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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Francesco Sauro: Deep under the Earth's surface, discovering beauty and science | TED Talk

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

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

unexplored

adj. not yet examined, investigated, or studied; lacking in knowledge or information; unknown or undiscovered

synonym: uncharted, undiscovered, untapped

(1) **unexplored** ideas, (2) **unexplored** cave

There are many **unexplored** regions of the ocean that scientists hope to study soon.

mineralogy

n. the scientific study of minerals, naturally occurring inorganic substances with homogeneous chemical composition and ordered internal structure that focuses on the identification, characterization, and classification of minerals

synonym: mineral science

(1) experimental **mineralogy**, (2) **mineralogy** research

His interest in the **mineralogy** of gemstones led him to become a well-respected gemologist.

intrepid

adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties

synonym: unfearing, courageous, dauntless

(1) **intrepid** personality, (2) **intrepid** travelers

There were still **intrepid** pioneers who planned to start their businesses

unappreciated

adj. not adequately valued or acknowledged

synonym : unvalued, undervalued, unrecognized

(1) an **unappreciated** genius, (2) **unappreciated** effort
She felt **unappreciated** for all the hard work she had put in.

skew

v. to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.

synonym : slant, tilt, distort

(1) **skew** the message, (2) **skew** social values

The results of the poll are **skewed** because it only surveyed a small group of people.

mammoth

adj. exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene

synonym : huge, large

(1) woolly **mammoth**, (2) a **mammoth** ship

The minister decided to review its **mammoth** public works projects.

abyss

n. a deep, dark, or seemingly bottomless chasm or void

synonym : chasm, cavity, gulf

(1) the **abyss** of time, (2) an **abyss** of hopelessness

The deep sea is an **abyss** of mystery and discovery.

karst

n. a landscape or terrain characterized by underground drainage systems, sinkholes, caves, and the dissolution of limestone or other soluble rocks, which regions often have unique hydrological features due to the dissolution of rock layers

synonym : cave, cavern, sinkhole

(1) subterranean **karst**, (2) limestone **karst**

The **karst** landscape in the region was stunning, with its limestone caves and sinkholes.

infiltrate

v. to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something

gradually or subtly

synonym: penetrate, sneak in, invade

(1) **infiltrate** the bloodstream, (2) **infiltrate** a community

The spy was able to **infiltrate** the enemy's headquarters undetected.

dissolve

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

synonym: disband, disappear, liquefy

(1) **dissolve** the sugar, (2) officially **dissolved** the marriage

The political party **dissolved** after much internal fighting.

lithology

n. the study of the physical and chemical properties of rocks and geological formations

synonym: study of rocks, rock formation, petrology

(1) paleo- **lithology**, (2) geological **lithology**

The rock's **lithology** suggests it was formed under high pressure and temperature.

conduit

n. a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts

synonym: channel, pipeline, tube

(1) water **conduit**, (2) electrical **conduit**

The **conduit** between the two buildings carried water and electricity.

spelean

adj. relating to or characteristic of caves or their exploration, typically used in the context of spelunking or cave exploration

synonym: cavernous, underground, subterranean

(1) **spelean** exploration, (2) **spelean** cave system

The **spelean** adventurer explored deep into the dark cave systems.

undiscovered

adj. not yet found or known

synonym : unknown, hidden, unexplored

(1) **undiscovered** territory, (2) **undiscovered** potential

The jungle is full of **undiscovered** species waiting to be found.

glacier

n. a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole

synonym : iceberg, ice floe

(1) **glacier** retreat, (2) **glaciers** move tardily

The **glaciers** of the ice age have shaped Fjord.

lava

n. molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material

synonym : molten rock, magma, volcanic rock

(1) **lava** flow, (2) molten **lava**

The volcano's eruption caused a **lava** river to flow down the mountainside.

opportune

adj. suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose

synonym : suitable, timely, practical

(1) **opportune** occasion, (2) an **opportune** remark

The phone rang at the most **opportune** time.

