Frameworks Glossary

General Terms

2016-17

New York State Alternate Assessment
for Science and Social Studies

General Terms Glossary

Term	Definition
Analyze	To study or examine something in detail in order to understand or explain it; to highlight useful information, suggest conclusions, and support decisions.
Chart	A tool for providing graphical, tabular, or diagrammatical information; generally, it contains data displayed in a visual representation. It is often also called a graph. See *Graph* or *Table*. Examples: a pie chart, a column chart, a bar chart, a line chart
Collage	A grouping of words, pictures, symbols, etc., displayed without necessarily having a set pattern or organization.
Collect	To gather information by using surveys, observations, etc.
Compare	To note the similarity or dissimilarity between.
Compose	To communicate ideas, choices, or information by writing or creating original material, possibly by voice, by organizing or shaping information or ideas and/or by using objects, visual language (selecting pictures, symbols, etc., to convey information), sign language (American Sign Language (ASL) or other gestural communication system), stamping, and any communication aids (e.g., a voice synthesizer or speech-generating device that has audible speech output, from single switch through computer-based options to communicate ideas, choices, or information.
Contrast	To indicate differences. To compare in order to show unlikeliness or differences.
Create	All words that can refer to the act of writing and include the creation of original material, possibly by voice; by organizing or shaping information or ideas; and/or by using objects, visual language (selecting pictures, symbols, etc., to convey information), sign language (American Sign Language (ASL) or other gestural communication system), stamping, and any communication aids such as a voice synthesizer or speech-generating device that has audible speech output, from single switch through computer-based options, to communicate ideas, choices, or information.
Data	Information that has been collected, such as from a survey. For further information, see Qualitative Data or Quantitative Data.
Describe	To tell or depict in spoken words, written words, or by using other modes of communication.
Graph	A representation, diagram, or drawing used to represent/record information as a result of a specific scientific investigation.

Term	Definition
Outline	A type of graphic scheme of the organization of a paper or a hierarchical way to display related items of text to graphically depict their relationships. It indicates the main arguments for the thesis as well as the subtopics under each main point. Outlines range from an informal use of indenting and graphics (such as —, *, +) to a formal use of Roman numerals and letters. Regardless of the degree of formality, the function of an outline is to help the writer consider the most effective way to say what the writer wants to say. Many writers use outlines to help themselves think through the various stages of the writing process. Outlines are often used by students for research papers. Outlines provide a summary showing the logical flow of a paper. They are useful because they help the writer 1. organize his/her thoughts before getting bogged down in word choice and sentence structure; 2. show which ideas need illustration or elaboration; and 3. to choose an organizational technique for the writing, whether it be logical, chronological, or categorical in nature.
Paragraph	One or more sentences that develop a complete thought. A caption can be considered a paragraph.
Phrase	A brief or concise expression; may be a single word.
Picture	A design or representation made by various means (e.g., painting, drawing, photography, illustrations, symbols).
Predict (make a prediction)	To declare or indicate in advance of an occurrence, especially to foretell on the basis of observation, details from a story, personal experience, or scientific reason.
Qualitative data	Qualitative data is information about qualities; information that cannot actually be measured. Data divided into categories rather than quantities. Examples: favorite colors, kinds of fruit, leisure activities
Quantitative data	Quantitative data expresses a certain quantity, amount or range. Data that can be either counted (discrete data) or measured (continuous data). Examples of discrete data: students in a class, courses taken, jellybeans in a jar Examples of continuous data: height, amount of rainfall, temperature. Note that some data that appear in numerical form may not be quantitative. Examples: zip code, social security number, shoe size
Research	Studious inquiry or examination.
Sample	As a noun, a section or subset of a whole group; as a verb, to get data from part of a group and use that data to obtain information about the whole group.
Simple sentence	A sentence having only one clause, such as, “I saw her”.
Summarize	To express the main points of one or several resources, including readings, research findings, events, the writer’s own ideas, etc.
Table	An orderly arrangement of data, especially one in which the data are arranged in columns and rows in an essentially rectangular form.

