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Nnedi Okorafor: Sci-fi stories that imagine a future Africa | TED Talk

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Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

novella

n. a written work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel

synonym: short novel, long story, narrative

(1) write a **novella**, (2) a **novella** set in a medieval kingdom
I am reading a famous **novella** about a group of friends who go on a road trip.

trilogy

n. a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme

synonym: triple, triptych

(1) **trilogy** series, (2) **trilogy** format

The Lord of the Rings **trilogy** is a classic in the fantasy genre.

droplet

n. a small drop of liquid

synonym: bead, drip, dewdrop

(1) **droplet** size, (2) **droplet** formation

A single **droplet** of water can reflect the entire world upside down.

shiver

v. to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly

synonym : quiver, tremble, shake

(1) **shiver** with delight, (2) **shiver** in fear

I **shiver** in the cold winter air as I wait for the train.

swipe

v. to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort

synonym : flick, brush, pinch

(1) **swipe** a card, (2) **swipe** left on a dating app

He tried to **swipe** the phone from my hand, but I held on tight.

kneel

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

synonym : genuflect, crouch, bend

(1) **kneel** down and worship, (2) **kneel** in protest

The players are **kneeling** during the national anthem.

whisper

v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you

synonym : murmur, rumor, mutter

(1) answer in a **whisper**, (2) the **whisper** of the leaves

He took me aside and **whispered** in my ear.

straighten

v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned

synonym : even up, align, untangle

(1) **straighten** out a problem, (2) **straighten** a crooked picture

I need to **straighten** my hair before I go to the party.

defy

v. to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.

synonym : challenge, resist, disobey

(1) **defy** gravity, (2) **defy** authority

She tried to **defy** her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.

sibling

n. a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

synonym : brother, sister, relative

(1) have a **sibling** quarrel, (2) play with my **siblings**

Children often copy their parents or elder **siblings**.

growl

v. to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval

synonym : snarl, rumble, grumble

(1) **growl** menacingly, (2) **growl** a command

The dog began to **growl** at the stranger approaching the house.

bloodline

n. the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species

synonym : ancestry, lineage, descent

(1) **bloodline** inheritance, (2) royal **bloodline**

The new champion racehorse came from a long line of strong **bloodlines**.

pariah

n. an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group

synonym : outcast, untouchable, reject

(1) **pariah** community, (2) treated as a **pariah**

Being a whistleblower can often lead to becoming a social **pariah** in some industries.

jingle

v. to create or make a ringing sound, particularly one that is musical or catchy

synonym : tinkle, chime, ring

(1) **jingle** a little bell, (2) **jingle** money in my pocket

The keys on her keychain **jingled** loudly as she fumbled to unlock the door.

brow

n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead

synonym : forehead, hilltop, eyebrow

(1) the **brow** of a hill, (2) furrowed **brow**

She wiped the sweat from her **brow** after finishing the marathon.

atop

adv. on, to, or at the top

synonym : upon, onto

(1) stand **atop**, (2) sit **atop** a stack of books

The eagle perched **atop** the tallest tree in the forest.

shove

v. to push someone or something in a rough way

synonym : push, jab, elbow

(1) **shove** a person aside, (2) **shove** hamburger into my mouth

He forcibly **shoved** the flyer into my bag.

adorn

v. to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful

synonym : decorate, beautify, embellish

(1) **adorn** a bride, (2) **adorn** the table with flowers

The architect **adorned** the interior with great artworks and frescoes.

octopus

n. a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)

synonym : devilfish

(1) giant **octopus**, (2) venomous **octopus**

He experienced nausea after eating live **octopus**.

ancestral

adj. related to or connected with members of your family from the past

synonym : hereditary, inherited, patrimonial

(1) an **ancestral** graveyard, (2) **ancestral** roots

The **ancestral** home has been in the family for generations.

preoccupied

adj. having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy

synonym :

absorbed, engrossed, occupied

(1) **preoccupied** idea, (2) **preoccupied** with other things
He was **preoccupied** with work and didn't notice me.