enchant

v. to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone

synonym : charm, captivate, bewitch

(1) **enchant** the audience, (2) **enchant** the crowd

The fairy's spell **enchanted** the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.

vertigo

n. a feeling of dizziness or disorientation often caused by a disturbance in the inner ear; a sensation or feeling of being unsteady or losing one's balance

synonym : dizziness, lightheadedness, unsteadiness

(1) **vertigo** symptoms, (2) suffer from **vertigo**

The sudden drop on the rollercoaster gave me a wave of **vertigo**.

waterfall

n. a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock

synonym: cascade, falls, rapids

(1) scenic **waterfall**, (2) a **waterfall** with a fall of ten feet

Years of river erosion have formed the uniquely shaped **waterfall** basin.

lowland

n. low-lying country or region

synonym: marshland

(1) **lowland** crop, (2) **lowland** swamp

Much of our territory is located in the **lowland**.

fortress

n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers

synonym: castle, citadel, stronghold

(1) **fortress** wall, (2) military **fortress**

The ancient **fortress** was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.

impregnable

adj. impossible to enter, capture, or defeat; difficult to argue against or resist

synonym: unassailable, unyielding, invulnerable

(1) **impregnable** self-confidence, (2) in an **impregnable** position

His argument was so well-reasoned that it seemed almost **impregnable**.

paradox

n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

synonym: incongruity, dichotomy, contradiction

(1) French **paradox**, (2) the **paradox** of the heap

There are many theories to explain this **paradox**.

quartzite

n. a hard and compact metamorphic rock composed primarily of quartz, often used in construction and decorative applications

(1) durable **quartzite**, (2) natural **quartzite**

The hiking trail led through a beautiful valley of **quartzite** formations.

uplift

n. the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits

synonym: upthrust, upheaval, (verb) raise

(1) **uplift** mountains, (2) **uplift** my spirit

The **uplift** in the stock market has been a relief to investors.

disrupt

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

synonym: interrupt, disturb, break into

(1) **disrupt** a well-ordered condition, (2) **disrupt** sleep

I'm so sorry to **disrupt** you when you're pretty busy.

supercontinent

n. a large landmass that is formed by the collision and merging of several smaller continents and which then eventually breaks apart again due to tectonic forces

synonym: Pangaea, Rodinia, Gondwana

(1) **supercontinent** cycle, (2) **supercontinent** formation

Through a process known as plate tectonics, **supercontinents** have formed and broken apart multiple times over Earth's history.

sculpt

v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques

synonym: carve, mold, shape

(1) **sculpt** an image, (2) **sculpt** prototype

He spent hours every day **sculpting** figures out of clay.

boulder

n. a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion

synonym: rock, stone, clump

(1) **boulder** field, (2) lava **boulder**

The hikers had to climb over a **boulder** that was blocking their path.

plateau

n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress

synonym: mesa, tableland, plain

(1) **plateau** region, (2) **plateau** in performance

The hikers finally reached the **plateau** after a long climb up the mountain.

contaminate

v. to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture

synonym: defile, pollute, adulterate

(1) **contaminate** with a disease, (2) **contaminate** his ego

We strive not to **contaminate** the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.

limestone

n. a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite

synonym: calcareous rock, chalk

(1) sheer **limestone** cliffs, (2) **limestone** pavement

The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of **limestone**.

stalactite

n. a tapering, elongated mineral deposit that hangs from the roof of a cave, formed by the accumulation of mineral-rich water dripping from the ceiling

synonym: dripstone, icicle

(1) dripping **stalactite**, (2) lava **stalactite**

The **stalactite** formations in the cave were truly breathtaking.

carbonate

n. a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃
(1) sodium **carbonate**, (2) alkaline **carbonate**

The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium **carbonate**.

mushroom

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

synonym : fungus, toadstool

(1) **mushroom** spores, (2) **mushroom** cultivation

The **mushroom** risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

silica

n. a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler

synonym : silicon dioxide, quartz, sand

(1) **silica** gel, (2) **silica** fiber

The production of glass requires high-purity **silica** sand.