Term	Definition
Texts (written phrases, sentences, paragraphs, pictures, symbols, illustrations; can be digitally available)	Generally, words that are written, printed, or spoken; here, words can be conveyed through pictures, symbols, signing, etc., or through a combination of forms. Can be teacher created; for example, classroom books about students. The definition of texts from the National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) publication is “printed communication in their varied forms; oral communications, including conversations, speeches, etc., and visual communications such as film, video, and computer displays.”
Write	See Compose.

Science Glossary

Term	Definition
Adaptation	The development of physical and/or behavioral characteristics that allows organisms to survive and reproduce in their habitats.
Anemometer	An instrument that measures wind speed.
Animal	A multicellular organism of the kingdom Animalia, differing from plants in certain typical characteristics, such as capacity for locomotion, nonphotosynthetic metabolism, pronounced response to stimuli, restricted growth, and fixed bodily structure. Humans are part of this kingdom.
Assimilation	The process by which an organism absorbs and utilizes a substance in its structure. Example: Calcium is assimilated into teeth to make them strong
Atmosphere	Several layers of gases above the hydrosphere (water) and lithosphere (land) surrounding Earth.
Atom(s)	The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element, consisting of a nucleus containing combinations of neutrons and protons and one or more electrons bound to the nucleus by electrical attraction; the number of protons determines the identity of the element.
Barometer	An instrument that measures air (barometric) pressure.
Cause and effect	A relationship between two variables in which one variable (the effect) results from the other variable (the cause).
Cells	The basic building block for all organisms. At the minimum, cells contain a cell membrane, cytoplasm and genetic material (DNA).
Chemical change	Describes the transformation of substance(s) into a new substance(s) with different properties. In contrast to physical changes, after a chemical change takes place the original substance(s) is no longer present. Examples: burning wood, rusting iron, cooking an egg, combining baking soda and vinegar, food spoiling, composting.
Climate	The average weather conditions (temperature, air pressure, relative humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness, and winds) of a region over a series of years.
Convection currents	Directed flow of gases or liquids in a circular pattern due to differences in temperature and density.
Cyclic relationship	An interaction between variables that shows a predictable, repeating pattern Examples: The Moon goes through phases that repeat on a monthly basis; the tides rise and fall every six hours.
Deforestation	The action or process of cutting down whole forests.
Density	The amount of matter (mass) per unit volume of a substance defined by the formula density = mass/volume. Density of a substance can be increased by decreasing volume while holding mass constant (analogy: compressing a piece of Styrofoam; crushing a marshmallow) or by increasing mass while holding volume constant (compressing gas into liquid form so that more of it can fit within a spray can; analogy: packing more items into a suitcase)

Term	Definition
Dependent variable (or responding variable)	In an experimental design, a factor that may change under different conditions controlled by the experimenter (the independent variable). In other words, the dependent variable is dependent on, or the result of, the condition of the independent variable in the experiment. In an experimental design, the factor(s) that change as a result of the changes made by the investigator to the independent variable. Example: When an investigator increases the number of batteries in a circuit, a lamp becomes brighter. In this case the number of batteries is the independent variable and brightness is the dependent variable.
Deposition	A process in which eroded material is dropped and accumulates in another location.
Digestion	The process by which food is broken up physically (as by the action of the teeth), and/or chemically (as by the action of enzymes) into substances able to be absorbed and assimilated into the body.
Direct relationship	The relationship between two variables in which both variables increase or decrease at the same rate. Examples: As the angle of incoming solar radiation increases, the temperature increases; as the amount of sand in a bucket decreases, the mass of the sand decreases.
Ecosystem	All of the communities of living organisms, together with their non-living environment, functioning as a unit.
Egestion	Discharge of undigested waste materials from the body (e.g., feces). (Note: different from excretion: removal of waste products from the body.)
Equilibrium	*Living Environment*: A state of balance due to a system remaining constant or the equal action of opposing forces acting on a system. Examples: • static equilibrium—the amount of enzymes in the stomach between meals • dynamic equilibrium—muscles pulling in opposite directions allowing an organism to stand *Physical Setting/Earth Science*: A state of balance due to a system remaining constant or the equal action of opposing forces acting on a system at the same rate. Examples: • static equilibrium—the amount of water in a swimming pool remaining constant because no water is added or removed • dynamic equilibrium—the amount of water in a lake remaining constant because the amount of water entering the lake from a stream equals the amount of water leaving the lake by another stream
Erosion	The movement of weathered rock and soil to a new location.
Evaporation	The process by which liquid water becomes gaseous water (vapor).
Event	Something that happens or occurs in a certain place during a particular time frame.