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.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
synonym: settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation
European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

extraterrestrial

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
synonym: alien, outer, otherworldly

(1) **extraterrestrial** planet, (2) **extraterrestrial** intelligence
Scientists are constantly searching for signs of **extraterrestrial** life in the universe.

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.

birthplace

n. the house, town, etc., where someone was born
synonym: hometown, native place, origin

(1) ancestral **birthplaces**, (2) **birthplace** of modern soccer
The **birthplace** of civilization is a topic of much debate among historians.

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.

cyber

adj. relating to or involving computers, computer networks, or virtual reality

synonym : digital, computer, Internet

(1) **cyber** bullying, (2) **cyber** crime

Cyber espionage between countries can have serious consequences.

intrigue

v. to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

synonym : attract, captivate, charm

(1) **intrigue** him, (2) **intrigue** against his rival

The artist's innovative style of work **intrigues** me.

lagoon

n. a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean

synonym : pond, pool, bayou

(1) **lagoon** island, (2) **lagoon** paradise

The mangroves around the **lagoon** provide a habitat for a unique ecosystem

glowing

adj. highly enthusiastic; greatly praised

synonym : burning, bright, flaming

(1) **glowing** reviews, (2) **glowing** cheeks

The western sky was **glowing** pink.

vibrate

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

synonym : oscillate, convulse, jerk

(1) **vibrate** at a regular frequency, (2) **vibrate** with anger
During the flight, the wings of the plane **vibrate**.

chirp

n. a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers

synonym : tweet, chirrup, peep

(1) the **chirp** of a bird, (2) the **chirp** of a cricket

The sound of the **chirp** woke me up early in the morning.

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.

fascinate

v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly

synonym : captivate, intrigue, mesmerize

(1) **fascinate** the public, (2) **fascinate** the young

The magic tricks **fascinated** the children.

trapezoid

n. a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides

synonym : trapezium, trapeze

(1) the area of a **trapezoid**, (2) isosceles **trapezoid**

The building's windows were arranged in **trapezoid** shapes, giving it a modern look.

cosmos

n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system

synonym : universe, macrocosm

(1) exploration of **cosmos**, (2) origin of the **cosmos**

Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the **cosmos**.

mingle

v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner

synonym: mix, blend, merge

(1) **mingle** with colleagues, (2) **mingle** with the locals

I decided to **mingle** with the crowd and converse with some new people.

beget

v. to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of

synonym: be father, procreate, reproduce

(1) **beget** children, (2) **beget** fear

His irresponsible behavior may **beget** many problems for him in the future.

weave

v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them

synonym: braid, unite, contrive

(1) **weave** on a loom, (2) **weave** a story

The girl **weaves** a garland for her friend.

sociopolitical

adj. relating to both social and political aspects of society; having to do with how politics and social issues are interconnected or influence each other

synonym: social, political, community-based

(1) **sociopolitical** issues, (2) **sociopolitical** unrest

The **sociopolitical** climate of the country has led to a rise in protests and demonstrations.

homegrown

adj. grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area

synonym: indigenous, local, native

(1) **homegrown** talent, (2) **homegrown** produce

The restaurant prides itself on its **homegrown** ingredients sourced from local farms.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--|
| 1. be__t fear | v. | to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of |
| 2. vi_____e with anger | v. | to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side |
| 3. gr__l menacingly | v. | to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval |
| 4. exploration of co____s | n. | another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system |
| 5. write a no_____a | n. | a written work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel |
| 6. isosceles tr_____id | n. | a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides |
| 7. str_____en a crooked picture | v. | to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned |
| 8. be__t children | v. | to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of |
| 9. we__e on a loom | v. | to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them |

ANSWERS: 1. beget, 2. vibrate, 3. growl, 4. cosmos, 5. novella, 6. trapezoid, 7. straighten, 8. beget, 9. weave