dinosaur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

synonym : reptile, beast, monster

(1) hulking **dinosaur**, (2) **dinosaur** fossil

The discovery of a new **dinosaur** species made headlines in the scientific community.

stromatolite

n. a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution

synonym : microbialite, fossilized stromatolite

(1) ancient **stromatolite**, (2) microbial **stromatolite** formation

The **stromatolite** fossils provide important clues about the

early evolution of life on Earth.

microbe

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

synonym: germ, microorganism, bacterium

(1) pathogenic **microbe**, (2) **microbes** sterilizer

Microbes thrive on the surface of the human skin.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

Negro

n. ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States

synonym: African American

(1) **Negro** literature, (2) American **Negro**

They developed **Negro** blues with a lively rhythm.

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.

Session 2: Spelling

1. military fo ____ ss
n. a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
2. French pa ____ x
n. a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
3. sc ____ t prototype
v. to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
4. ve ____ o symptoms
n. a feeling of dizziness or disorientation often caused by a disturbance in the inner ear; a sensation or feeling of being unsteady or losing one's balance
5. si ____ a gel
n. a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
6. pl ____ u in performance
n. an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
7. mi ____ es sterilizer
n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

ANSWERS: 1. fortress, 2. paradox, 3. sculpt, 4. vertigo, 5. silica, 6. plateau, 7. microbe

8. inf_____te a community *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
9. microbial str_____ite formation *n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution
10. sc____t an image *v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
11. Ne__o literature *n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
12. subterranean ka__t *n.* a landscape or terrain characterized by underground drainage systems, sinkholes, caves, and the dissolution of limestone or other soluble rocks, which regions often have unique hydrological features due to the dissolution of rock layers
13. di_____t a well-ordered condition *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

ANSWERS: 8. infiltrate, 9. stromatolite, 10. sculpt, 11. Negro, 12. karst, 13. disrupt

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 14. lava bo____r | <i>n.</i> a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion |
| 15. in____id travelers | <i>adj.</i> courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties |
| 16. sodium ca____te | <i>n.</i> a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO ₃ |
| 17. con_____te his ego | <i>v.</i> to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture |
| 18. in____id personality | <i>adj.</i> courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties |
| 19. und_____red potential | <i>adj.</i> not yet found or known |
| 20. a ma____h ship | <i>adj.</i> exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene |
| 21. alkaline ca____te | <i>n.</i> a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO ₃ |
| 22. mu____om spores | <i>n.</i> a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap |
| 23. me_____al chemistry | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 24. mu____om cultivation | <i>n.</i> a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap |
| 25. s__w the message | <i>v.</i> to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc. |

ANSWERS: 14. boulder, 15. intrepid, 16. carbonate, 17. contaminate, 18. intrepid, 19. undiscovered, 20. mammoth, 21. carbonate, 22. mushroom, 23. medicinal, 24. mushroom, 25. skew

26. l__a flow *n.* molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material
27. woolly ma_____h *adj.* exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene
28. up___t my spirit *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
29. as_____ut mission *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
30. sup_____ent cycle *n.* a large landmass that is formed by the collision and merging of several smaller continents and which then eventually breaks apart again due to tectonic forces
31. suffer from ve_____o *n.* a feeling of dizziness or disorientation often caused by a disturbance in the inner ear; a sensation or feeling of being unsteady or losing one's balance
32. the ab__s of time *n.* a deep, dark, or seemingly bottomless chasm or void
33. American Ne__o *n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
34. une_____ed ideas *adj.* not yet examined, investigated, or studied; lacking in knowledge or information; unknown or undiscovered

ANSWERS: 26. lava, 27. mammoth, 28. uplift, 29. astronaut, 30. supercontinent, 31. vertigo, 32. abyss, 33. Negro, 34. unexplored