Term	Definition
External heat source	A source outside Earth from which Earth obtains energy that may be converted to heat (not including its own internal heat source). Example: Earth receives light from the Sun, which is absorbed by the surface of Earth. Earth then reradiates the energy in the form of heat, which is trapped by the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (greenhouse effect). Note: Earth DOES NOT receive heat from the Sun. If it did, outer space would be very warm, not cold.
Gas	A substance that has neither a determined shape nor definite volume. (Gases assume the shape and volume of a closed container.)
Greenhouse effect	Earth receives light from the sun, which is absorbed by the surface of Earth. Earth then reradiates the energy in the form of heat, which is trapped by the greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, i.e., CFCs) in the atmosphere. This keeps Earth warm. Note: Earth DOES NOT receive heat from the sun. If it did, outer space would be very warm, not cold.
Hardness	Measures the resistance of a mineral to scratching. It is defined by the Mohs scale, which ranges from 1 being the softest mineral (talc) to 10 being the hardest mineral (diamond).
Homeostasis	The maintaining of a steady state within an organism. Example: The human body maintains its body temperature at around 98.6°F. If the body temperature rises above this temperature, the body will sweat to reduce the temperature. If the body temperature falls below this temperature, the body will shiver and increase heat production.
Human	Kingdom: Animalia→ Phylum: Chordata→ Class: Mammalia→ Order: Primates→ Genus: *Homo*→ Species: *Homo sapiens*
Hydrosphere	A thin layer of water on top of the lithosphere (land); composed of all of the water on Earth's surface, including oceans, lakes, rivers, ponds.
Indirect relationship	The relationship between two variables in which one variable increases as the other variable decreases. Example: As the pore space in the soil increases, the amount of runoff decreases.
Interdependence	Factors within a system that rely on each other. Example: In some ecosystems, plants and bees are interdependent. Plants provide food for bees and rely on bees for pollination.
Internal heat source	System within Earth from which it obtains heat. Example: geothermal activity
Investigation	A searching inquiry to discover something unknown or to test a principle or supposition. Traditionally, the scientific experiment used to test a hypothesis. Typically, scientific inquiry is a cycle that includes (but is not limited to): asking a question, constructing a hypothesis, planning the investigation, conducting research, analyzing results, and drawing conclusions from results.
Instrument	Scientific equipment used to enhance (or make better) observations. Examples: meterstick, graduated cylinder, microscope

Term	Definition
Liquid	A substance that has a definite volume but takes the shape of the container in which it is placed. (Liquids assume the shape but not the volume of a closed container.)
Lithosphere	A thin layer of rock that composes the crust of Earth.
Living thing	Anything that possesses all of the characteristics of life: has cells, utilizes/needs energy, grows/develops, reproduces, has DNA (genetic code/heredity), responds to stimuli/environment, and maintains homeostasis.
Mass	The amount of matter within a given body. A calibrated scale, two-arm balance, or triple-balance beam is often used to measure mass.
Materials needed for experimentation **(Compare *Scientific tool*)**	Objects needed (other than scientific tools) to perform an investigation. Examples: water, salt
Matter	Anything that has mass and takes up space (has volume). Examples of adjectives/characteristics used to describe matter: hard/soft, mass/volume, odor, density, shape, color
Measurement	Observations that are made with instruments and that are usually based on numerical data. Example: The table is 3 meters long.
Nonliving thing	Anything that does not (or never did) exhibit all of the characteristics of living things as described in “Living Things.”
Object	Anything that is visible or tangible.
Observation	Any interaction between one or more human senses and an object or the environment; something that can be seen, heard, felt, tasted, and/or smelled.
One-celled organism	A living thing made up of only one cell. It carries out all of the characteristics of the life functions using only its one cell. Examples: bacteria, yeast, and protists.
Organ(s)	A group of tissues arranged as a part of an organism that performs a specific function or group of functions. Some major animal organs are the heart, lungs, brain, eye, stomach, spleen, bones, pancreas, thyroid, kidneys, liver, intestines, skin (the largest human organ), uterus, and bladder. Plant organs include vegetative organs—roots, stems, and leaves—and reproductive organs—flower, seed, and fruit.

