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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Liz Hajek: What rivers can tell us about the earth's history | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

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.

bulldoze

- v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way

synonym: level, clear, demolish

(1) **bulldoze** a mound, (2) **bulldoze** a person into buying

They **bulldozed** the old building to make way for a new one.

wiggle

- v. to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements

synonym: wiggle, jiggle, squirm

(1) **wiggle** her lips, (2) **wiggle** with excitement

Her hips **wiggle** as she walks.

monsoon

n. a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas

synonym: rainy season, deluge, downpour

(1) **monsoon** season, (2) **monsoon** current

The **monsoon** rains often bring relief to areas suffering from drought.

inconvenient

adj. causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable

synonym: troublesome, difficult, awkward

(1) face an **inconvenient** truth, (2) **inconvenient** for shopping

It was **inconvenient** for her to go out of her way to pick up the package.

clog

v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something

synonym: block, jam, obstruct

(1) **clog** a filter, (2) **clog** artery

The drain was **clogged** with hair and needed to be cleaned out.

abrupt

adj. sudden and unexpected

synonym: sudden, unexpected, quick

(1) **abrupt** departure, (2) speak in an **abrupt** manner

The sudden, **abrupt** change in weather caught everyone by surprise.

gulf

n. a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land

synonym: chasm, divide, abyss

(1) **gulf** war, (2) **gulf** stream

The **Gulf** of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.

reconstruct

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

synonym : rebuild, revamp, reorganize

(1) **reconstruct** an image, (2) **reconstruct** the original text

They've decided to **reconstruct** a ruined castle.

plow

n. a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

synonym : plough, cultivator, hoe

(1) **plow** equipment, (2) deeply **plow** the soil

The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the **plow**.

warp

v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

synonym : twist, distort, deform

(1) **warp** under pressure, (2) become **warped**

The ship's hull was **warped** from years of use in rough seas.

bury

v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

synonym : entomb, sink, forget

(1) **bury** in the earth, (2) **bury** emotion

There is plenty of space to **bury** everyone.

sedimentary

adj. relating to or formed by the deposition and solidification of sediment, particularly as it pertains to rock formation; characterized by layers or strata

synonym : layered, stratified, deposited

(1) **sedimentary** rock, (2) **sedimentary** basin

The archaeologists discovered a rock formation consisting of different **sedimentary** layers.

crocodile

n. a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats

synonym :

alligator, gator, croc

(1) **crocodile** hide, (2) saltwater **crocodile**

The **crocodile** attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear

blob

n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

synonym: chunk, lump, hunk

(1) a big **blob** of yellow, (2) a **blob** of jelly

A **blob** of ink fell on the floor.

wade

v. to walk through water that is not deep enough to swim in; to struggle or proceed slowly and laboriously through something, such as a difficult situation or a crowd of people

synonym: paddle, trudge, slosh

(1) **wade** down a street, (2) **wade** through paperwork

I had to **wade** through the knee-deep water to get to the other side of the river.

floodplain

n. an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding

synonym: lowland, swamp, delta

(1) **floodplain** area, (2) **floodplain** management

The town was built on a **floodplain**, making it vulnerable to natural disasters.

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.

revert

v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply

synonym: return, go back, restore

(1) **revert** to a heavy smoker, (2) **revert** to the original

subject

After trying the new software, I **reverted** to the old version.

Session 2: Spelling

1. bu____ze a mound
v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
2. a big b__b of yellow
n. a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
3. b__y in the earth
v. to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
4. rec____ct an image
v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
5. mo____n current
n. a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas
6. w__e through paperwork
v. to walk through water that is not deep enough to swim in; to struggle or proceed slowly and laboriously through something, such as a difficult situation or a crowd of people
7. re___t to a heavy smoker
v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply
8. c__g a filter
v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
9. inc____ent for shopping
adj. causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable

ANSWERS: 1. bulldoze, 2. blob, 3. bury, 4. reconstruct, 5. monsoon, 6. wade, 7. revert, 8. clog, 9. inconvenient

10. ab___t departure *adj.* sudden and unexpected
11. saltwater cr_____le *n.* a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
12. w__p under pressure *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
13. ca__e a statue *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
14. face an inc_____ent truth *adj.* causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable
15. sed_____ry rock *adj.* relating to or formed by the deposition and solidification of sediment, particularly as it pertains to rock formation; characterized by layers or strata
16. g__f war *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
17. er__e trust *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
18. wi___e her lips *v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
19. mo_____n season *n.* a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas

