

THE STORY OF THE THIRTEEN COLONIES & THE GREAT REPUBLIC DICTIONARY

A

acquit- to release from criminal charges; to clear

adobe- sun-dried bricks

adrift- floating without being anchored to anything

affable- easy to talk to; warm and friendly

apprentice- one who works and learns under the tutelage of another to master a trade or skill

ardor- strong feeling of love or eagerness

assail- to attack violently

B

barren- not capable of sustaining life

barter- to trade

bereft- without; deprived of

bitter- hostile; angry

boast- to speak with excessive pride

booty- treasure or goods gathered from piratical activities

brethren- close acquaintances

bribe(v.)- to persuade or induce someone to do something by giving them money or something of value

burgess- a representative of a borough (county)

C

caravan- a group of travelers, usually in covered vehicles, journeying together in safety

cascade- small; steep waterfall; usually part of a series of waterfalls

cease- to come to an end; to stop

census- the official count of a population

citadel- fortress; stronghold

clad- clothed

clamor- to loudly demand

coalition- a group joined for a common purpose

commerce- the exchange of goods and materials, usually for money, especially on a large scale

commonwealth- government where power rests in the hands of the common people

condemn- to sentence

consecrate- dedicate to a sacred purpose

consent- approval; permission

contempt- lack of respect; disdain

content- in want of nothing

contrive- to bring about by a clever plan

courteous- polite; showing respect

courtier- a person who attends the court of a king or queen

covet- to want for oneself

cower- to crouch in fear

cultivate- to prepare land for growing crops

D

dazzling- brilliantly shining

debtor- one who owes money

defiant- boldly refusing to obey

delegate (n.)- an appointed representative

demarcation- a boundary line

descent- kinship; heredity connection

desert (v.)- abandon; leave the service of

diligent- marked by persevering, steady effort

dint- power

discontent- dissatisfied

dismay- discouragement; disappointment

dispatch (n.) - an official message

disperse- to scatter; to leave

divert- to change the course of someone or something

duplicate- extra

duties- fees

E

effigy- a representation of a person (picture, statue, etc)

eloquent- persuasive, fluent, forceful speech (Lesson 11); having the ability to speak clearly, forceful, effectively (Lesson 22)