Term	Definition
Organ system(s) **(group of organs that work together)**	A group of organs that work together to perform a set of related functions. There are multiple human organ systems, each with two or more different organs that work together. Examples: • Digestive system: breaks down and absorbs nutrients and excretes waste; includes, but is not limited to, mouth, esophagus, stomach, and small and large intestines. • Skeletal system: provides support and allows movement, produces lymphocytes, and protects internal organs; includes bones, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments. • Muscular system: provides support and allows movement, and produces heat; includes skeletal muscles and smooth muscles throughout the body. • Nervous and endocrine systems: provide integration and coordination through electrochemical signals (nervous) and hormones (endocrine); includes, but is not limited to, brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves, and various glands, such as the hypothalamus, pituitary, thyroid, pancreas, and adrenal glands. • Respiratory system: provides gas exchange between blood and the environment by eliminating carbon dioxide and absorbing oxygen; includes, but is not limited, to mouth, nose, throat, trachea, and lungs. • Circulatory/Cardiovascular system: transports needed materials to the cells and transports waste away from the cells; includes heart and blood vessels (arteries, capillaries, veins). • Reproductive system: manufactures cells that allow reproduction; in females, it includes, but is not limited to, ovaries, oviducts, uterus, vagina and mammary glands and in males, it includes the testes, seminal vesicles, and penis. • Integumentary system: protects the body from infection and keeps the body from losing water; includes human skin cells. • Lymphatic system: regulates fluids and immunity by destroying and removing invading microbes and viruses from the body and removing fat and excess fluids from the blood; includes lymph, lymph nodes and vessels, white blood cells, and T- and B- cells. • Excretory/urinary system: filters out cellular wastes, toxins, and excess water or nutrients from the circulatory system and maintains homeostasis of electrolytes; includes, but is not limited to, kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra.
Organism	A living thing that possesses the characteristics of life. Examples: plant, mammal, bird, insect, reptile, fish, crustacean, aquatic or estuarine animal, or bacterium
Phases Of matter	Matter can exist in three phases (solid, liquid, and gas) that are determined by the temperature or average kinetic energy (relative movement) of the molecules within the substance. The faster and freer the particle movement, the more likely the substance will be gaseous. As particle movement (temperature) changes, a substance can move from phase to phase and back again.

Term	Definition
Physical change	A change of matter from one form to another without a change in chemical properties. The material itself is the same before and after the change. Examples: water becoming ice, a boulder breaking into pebbles, condensation, adding water to dirt, grinding a sugar cube, cutting a piece of cloth.
Planet(s)	Any of the eight large celestial bodies revolving about the Sun—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune (in order from the Sun).
Population	All the individuals of one species living in a given ecosystem. Example: all of the oak trees in a forest, all of the carp in a lake.
Psychrometer	An instrument used to measure relative humidity, which consists of a wet bulb thermometer and a dry bulb thermometer that usually spin around on a chain. The readings from the two thermometers are plotted on a chart to determine the relative humidity.
Qualitative results	Data from an experiment or investigation that are based on non-numerical observations. Example: The solution turns blue.
Quantitative results	Data from an experiment or investigation that are based on numerical observations. Example: The temperature rose to 13°C.
Respiration	There are two forms of respiration. • Mechanical respiration is the inhalation and exhalation of air; breathing. • Cellular respiration is the chemical change of glucose and oxygen into carbon dioxide and water, releasing energy during the process.
Scientific investigation	A method of research in which a problem is identified, relevant data are gathered, a hypothesis is formulated from these data, and the hypothesis is empirically tested.
Specific Scientific Investigation	See Above. A scientific investigation that has a clearly defined hypothesis, process, or result.
Scientific tool **(Compare *Materials needed for experimentation*)**	Instrument used specifically to make a better observation, usually with numbers. Examples: thermometer, ruler, beaker