ANSWERS: 10. abrupt, 11. crocodile, 12. warp, 13. carve, 14. inconvenient, 15. sedimentary, 16. gulf, 17. erode, 18. wiggle, 19. monsoon

20. ca__e my name on the plate *v.* to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
21. cr_____le hide *n.* a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats
22. b__y emotion *v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb
23. wi___e with excitement *v.* to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
24. flo_____in area *n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
25. c__g artery *v.* to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
26. flo_____in management *n.* an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
27. rec_____ct the original text *v.* to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed
28. sed_____ry basin *adj.* relating to or formed by the deposition and solidification of sediment, particularly as it pertains to rock formation; characterized by layers or strata
29. er__e coast *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: 20. carve, 21. crocodile, 22. bury, 23. wiggle, 24. floodplain, 25. clog, 26. floodplain, 27. reconstruct, 28. sedimentary, 29. erode

30. deeply p__w the soil *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
31. w__e down a street *v.* to walk through water that is not deep enough to swim in; to struggle or proceed slowly and laboriously through something, such as a difficult situation or a crowd of people
32. a b__b of jelly *n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance
33. speak in an ab___t manner *adj.* sudden and unexpected
34. g__f stream *n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land
35. bu_____ze a person into buying *v.* to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way
36. p__w equipment *n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops
37. become w__ped *v.* to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something

ANSWERS: 30. plow, 31. wade, 32. blob, 33. abrupt, 34. gulf, 35. bulldoze, 36. plow, 37. warp

38. re___t to the original subject

v. to return to a previous state or condition; to reply

ANSWERS: 38. revert

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The farmer tied the yoke oxen to the _____.
 - n.* a farming implement used for breaking up and turning over the soil, especially before planting; (verb) to turn over and break up the soil in preparation for planting crops

2. A _____ of ink fell on the floor.
 - n.* a small amount or drop of a thick liquid or sticky substance

3. The archaeologists discovered a rock formation consisting of different _____ layers.
 - adj.* relating to or formed by the deposition and solidification of sediment, particularly as it pertains to rock formation; characterized by layers or strata

4. There is plenty of space to _____ everyone.
 - v.* to place a dead body in the ground, grave, or tomb

5. The _____ of Mexico is a body of water in the southern United States.
 - n.* a large ocean inlet or deep bay that is partially enclosed by land

6. After trying the new software, I _____ to the old version.
 - v.* to return to a previous state or condition; to reply

7. I had to _____ through the knee-deep water to get to the other side of the river.
 - v.* to walk through water that is not deep enough to swim in; to struggle or proceed slowly and laboriously through something, such as a difficult situation or a crowd of people

ANSWERS: 1. plow, 2. blob, 3. sedimentary, 4. bury, 5. Gulf, 6. reverted, 7. wade

8. The town was built on a _____ making it vulnerable to natural disasters.
n. an area of flat land adjacent to a river or stream that is subject to periodic flooding
9. The drain was _____ with hair and needed to be cleaned out.
v. to obstruct or block up (a passage, pipe, or system) with an accumulation of thick or sticky matter; to impede or hinder the progress or movement of something
10. This statue is _____ from a single tree trunk.
v. to create something by cutting wood or stone; to turn sharply
11. 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
12. It was _____ for her to go out of her way to pick up the package.
adj. causing trouble or difficulty; not convenient or suitable
13. Her hips _____ as she walks.
v. to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side in short and quick movements
14. The ship's hull was _____ from years of use in rough seas.
v. to twist or bend out of shape, especially as a result of being heated; to distort or twist the meaning or sense of something
15. The sudden, _____ change in weather caught everyone by surprise.
adj. sudden and unexpected

ANSWERS: 8. floodplain, 9. clogged, 10. carved, 11. eroded, 12. inconvenient, 13. wiggle, 14. warped, 15. abrupt

16. They've decided to _____ a ruined castle.

v. to build or form something again that has been damaged or destroyed

17. They _____ the old building to make way for a new one.

v. to level or clear an area of land using a bulldozer (= a large, heavy vehicle with a blade on the front); to use force or the threat of force to make them do something or to get them to move out of the way

18. The _____ attack left the villagers in a state of shock and fear

n. a large, carnivorous reptile with powerful jaws and a long, scaly body; native to tropical regions and often found in rivers and freshwater habitats

19. The _____ rains often bring relief to areas suffering from drought.

n. a seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to a region, typically occurring in tropical areas

ANSWERS: 16. reconstruct, 17. bulldozed, 18. crocodile, 19. monsoon