35. natural qu_____te *n.* a hard and compact metamorphic rock composed primarily of quartz, often used in construction and decorative applications
36. di_____ur fossil *n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
37. durable qu_____te *n.* a hard and compact metamorphic rock composed primarily of quartz, often used in construction and decorative applications
38. water co_____t *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
39. officially di_____ved the marriage *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
40. di_____t sleep *v.* to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance
41. experimental min_____gy *n.* the scientific study of minerals, naturally occurring inorganic substances with homogeneous chemical composition and ordered internal structure that focuses on the identification, characterization, and classification of minerals

ANSWERS: 35. quartzite, 36. dinosaur, 37. quartzite, 38. conduit, 39. dissolve, 40. disrupt, 41. mineralogy

42. geological li_____gy *n.* the study of the physical and chemical properties of rocks and geological formations
43. scenic wa_____ll *n.* a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock
44. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
45. up____t mountains *n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
46. gl_____rs move tardily *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
47. limestone ka__t *n.* a landscape or terrain characterized by underground drainage systems, sinkholes, caves, and the dissolution of limestone or other soluble rocks, which regions often have unique hydrological features due to the dissolution of rock layers
48. molten l__a *n.* molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material
49. si____a fiber *n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler

ANSWERS: 42. lithology, 43. waterfall, 44. medicinal, 45. uplift, 46. glacier, 47. karst, 48. lava, 49. silica

50. lava sta_____te *n.* a tapering, elongated mineral deposit that hangs from the roof of a cave, formed by the accumulation of mineral-rich water dripping from the ceiling
51. min_____gy research *n.* the scientific study of minerals, naturally occurring inorganic substances with homogeneous chemical composition and ordered internal structure that focuses on the identification, characterization, and classification of minerals
52. en_____t the crowd *v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
53. con_____te with a disease *v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
54. inf_____te the bloodstream *v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
55. an op_____ne remark *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
56. sheer li_____ne cliffs *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
57. paleo-li_____gy *n.* the study of the physical and chemical properties of rocks and geological formations

ANSWERS: 50. stalactite, 51. mineralogy, 52. enchant, 53. contaminate, 54. infiltrate, 55. opportune, 56. limestone, 57. lithology

58. pl____u region *n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
59. sup_____ent formation *n.* a large landmass that is formed by the collision and merging of several smaller continents and which then eventually breaks apart again due to tectonic forces
60. und_____red territory *adj.* not yet found or known
61. ancient str_____ite *n.* a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution
62. una_____ted effort *adj.* not adequately valued or acknowledged
63. gl____r retreat *n.* a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole
64. in an imp_____le position *adj.* impossible to enter, capture, or defeat; difficult to argue against or resist
65. an una_____ted genius *adj.* not adequately valued or acknowledged
66. une_____ed cave *adj.* not yet examined, investigated, or studied; lacking in knowledge or information; unknown or undiscovered

ANSWERS: 58. plateau, 59. supercontinent, 60. undiscovered, 61. stromatolite, 62. unappreciated, 63. glacier, 64. impregnable, 65. unappreciated, 66. unexplored

67. s__w social values *v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
68. lo____d swamp *n.* low-lying country or region
69. an ab__s of hopelessness *n.* a deep, dark, or seemingly bottomless chasm or void
70. pathogenic mi____e *n.* a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease
71. op_____ne occasion *adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
72. sp____n exploration *adj.* relating to or characteristic of caves or their exploration, typically used in the context of spelunking or cave exploration
73. electrical co____t *n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
74. imp_____le self-confidence *adj.* impossible to enter, capture, or defeat; difficult to argue against or resist
75. en____t the audience *v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
76. a wa_____ll with a fall of ten feet *n.* a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock

ANSWERS: 67. skew, 68. lowland, 69. abyss, 70. microbe, 71. opportune, 72. spelean, 73. conduit, 74. impregnable, 75. enchant, 76. waterfall

77. bo____r field *n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
78. as____ut in training *n.* a person trained by a space agency to travel outside the Earth's atmosphere
79. the pa____x of the heap *n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;
80. di____ve the sugar *v.* to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss
81. li____ne pavement *n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
82. sp____n cave system *adj.* relating to or characteristic of caves or their exploration, typically used in the context of spelunking or cave exploration
83. dripping sta____te *n.* a tapering, elongated mineral deposit that hangs from the roof of a cave, formed by the accumulation of mineral-rich water dripping from the ceiling
84. fo____ss wall *n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
85. lo____d crop *n.* low-lying country or region