Term	Definition
Senses	In general, there are five senses: sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing. Each of the five senses consists of organs with specialized cells that have receptors for specific stimuli. • Sight (see/vision): The eye is the organ of vision; it interprets information and surroundings from the effects of visible light reaching the eye. • Hearing (hear/audition): The ear is the organ of hearing; it perceives sound by detecting vibrations. • Taste (gustation): The receptors for taste, called taste buds, are situated chiefly in the tongue, but they are also located in the roof of the mouth and near the pharynx; they detect the flavor of substances such as food, certain minerals, and poisons. • Smell (olfaction): The nose is the organ responsible for the sense of smell; many vertebrates, including most mammals and reptiles, have two distinct olfactory systems—the main olfactory system and the accessory olfactory system (mainly used to detect pheromones). • Touch (tactition): The sense of touch is distributed throughout the body; the impression of touch is formed from several modalities. Four kinds of touch sensations that can be identified are cold, heat, contact, and pain. In addition to sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing, humans also have awareness of balance (equilibrioception), pressure, temperature (thermoception), pain (nociception), and motion, all of which may involve the coordinated use of multiple sensory organs.
Simple trends	Patterns or relationships that data show in an investigation, generally occurring over time. Examples: constant, cyclic, direct, indirect, inverse
Solid	A substance that has a definite shape and volume. (Solids do not assume the shape or volume of a closed container.)
Species	Organisms that can mate and produce reproductive offspring.
Thermometer	An instrument for measuring temperature; often a sealed glass tube that contains a column of liquid, usually an alcohol, that expands and contracts or rises and falls with temperature changes.
Tissue	A group of cells that function together as part of an organ. Example: The eye has corneal tissue and retinal tissue.
Volume	The amount of space occupied by a three-dimensional object as measured in units including cubic centimeters, quarts, or liters.
Waste removal (Urinary system & Digestive system)	The food that the body cannot digest is removed by the lower portion of the digestive system (the large intestine) by a process called egestion (See *Egestion)*. The cellular waste and excess nutrients that the body does not need are eliminated from the body by the urinary system in the form of urine e.g., excretion).
Weather conditions	The current state of the atmosphere with respect to wind, temperature, relative humidity, sunshine, cloudiness, precipitation, air pressure, etc.
Weathering	A slow and continuous process of breaking down rocks, chemically or mechanically, into smaller and smaller pieces.
Wind vane	A device, such as a rod, to which a freely rotating pointer is attached, for

Term	Definition
	indicating the direction of the wind; also called a weather vane.

Resources:

- http://www.nature.com/scitable
- http://www.sciencemaster.com/
- http://www.thefreedictionary.com/
- http://www.factmonster.com/index.html
- http://www.merriam-webster.com/
- http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/
- http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/
- The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Disclaimer: The New York State Education Department does not recommend specific texts or publishers. Other resources may be visited for definitions.

Social Studies Glossary

Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that the definition of the term is from the *New York State Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum.*

Term	Definition
Bill of Rights	The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1791.
Branches of government	Established in the United States Constitution to divide the power of government among the legislative, executive, and judicial bodies.
Checks and balances	A system in which each branch of government is able to check (restrain) the power of the others to maintain the balance among the branches created in the U.S. Constitution.
Canal	A man-made channel (waterway) that can be used to move water for irrigation, or a man-made channel used to connect waterways used for transportation.
Change*	Involves the basic alternatives in things, events, and ideas.
Choice*	The right or power to select from a range of alternatives.
Citizen	A member of a community or political society who has rights and responsibilities and is entitled to the society's protection.
Civilizations	Societies that have attained relatively advanced stages of social, political, and cultural development.
Civil Rights	Legal and political rights of all United States citizens guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
Climate	The average weather conditions of a region over a series of years.
Colony	A settlement of people in a distant territory that remains under the control or jurisdiction of a parent country, often established for economic and political reasons.
Community	A group of people living, working, or learning in the same area with a common set of interests or within a set of recognized boundaries.
Conflict*	A clash of ideas, interests, or wills that results from incompatible opposing forces.
Constitution	The system of fundamental laws that prescribes the nature, functions, and limits of a government or other institution; a framework for how a government or institution works; a written plan of government.
Constitutional democracy	A political system in which the principles of popular sovereignty and the protection of citizens' freedom coexist by limiting the arbitrary exercise of power and making those who hold power legally accountable.
Continent	One of Earth's seven large continuous landmasses.
County	A political unit, normally the largest territorial and political subdivision of a state.

