

Wealth of Nations Vocabulary

Grade Levels: 9-12

Time Commitment: 15 Minutes

Subject(s): World History, Civics, U.S. Government, Economics, U.S History

Overview: This vocabulary sheet gives students an overview of the key concepts in Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*.

Materials: • Student Handouts (Digital or Printed) • Optional: Colored Pencils
• Optional: Printer

Activity (15 Minutes)

1. Provide the Wealth of Nations Vocabulary Worksheet for students to fill out.

Tips & Tricks for the Activity

- Students can draw a specific symbol or picture with colored pencils, markers, or whatever you have around your classroom.
- Students can annotate the vocabulary sheet, identifying key words to help remember the concepts.

Extension Activity Ideas

- Students can complete the [Wealth of Nations Analysis lesson plan](#) to expand their understanding.
- Put the terms up around the room. Students can draw their symbols or pictures on sticky notes and place them under each term to create a gallery walk.
- Students can make an infographic or cartoon explaining a specific term.
- Have students identify their own vocabulary terms after reading selections from *The Wealth of Nations*

Modified Activity Ideas

- Have students do only a few symbols or pictures (Division of Labor, Invisible Hand, Specialization, and Surplus).
- Divide the students into groups and assign the vocabulary terms accordingly.

Wealth of Nations Vocabulary

Vocabulary Sheet

Name: _____

Block: _____

Term	Definition	Symbol/Picture
Commodity	A product, raw material, or good that can be bought and sold.	
Division of Labour	Breaking down a big job into smaller, simpler tasks so each person can focus on one part.	
Domestic Industry	Businesses and manufacturing within one's own country.	
Invisible Hand	The idea that when people work to make money for themselves, they accidentally help the whole economy grow.	
Specialization	Focusing on doing one specific type of work so you become an expert at it.	
Surplus	The extra amount of goods left over after you have used what you need.	

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Vocabulary Sheet

Name: _____

Block: _____

Term	Definition	Symbol/Picture
Abridge	To shorten or make something faster and easier.	
Benevolence	An act of kindness; doing something to help others, not just for money.	
Brethren	A formal way to say "brothers" or "fellow people."	
Conveniencies	Things that make life comfortable, but are not strictly needed to survive.	
Dexterity	Skill in performing tasks, usually with your hands.	
Necessaries	The basic things needed to live (like food, clothing, and shelter).	
Trucking Disposition	The natural human tendency to trade, swap, or barter things with others.	

This Lesson Plan was:

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