embargo- government prohibition on trade or commerce

emblem- an object that is the symbol of an idea or entity

emigrant- a person who leaves his home to live somewhere else

enfranchise- to give someone the right to vote

envoy- a government representative sent to deal with a foreign government

epaulet- ornamental marks of military rank worn on a uniform

epoch- a particular period of time

excursion- a short trip

exhibition- presentation; show for the public

extravagant- more than usual; excessive

F

famine- widespread scarcity of food

fatigue- physical or emotional exhaustion

fertile- able to produce great quantities of crops

fickle- subject to change without warning; not constant

folly- foolishness or unwisdom

foretold- predicted something before it happens; imagined

forsaken- abandoned; left

fray- noisy fight; skirmish

freight- transported goods

frigate- a small, fast military ship

frontier- border; boundary

G

gallant- brave; noble; grand; courageous, courteous

galling- irritating

gauntlet- a difficult trial; an attack from all sides

genial- friendly

greenback- a note of U.S. paper currency

grievance- a complaint against an unjust situation

H

hallow- make holy; set apart

hasten- to hurry

havoc- confusion and destruction

hedged- confined; surrounded by barriers

hinder- to make difficult; to delay

hindrance- something that makes it difficult to accomplish a goal

hoist- to raise ; to lift up into position

I

idle- inactive; not participating; without purpose

illustrious- famous; well known and highly regarded

imitate- to copy in a manner

impose- to force

imprudent- rash; not acting with discretion

inauguration- a formal ceremony marking the beginning of a political office

inclined- willing; eager

indignant- angry because of unjust or unfair actions

inhabitant- a resident; a person who lives in a place

intolerable- unbearable; something which cannot be allowed

irrigate- to water by artificial means, as by diverting water sources

isthmus- a narrow strip of land bordered on two sides by water

J

jest- a playful mood or manor

jury- a committee chosen to judge a court trial

K

keenly- clearly; surely; sharply

L

laden- heavily loaded; burdened

lash- to bind together

lavish- to give in large amounts

league- association; partnership

leisure- free time without demands or duties

linger- to remain in a place longer than expected

M

mast- a pillar rising from a ship to support sails

malaria- a disease spread by mosquitoes who breed in damp areas

mete- to distribute; to administer

mint- the place where money is produced under authority of the state

monarch- the ruler of a country or nation, a position that is usually hereditary

mortify- to shame; to cause embarrassment

munitions- military supplies

mutiny- to revolt against authority

N

navigator- one who steers or directs a vehicle or voyage

O

obliged- required; forced

P

palisade- a fence of wooden stakes stuck in the ground to form a defense

patent- an exclusive claim to the rights of property, especially a new invention

peal- a sustained ringing of bells

perish- to die

personify- to give human characteristics to an inanimate object or idea

petition- a formal request

pilgrimage- a religious or holy journey; a long journey

pinnacle- highest point; most important point

plunder- to take goods from others by force

posterity- future generations

postpone- to delay; to put off doing something until a later time

preserve- to protect; to keep intact

principal- most important

privateer- a privately owned armed ship that is commissioned by the government

prolong- to lengthen or extend

proposition- idea

proprietor- owner; landlord; person with exclusive rights

provisions- supply or stock of necessary materials

proviso- a condition that must be accepted in order for something to happen

pyrite- "fool's gold"; a mineral similar in appearance to gold, but without significant value

Q

quarter- lodgings and food

R

rampart- a raised earthen barrier

reinstate- to restore; to put back

relic- an object from the past

remnant- the small part that remains; a fragment or scrap

renew- to begin again; to resume

repeal- to officially withdraw or revoke

reprove- to gently criticize or correct

resent- to be upset about an event or circumstance you think is unfair

resolution- a formal or official decision or position taken by an individual or group

retreat- to leave a battle and withdraw to safety

revise- to alter in an attempt to improve

rival- an opponent; a person trying to achieve the same goal as another

rouse- to awaken; to stir

rude- rough; basic

rue- to wish that something had not happened

S

sage- a wise person

scanty- barely sufficient; small amount

scornfully- with disdain; with contempt; with disgust

sedition- an act of rebellion against a government

seize- to take control of

sentinel- lookout; watchman

slain- killed

slumber- sleep; rest

smuggle- to import or export goods in violation of the law

solemnly- in a serious or earnest tone

sovereign- the supreme ruler of a country or nation

sparsely- in a thinly spread manner

spectator- (Latin: specto; I see) an observer, a person who watches an event

steed- horse

surrender- to give up power or possessions to another person or power

surveyor- one who inspects land or property for a value

T

tact- skill in dealing with difficult or awkward situations

tactful- careful not to offend or upset; capable of dealing with people appropriately

tamely- in a subdued manner; without resistance

tedious- monotonous; long and tiresome

thrifty- prosperous; successful; growing

thrive- to prosper; to develop quickly

timber- trees cut down to use as wood for building

traitor- a person who betrays his or her country

tramp- to walk steadily; with purpose(Chapter 16); to walk heavily, usually over a long distance (Chapter 26)

tranquility- the state of peacefulness or calmness

treacherous- unsafe because of unknown dangers

trifling- of little importance

trust- guardianship

turpentine- oil made from pine trees

tyranny- oppressive or unjust rule

tyrant- an absolute ruler

U

unassuming- meek; modest

uncultivated- wild; not used for agriculture

unfurl- to unfold

ungainly- awkwardly; not gracefully

unjust- unfair; lacking in justice

V

vainly- without success

valor- courage and boldness in battle; bravery in the face of great danger

venture- to go on a journey into the unknown or uncertain

vessel- a ship; means of transportation

vexed- unresolved or much debated

vigilance- watchfulness; cautiousness

vigorously- forcefully and energetically

W

weary- causing impatience; tedious

welfare- emotional and physical care

whittle- to shape a piece of wood with a knife

wigwam- tent-like shelter used by some Native Americans

X

Y

Z