Term	Definition
Country	An area of land controlled by its own government. A country may have diverse ethnic populations, economy, religions, or geography.
Cultural	Of or relating to the artistic and intellectual aspects of the human experience.
Culture*	The pattern of human behavior that includes ideas, beliefs, values, artifacts, and ways of making a living, which any society transmits to succeeding generations to meet its fundamental needs.
Democracy	A form of government in which political control is exercised by the citizens through elections.
Developed nation	A country that has a high per capita income, an economy dominated by service industries and manufacturing, primarily urban populations, and high literacy rates.
Developing nation	A country that typically is in the process of growth, often characterized by low rates of urbanization, industrialization, literacy, and capital formation, and has relatively high rates of infant mortality.
Development	The progress or growth of an event or idea from one stage to another.
Discrimination	Unfair treatment against individuals or a group based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or other attributes of the group.
Distribution	The deliverance of goods and services.
Economics	Of or related to the development, production, distribution, management, and consumption of material wealth.
Economic systems*	Include traditional, command, market, and mixed systems. Each must answer the three basic economic questions: What goods and services will be produced? How shall goods and services be produced? For whom shall goods and services be produced?
Economy	A system for the management of the resources and production of goods and services of a community, country, etc.
Election	Organized method through which citizens vote to choose representatives, influence policies, and determine public spending at the local, state, or national levels.
Emigrant (person) **(Emigration = process)** **(Compare *Immigrant*)**	A person who leaves his/her country to settle in a different country.
Ethnic group	People who share a common cultural background, including ancestry, language, religion, and/or distinct customs.
Evidence	The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.
Executive branch	The part of a government that implements and enforces the law written by Congress.

Term	Definition
Federal system (federalism)	The form of political organization in which power is divided between a central government and its territorial subdivisions; the division of power between the national government and the states.
Foreign	Things of or related to a country other than one's own.
Geography	The study of Earth, its land, water, plant and animal life, and how people interact with them. Essential elements of geography: ***The World in Spatial Terms***—A study of the relationships between people, places, and environments made by mapping information about them into a spatial context. ***Places and Regions***—The identities and lives of individuals and people are rooted in particular places and in those human constructs called regions. ***Physical Systems***—Physical processes shape Earth's surface and interact with plant and animal life to create, sustain, and modify ecosystems. ***Human Systems***—People are central to geography in that human activities help shape Earth's surface, human settlements and structures are part of Earth's surface, and humans compete for control of Earth's surface. ***Environment and Society***—The physical environment is modified by human activities, largely as a consequence of the ways in which human societies value and use Earth's natural resources. Human activities are also influenced by Earth's physical features and processes.
Global	Of, relating to, being in, or serving the whole world; worldwide; comprehensive.
Government*	The formal institutions and processes of a politically organized society with authority to make, enforce, and interpret laws and other binding rules about matters of common interest and concern. Government also refers to the group of people, acting in formal political institutions at national, state, and local levels, who exercise decision-making power or enforce laws and regulations. (Also from the Civics Framework for the 1998 National Assessment Educational Progress, NAEP Civics Consensus Project, The National Assessment Governing Board, United States Department of Education, p. 19.)
Group	A number of individuals, objects, or organizations collected, situated, or classified together.
History	The branch of knowledge concerned with the recording and/or explanation of past events.
Individual	A single person, objective, or organization.
Immigrant (person) **(Immigration = process)** **(Compare *Emigrant*)**	A person who comes to live in a country after leaving his/her home country.