ANSWERS: 77. boulder, 78. astronaut, 79. paradox, 80. dissolve, 81. limestone, 82. spelean, 83. stalactite, 84. fortress, 85. lowland

86. hulking di____ur

n. a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin

ANSWERS: 86. dinosaur

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The production of glass requires high-purity _____ sand.
 - n.* a hard, brittle mineral that occurs as silicon dioxide in various forms such as quartz, opal, or flint, commonly used in various industrial applications, such as as an abrasive or filler
2. The volcano's eruption caused a _____ river to flow down the mountainside.
 - n.* molten rock that has been extruded from a volcano and solidified; a highly fluid, highly heated substance or material
3. The _____ formations in the cave were truly breathtaking.
 - n.* a tapering, elongated mineral deposit that hangs from the roof of a cave, formed by the accumulation of mineral-rich water dripping from the ceiling
4. The phone rang at the most _____ time.
 - adj.* suitable or happening at a time that is suitable or convenient for a particular purpose
5. Through a process known as plate tectonics, _____ have formed and broken apart multiple times over Earth's history.
 - n.* a large landmass that is formed by the collision and merging of several smaller continents and which then eventually breaks apart again due to tectonic forces
6. The discovery of a new _____ species made headlines in the scientific community.
 - n.* a large extinct reptile, often with an armored back, long neck, tail, and bony plates on the skin
7. The hiking trail led through a beautiful valley of _____ formations.
 - n.* a hard and compact metamorphic rock composed primarily of quartz, often used in construction and decorative applications

ANSWERS: 1. silica, 2. lava, 3. stalactite, 4. opportune, 5. supercontinents, 6. dinosaur, 7. quartzite

8. The _____ between the two buildings carried water and electricity.
- n.* a channel, pipe, or tube that is used to direct the flow of fluids or other material from one place to another; figuratively, a means of communication or channel for transmitting information, ideas, or concepts
9. The sudden drop on the rollercoaster gave me a wave of _____.
- n.* a feeling of dizziness or disorientation often caused by a disturbance in the inner ear; a sensation or feeling of being unsteady or losing one's balance
10. The ancient _____ was built on a hill to give the defenders a strategic advantage.
- n.* a large and strongly built structure, typically with high walls and a moat, used as a military defense or for protection against attackers
11. Years of river erosion have formed the uniquely shaped _____ basin.
- n.* a point in a river or stream where water falls from a high place, for example, over a cliff or rock
12. The _____ in the stock market has been a relief to investors.
- n.* the process of raising land to a higher elevation, or the result of this process; (verb) fill with high spirits
13. The minister decided to review its _____ public works projects.
- adj.* exceedingly large or extensive; (noun) any of numerous extinct elephants widely distributed in the Pleistocene
14. There are many theories to explain this _____.
- n.* a statement, situation, or person that has two opposite facts or features and therefore seems impossible, is difficult to understand, or is strange;

ANSWERS: 8. conduit, 9. vertigo, 10. fortress, 11. waterfall, 12. uplift, 13. mammoth, 14. paradox

15. His argument was so well-reasoned that it seemed almost _____.

adj. impossible to enter, capture, or defeat; difficult to argue against or resist

16. 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

17. The deep sea is an _____ of mystery and discovery.

n. a deep, dark, or seemingly bottomless chasm or void

18. I'm so sorry to _____ you when you're pretty busy.

v. to prevent or stop something, especially an event, activity, or process, from continuing in the usual way by causing a problem or disturbance

19. The _____ landscape in the region was stunning, with its limestone caves and sinkholes.

n. a landscape or terrain characterized by underground drainage systems, sinkholes, caves, and the dissolution of limestone or other soluble rocks, which regions often have unique hydrological features due to the dissolution of rock layers