10. stand a__p *adv.* on, to, or at the top
11. sh__r with delight *v.* to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly
12. the ch__p of a bird *n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
13. fa_____te the young *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
14. furrowed b__w *n.* the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
15. venomous oc_____s *n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
16. sw__e left on a dating app *v.* to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort
17. cy__r bullying *adj.* relating to or involving computers, computer networks, or virtual reality
18. ad__n the table with flowers *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful
19. soc_____cal unrest *adj.* relating to both social and political aspects of society; having to do with how politics and social issues are interconnected or influence each other
20. modern co_____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe

ANSWERS: 10. atop, 11. shiver, 12. chirp, 13. fascinate, 14. brow, 15. octopus, 16. swipe, 17. cyber, 18. adorn, 19. sociopolitical, 20. cosmology

21. cy__r crime *adj.* relating to or involving computers, computer networks, or virtual reality
22. fa_____te the public *v.* to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
23. ext_____ial planet *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
24. la___n island *n.* a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean
25. sh__e a person aside *v.* to push someone or something in a rough way
26. d__y gravity *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
27. have a si_____g quarrel *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
28. soc_____cal issues *adj.* relating to both social and political aspects of society; having to do with how politics and social issues are interconnected or influence each other
29. bl_____ne inheritance *n.* the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species
30. earliest human an____or *n.* a person from whom one is descended; a forefather

ANSWERS: 21. cyber, 22. fascinate, 23. extraterrestrial, 24. lagoon, 25. shove, 26. defy, 27. sibling, 28. sociopolitical, 29. bloodline, 30. ancestor

31. sw__e a card *v.* to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort
32. giant oc____s *n.* a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
33. answer in a wh____r *v.* to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
34. str_____en out a problem *v.* to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
35. gl_____g reviews *adj.* highly enthusiastic; greatly praised
36. mi____e with the locals *v.* to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
37. dr____t size *n.* a small drop of liquid
38. gr__l a command *v.* to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval
39. pre____ed idea *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
40. ho____wn talent *adj.* grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area
41. in____ue him *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone

ANSWERS: 31. swipe, 32. octopus, 33. whisper, 34. straighten, 35. glowing, 36. mingle, 37. droplet, 38. growl, 39. preoccupied, 40. homegrown, 41. intrigue

42. the area of a tr____id *n.* a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides
43. origin of the co____s *n.* another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
44. royal bl____ne *n.* the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species
45. ext_____ial intelligence *adj.* relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth
46. bir____ce of modern soccer *n.* the house, town, etc., where someone was born
47. an____al roots *adj.* related to or connected with members of your family from the past
48. a chick's tw__t *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
49. kn__l in protest *v.* to rest on someone's knee or knees
50. an an____al graveyard *adj.* related to or connected with members of your family from the past
51. pre_____ed with other things *adj.* having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
52. suffer from xen____ia *n.* extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries

ANSWERS: 42. trapezoid, 43. cosmos, 44. bloodline, 45. extraterrestrial, 46. birthplace, 47. ancestral, 48. tweet, 49. kneel, 50. ancestral, 51. preoccupied, 52. xenophobia

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| 53. dr____t formation | <i>n.</i> | a small drop of liquid |
| 54. la___n paradise | <i>n.</i> | a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean |
| 55. ancestral bir_____ces | <i>n.</i> | the house, town, etc., where someone was born |
| 56. co_____ze planets | <i>v.</i> | to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers |
| 57. the wh_____r of the leaves | <i>v.</i> | to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you |
| 58. ji___e a little bell | <i>v.</i> | to create or make a ringing sound, particularly one that is musical or catchy |
| 59. a no_____a set in a medieval kingdom | <i>n.</i> | a written work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel |
| 60. the b__w of a hill | <i>n.</i> | the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead |
| 61. sh__e hamburger into my mouth | <i>v.</i> | to push someone or something in a rough way |
| 62. co_____ze for cultivation | <i>v.</i> | to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers |
| 63. kn__l down and worship | <i>v.</i> | to rest on someone's knee or knees |
| 64. an_____or language | <i>n.</i> | a person from whom one is descended; a forefather |