Term	Definition
Industrialization	The growth of machine-based production and the factory system; the process of introducing manufacturing into countries or regions where most of the people are engaged in economic activities based on manual labor.
Judicial branch	The part of government that interprets the law, determines the constitutionality of the law, and applies it to individual cases.
Law	The system of rules that a particular country or community recognizes to regulate the actions of its citizens/members; laws may be enforced by the imposition of penalties.
Legislative branch	The part of a government that passes (enacts) laws and declares war, has the right to confirm or reject many presidential appointments, and has substantial investigative powers.
Lifestyle	The consistent, integrated way of life of individuals as typified by their manner, work, possessions, dress, attitudes, etc.
Location	Absolute: The exact position on Earth's surface as determined by using latitude and longitude or a specific street address. Relative: The position of a place in relation to other places or things.
Migration	The act or process of people moving from one place of residence to another with the intent of staying at the new destination permanently or semi-permanently (e.g., seasonal migration).
National	Of, relating to, being in, or serving a nation or country, or a group of people organized under one government.
New York	A state in the mid-Atlantic region of the northeastern United States.
New York State Constitution	A written document that sets forth the fundamental political principles of the state of New York and establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of its government.
Overpopulation	A situation in which the number of people living in a country, city, region, etc., outstrips the available resources needed to maintain an acceptable standard of living, often resulting in poverty, malnutrition, disease, etc.
Participation	The action or state of taking part or sharing with others in an activity, such as influencing local policy makers.
People	Humans collectively; a group of persons, often related, who share a common culture, language, or inherited condition of life.
Perspective	An idea of the relative importance of things.
Places	Locations having distinctive cultural and physical characteristics that give them meaning or character and distinguish them from other locations.
Places and regions*	The identities and lives of individuals and peoples are rooted in particular places and in those human constructs called regions.
Political	Of, pertaining to, or concerning the state or the structure or affairs of its government.
Population	All the people in a country, state, city, region, etc.
Power*	The ability of people to compel or influence the actions of others. "Legitimate power is called authority."

Term	Definition
Present	The current moment in time; now.
Region	An area with one or more unifying characteristics or features that make it distinct from other areas. Distinction may be markedly different or more subtle. Regions can be defined by physical, human, and functional characteristics.
Religion	A belief in a divine or superhuman power or powers obeyed and worshiped as the creator(s) and ruler(s) of the universe.
Religious	One who adheres to a particular religion or to religions.
Revolution	A drastic change in governmental, economic, or societal conditions.
Rights	Moral or legal entitlements to have or obtain something, to act in a certain way, or to be treated in a certain way.
Rural	The countryside, not the city.
Science and technology	The knowledge, tools, and methods used by people to get what they need and want.
Social	Of, pertaining to, or concerning the life, welfare, and relations of human beings in a community.
State	The power or authority represented by a body of people politically organized under one government, especially an independent government within a territory having definite boundaries, e.g., the State of New York is within the United States.
Society	An organized group of persons associated for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes.
Symbol	Something that stands for, represents, or suggests something else. Examples: a flag for a nation, the Liberty Bell for freedoms enjoyed by Americans
Technology	The system by which a society provides its members with those things that they need or want.
Time	A particular moment or an interval, measured numerically, such as in days, minutes, or years.
Time line	A graphic means of displaying events in chronological order.
Tradition	A passing down of a culture from one generation to the next; a continuing pattern of culture, beliefs, or practices.
Transportation	The means and equipment necessary for the movement of passengers or goods, including canals, railroads, automobiles, and airplanes.
United States	A constitutional federal republic comprising fifty states and a federal district.
United States Constitution	A written document that sets forth the fundamental political principles of the United States of America, and establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of its government.
Urban	Related to a city or densely populated area.
Urbanization*	The movement of people from rural (countryside) to urban (city) areas.

Term	Definition
Value	A standard or principle regarded as desirable; the ideals, customs, institutions, etc., of a society toward which the people of the group have an affective regard.
Vote	A decision made by an individual or group on a proposal, bill, or candidate for elective office.
World History	The study of global connections and interactions of people across time and place.

Resources:

- http://www.thefreedictionary.com/

Disclaimer: The New York State Education Department does not recommend specific texts or publishers. Other resources may be visited for definitions.