

Academic Vocabulary

Learn About It

Each **academic** area has **vocabulary** particular to that subject. Mathematics, science, and social studies all have special words and phrases that apply to them.

Read the sentences. Look for words that tell about mathematics.

Before modern clocks were invented people used sundials. They used the sun to measure time. Sundials did not tell minutes or hours. They did give people an idea of the passing of time. They could tell if a day was almost over, just beginning, or somewhere in the middle.

Some Academic Vocabulary

Math	Science	Social Studies
Add	Experiment	Ancient
Equals	Habitat	Capital
Estimate	Heat	Congress
Graph	Laboratory	Explore
Hour	Organism	Govern
Less	Outer space	Invent
Measure	Plant	Peace
Minutes	Solar system	Speech
Time	Telescope	War

Try It

Read the passage. Underline the words that tell about social studies. Use the questions to help you.

Four Freedoms

(1) In January of 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a speech to Congress. (2) The words he used during this speech became famous. (3) Europe was at war. (4) The President outlined four aims, or goals, for the people of the world for when the war ended. (5) His hope was that all people would be able to share them.

(6) These goals were given the name the “four freedoms.” (7) They are: freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

(8) Freedom of speech means the right to speak out and to express beliefs. (9) Freedom of worship is the freedom to practice the religion of your choice. (10) By “freedom from want” Roosevelt meant that all people should have what they need to live a healthy and peaceful life. (11) Freedom from fear meant no war. (12) He said that this could not happen unless all the nations in the world worked together. (13) He wanted to see a world where no nation could threaten another nation with war.

(14) When the United States entered World War II, these four goals became the nation’s goals. (15) They were the goals that everyone in the country could aim for.

(16) The war ended and peace came. (17) The United Nations was established to help make sure that peace would last. (18) Many people hoped that this new world government would make the four freedoms happen for all people.

What does the word *speech* mean in sentence 1?

What is a *nation*?



Why is it important to know which academic subject you are reading to understand the vocabulary that is used?

Apply It

Read the passage. Answer the questions on the next page.

Careers in Science

- (1) Do you enjoy science class? (2) Do you like doing experiments?
(3) Are you interested in learning new facts about outer space and space travel?
(4) You might use these interests when you choose a career, work for your future.
(5) A **botanist** studies plant life. (6) Botanists might study just one group of plants, such as flowering plants. (7) Or they might focus on plantlike **organisms**, or living things. (8) Botanists know a lot about plants, but there is still more to learn. (9) Some botanists study the ways we can use plants for a healthier world.
(10) What makes the sun shine? (11) What makes it warm? (12) What are the stars, the moon, and the planets? (13) Have you ever looked up to the sky and asked these questions? (14) **Astronomers** are the people who try to answer them. (15) They study the solar system and the other objects in the sky. (16) Today, **telescopes**—tools for making distant things look closer—make it possible to see these objects.
(17) You know animals live in a natural habitat or a zoo **habitat**.
(18) Zoologists study animals. (19) They look at how animals live and how they survive. (20) They look at how they adapt to changes such as cold weather and climate changes. (21) One zoologist might work in a laboratory, a room or building where scientists do research. (22) Another might work outdoors studying animals in their natural surroundings.

Use "Careers in Science" to answer the questions. Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. What is a *botanist*?

2. What is an *organism*? Is a plant an organism?

3. What does an *astronomer* do?

4. What is a *telescope*?

5. Write your own sentence using the word *habitat*.

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