ANSWERS: 53. droplet, 54. lagoon, 55. birthplace, 56. colonize, 57. whisper, 58. jingle, 59. novella, 60. brow, 61. shove, 62. colonize, 63. kneel, 64. ancestor

65. tr____y format *n.* a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme
66. mi____e with colleagues *v.* to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
67. his latest tw__ts *n.* a short, high sound made by a small bird; a message sent using Twitter, the social media application
68. vi____e at a regular frequency *v.* to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side
69. physical co____gy *n.* the scientific study of the nature and origin of the universe
70. ji____e money in my pocket *v.* to create or make a ringing sound, particularly one that is musical or catchy
71. d__y authority *v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
72. treated as a pa____h *n.* an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
73. the ch__p of a cricket *n.* a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers
74. sh____r in fear *v.* to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly
75. tr____y series *n.* a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme

ANSWERS: 65. trilogy, 66. mingle, 67. tweet, 68. vibrate, 69. cosmology, 70. jingle, 71. defy, 72. pariah, 73. chirp, 74. shiver, 75. trilogy

76. in_____ue against his rival *v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
77. pa____h community *n.* an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
78. sit a__p a stack of books *adv.* on, to, or at the top
79. gl_____g cheeks *adj.* highly enthusiastic; greatly praised
80. linguistic xen_____ia *n.* extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries
81. ho_____wn produce *adj.* grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area
82. we__e a story *v.* to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
83. play with my si_____gs *n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents
84. ad__n a bride *v.* to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful

ANSWERS: 76. intrigue, 77. pariah, 78. atop, 79. glowing, 80. xenophobia, 81. homegrown, 82. weave, 83. sibling, 84. adorn

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
 - v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

2. The eagle perched _____ the tallest tree in the forest.
 - adv. on, to, or at the top

3. The Lord of the Rings _____ is a classic in the fantasy genre.
 - n. a series of three related works, such as books, plays, or movies, that are connected in some way, often by plot, characters, or theme

4. The _____ home has been in the family for generations.
 - adj. related to or connected with members of your family from the past

5. I decided to _____ with the crowd and converse with some new people.
 - v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner

6. The new champion racehorse came from a long line of strong _____.
 - n. the hereditary line of descent of a group of related individuals; the genetic lineage or ancestry of a family, group, or species

7. The sound of the _____ woke me up early in the morning.
 - n. a short, sharp sound that is made by birds or insects or by electronic devices such as alarms or beepers

ANSWERS: 1. colonized, 2. atop, 3. trilogy, 4. ancestral, 5. mingle, 6. bloodlines, 7. chirp

8. Being a whistleblower can often lead to becoming a social _____ in some industries.
- n.* an outcast or social reject; a person who is despised and avoided by society or a particular group
9. The building's windows were arranged in _____ shapes, giving it a modern look.
- n.* a four-sided polygon with two parallel sides and two non-parallel sides; (in North America) a quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides
10. _____ espionage between countries can have serious consequences.
- adj.* relating to or involving computers, computer networks, or virtual reality
11. The artist's innovative style of work _____ me.
- v.* to make someone interested, especially by being strange, unusual, or mysterious; to make a secret plan with other people to harm someone
12. I am reading a famous _____ about a group of friends who go on a road trip.
- n.* a written work of fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a novel
13. His irresponsible behavior may _____ many problems for him in the future.
- v.* to cause or produce something as a result or effect; to become the father of
14. She tried to _____ her parents by moving to the city against their wishes.
- v.* to challenge or dare someone to do something; to resist or disobey a rule, decision, etc.
15. Children often copy their parents or elder _____.
- n.* a brother or sister; member of a family born to the same parents

