. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.
n. a person from whom one is descended; a forefather
4. The city became a _____ during the war.
n. a place where a battle is fought
5. She teaches _____ at the local university.
n. the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people and their cultures
6. His religious and philosophical beliefs were utterly _____.
adj. doubting that something is accurate or useful
7. The _____ of the logo was immediately recognizable as belonging to the famous brand.
n. the visual images or symbols used in a particular field of study, worship, or art; a system or language of imagery used to represent ideas or concepts
8. Those warriors' _____ are still skilled archers.
n. children or offspring of a specific person, plant, or animal
9. The antigovernment _____ was put down quickly by the government's military forces.
n. an act of violent or open resistance to an established government or ruler

ANSWERS: 1. excited, 2. fieldwork, 3. ancestor, 4. battleground, 5. archaeology, 6. skeptical, 7. iconography, 8. descendants, 9. rebellion

10. The _____ in society makes it hard for immigrants to assimilate and integrate.

n. extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries

11. She wore a colorful-_____ scarf.

v. to show, do, or represent something according to a particular style, especially a conventional one

12. The shuttle _____ trained for months before embarking on the space mission.

n. a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere

13. We could hear the _____ of baby birds.

n. a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application

14. The archaeologists _____ the ruins of an ancient city buried under the desert sands.

v. to dig or remove earth, rocks, or other materials from the ground or a site, often to uncover or discover something

15. The underground club was a _____ environment where anything could happen.

adj. lacking in lawful or legal constraints or restrictions; characterized by disorder, chaos, or anarchy; outside the realm of the law or legal system

16. After recovering from her illness, she felt like a _____ person with a new perspective on life.

adj. brought back to life in a new form or with a new nature

ANSWERS: 10. xenophobia, 11. stylized, 12. astronaut, 13. tweet, 14. excavated, 15. lawless, 16. reborn

17. The _____ rhetoric of the politician only seeks to sow division and hatred among people.
adj. showing strong dislike or fear of people from other countries or cultures; having a strong bias or prejudice against outsiders
18. The story of Orpheus and Eurydice is said to have taken place in the _____ where Orpheus attempted to rescue his wife from the realm of the dead.
n. the criminal world or the world of organized crime; the realm of the dead in various mythologies
19. The guards had to remain _____ to ensure the safety of the high-security facility.
adj. keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties
20. The accusations were _____ and lacked evidence.
adj. not based on good evidence or reason; without foundation or justification
21. The new treatment's long-term advantages are still _____.
adj. not tested or proved
22. _____ evolved from people's philosophical questions about the natural world.
n. the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
23. The ongoing budget cuts have _____ the quality of education in many schools.
v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

ANSWERS: 17. xenophobic, 18. underworld, 19. vigilant, 20. unfounded, 21. unproven, 22. Cosmology, 23. eroded

24. The archaeologists used _____ dating to determine the age of the artifacts.

- n.* a radioactive form of carbon that is used to date ancient biological materials, such as bones or wood, by measuring the amount of carbon-14 remaining in them

25. Rome's _____ gets busy in peak season.

- n.* a large amphitheater (= an open-air venue used for entertainment, performances, and sports) in Rome whose construction was begun by Vespasian about AD 75 or 80

26. He has produced _____ research on the subject.

- adj.* producing fresh findings; using novel techniques

27. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.

- v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply

28. The company's unethical practices have _____ its brand image in the eyes of consumers.

- v.* to harm the reputation or credibility of someone or something; to make something appear untrue or unreliable

29. Each beautiful _____ represents either an idea or a sound.

- n.* a writing system using picture symbols, such as the one used in ancient Egypt

30. The empire's military power ensured its _____ over the neighboring states.

- n.* the state, condition, or position of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status

31. The ancient Egyptians believed that the sun _____ Ra was the most powerful god.

- n.* a divine being or god worshipped and revered by people in a particular religion or culture

ANSWERS: 24. radiocarbon, 25. Colosseum, 26. groundbreaking, 27. carved, 28. discredited, 29. hieroglyph, 30. supremacy, 31. deity

32. The museum has a vast collection of Greek _____.

- n.* a person-made object, especially one of historical or cultural interest

33. He didn't want to _____ his colleague in front of their boss.

- v.* to describe or represent as being of little worth or value; to belittle, degrade, or criticize unfairly

34. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

- n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

35. The myth was _____ by scientists, who provided evidence to the contrary.

- v.* to expose or dismiss as false, exaggerated, or worthless

36. The heat wave _____ the drought conditions.

- v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse

37. The intricate _____ on the wooden box was the work of a master craftsman.

- n.* the act or process of cutting or shaping a hard material, such as wood or stone, into a specific form or design

38. The space shuttle is a modern engineering _____.

- n.* someone something that causes feelings of wonder or surprise

39. He _____ scrubbed the stains on the shirt.

- adv.* in a way that is very energetic and enthusiastic

40. He was born into a lower _____ and faced discrimination throughout his life.

- n.* a social class or group, typically determined by birth or occupation, that has a particular status in a society

ANSWERS: 32. artifacts, 33. disparage, 34. sect, 35. debunked, 36. exacerbated, 37. carving, 38. marvel, 39. vigorously, 40. caste

41. The comedian's ____ had the audience laughing out loud.

- n.* a humorous play on words or use of words that sound similar but have different meanings, often for a comedic effect; a form of wordplay

42. The pharaoh was buried in an ornate _____ complete with intricate hieroglyphics.

- n.* a stone coffin, often adorned with sculpture or inscriptions, usually used to hold the remains of a deceased person or people

43. The teacher warned the boys not to _____ public property.

- v.* to mar or spoil the surface or appearance of something, typically by drawing or writing on it

ANSWERS: 41. pun, 42. sarcophagus, 43. deface