20. The _____ of the ice age have shaped Fjord.

n. a slowly moving mass of ice formed from snow on mountains or near the North Pole or the South Pole

21. Much of our territory is located in the _____.

n. low-lying country or region

22. There were still _____ pioneers who planned to start their businesses

adj. courageous and not afraid of danger or difficulties

ANSWERS: 15. impregnable, 16. astronaut, 17. abyss, 18. disrupt, 19. karst, 20. glaciers, 21. lowland, 22. intrepid

23. The hikers finally reached the _____ after a long climb up the mountain.
- n.* an elevated, relatively level expanse of land, typically vast and extending over a large area; a state or period of little or no change following a period of growth, development, or progress
24. He spent hours every day _____ figures out of clay.
- v.* to create a work of art by carving, casting, or other shaping techniques
25. The hikers had to climb over a _____ that was blocking their path.
- n.* a large, smooth rock, typically one that has been worn away from a cliff or mountain by erosion
26. The results of the poll are _____ because it only surveyed a small group of people.
- v.* to turn or place at an angle; to make biased or distorted with the result that it is not accurate, fair, normal, etc.
27. The rock's _____ suggests it was formed under high pressure and temperature.
- n.* the study of the physical and chemical properties of rocks and geological formations
28. The _____ adventurer explored deep into the dark cave systems.
- adj.* relating to or characteristic of caves or their exploration, typically used in the context of spelunking or cave exploration
29. The fairy's spell _____ the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.
- v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
30. The explosive chemical reaction does not occur in all sodium _____.
- n.* a carbonic acid salt or ester that contains the anion CO₃

ANSWERS: 23. plateau, 24. sculpting, 25. boulder, 26. skewed, 27. lithology, 28. spelean, 29. enchanted, 30. carbonate

31. The jungle is full of _____ species waiting to be found.

adj. not yet found or known

32. The _____ risotto was delicious, but I couldn't identify all the mushrooms in it.

n. a type of fungus that grows on dead or decaying organic matter and typically has a stalk and an umbrella-shaped cap

33. She felt _____ for all the hard work she had put in.

adj. not adequately valued or acknowledged

34. The _____ fossils provide important clues about the early evolution of life on Earth.

n. a type of fossilized microbial mat formed by the growth and mineralization of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms, typically found in ancient sedimentary rocks and of great significance to the study of the Earth's early history and evolution

35. _____ thrive on the surface of the human skin.

n. a tiny living thing that can only be seen with a microscope and that may cause disease

36. His interest in the _____ of gemstones led him to become a well-respected gemologist.

n. the scientific study of minerals, naturally occurring inorganic substances with homogeneous chemical composition and ordered internal structure that focuses on the identification, characterization, and classification of minerals

37. The political party _____ after much internal fighting.

v. to be or cause to be absorbed by a liquid to form a part of the solution; to close down or dismiss

ANSWERS: 31. undiscovered, 32. mushroom, 33. unappreciated, 34. stromatolite, 35. Microbes, 36. mineralogy, 37. dissolved

38. The spy was able to _____ the enemy's headquarters undetected.
- v.* to enter or penetrate a group, organization, or place covertly or secretly, usually with a specific purpose or goal in mind; to spread or diffuse through something gradually or subtly
39. We strive not to _____ the environment when demolishing petroleum plants.
- v.* to make something impure, unclean, or poisonous by contact or mixture
40. They developed _____ blues with a lively rhythm.
- n.* ("Negro" is now considered out of date and offensive) a term that was once used to refer to people of African descent, especially those living in the United States
41. There are many _____ regions of the ocean that scientists hope to study soon.
- adj.* not yet examined, investigated, or studied; lacking in knowledge or information; unknown or undiscovered
42. The Great Pyramid of Giza was built using blocks of _____.
- n.* a sedimentary rock that is composed mainly of calcium carbonate, which is the mineral calcite
43. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

ANSWERS: 38. infiltrate, 39. contaminate, 40. Negro, 41. unexplored, 42. limestone, 43. medicinal