ANSWERS: 8. pariah, 9. trapezoid, 10. Cyber, 11. intrigues, 12. novella, 13. beget, 14. defy, 15. siblings

16. She wiped the sweat from her _____ after finishing the marathon.
n. the ridge over the eye sockets; the forehead
17. He took me aside and _____ in my ear.
v. to speak very quietly to somebody using the breath rather than the voice so that only those close to you can hear you
18. The western sky was _____ pink.
adj. highly enthusiastic; greatly praised
19. He experienced nausea after eating live _____.
n. a sea creature with a soft round body and eight long tentacles (= long parts like arms)
20. Supercomputers enable scientists to create computational models of the _____.
n. another name for the universe, mainly used when it is thought of as an ordered system
21. I _____ in the cold winter air as I wait for the train.
v. to shake or quiver with cold, fear, or excitement; to tremble or vibrate rapidly
22. I need to _____ my hair before I go to the party.
v. to make something straight or orderly; to adjust or fix something crooked, bent, or misaligned
23. 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

ANSWERS: 16. brow, 17. whispered, 18. glowing, 19. octopus, 20. cosmos, 21. shiver, 22. straighten, 23. tweet

24. The players are _____ during the national anthem.

v. to rest on someone's knee or knees

25. Scientists are constantly searching for signs of _____ life in the universe.

adj. relating to or existing outside of the Earth's atmosphere or planetary boundaries; pertaining to beings or phenomena that originate from beyond the Earth

26. The _____ climate of the country has led to a rise in protests and demonstrations.

adj. relating to both social and political aspects of society; having to do with how politics and social issues are interconnected or influence each other

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

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

28. My remote _____ immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1800s.

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

29. During the flight, the wings of the plane _____.

v. to move or cause anything to move fast and in small increments from side to side

30. The dog began to _____ at the stranger approaching the house.

v. to make a low, guttural sound, usually similar to that of an animal, expressing anger, agitation, or disapproval

31. He forcibly _____ the flyer into my bag.

v. to push someone or something in a rough way

ANSWERS: 24. kneeling, 25. extraterrestrial, 26. sociopolitical, 27. Cosmology, 28. ancestor, 29. vibrate, 30. growl, 31. shoved

32. The _____ of civilization is a topic of much debate among historians.
n. the house, town, etc., where someone was born
33. He was _____ with work and didn't notice me.
adj. having one's thoughts or attention absorbed by something; busy
34. The mangroves around the _____ provide a habitat for a unique ecosystem
n. a shallow stretch of water separated from a larger body of water by sandbanks or coral reefs; a small saltwater lake near a sea or an ocean
35. The restaurant prides itself on its _____ ingredients sourced from local farms.
adj. grown or produced locally rather than imported from another area
36. The keys on her keychain _____ loudly as she fumbled to unlock the door.
v. to create or make a ringing sound, particularly one that is musical or catchy
37. The magic tricks _____ the children.
v. to attract and hold the attention of someone deeply and irresistibly
38. A single _____ of water can reflect the entire world upside down.
n. a small drop of liquid
39. The girl _____ a garland for her friend.
v. to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc., by repeatedly crossing a single thread through two sets of long threads at a right angle to them
40. He tried to _____ the phone from my hand, but I held on tight.
v. to strike, hit, or slap with a sweeping motion; to pass a magnetic stripe or barcode through a scanner to read data; to steal or take something quickly and with little effort

ANSWERS: 32. birthplace, 33. preoccupied, 34. lagoon, 35. homegrown, 36. jingled, 37. fascinated, 38. droplet, 39. weaves, 40. swipe

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

n. extreme fear or hatred of people from other countries

42. The architect _____ the interior with great artworks and frescoes.

v. to make something or somebody more attractive or beautiful

ANSWERS: 41. xenophobia, 42. adorned