

# Unit 9

## Vocabulary Cards

Skills Strand  
GRADE 3

Core Knowledge Language Arts®



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explorer

a person who sets out to find new things  
(**exploration, explorations, explorers,  
explored, exploring**)

**conquistador**

a former warrior, usually from Spain,  
who took control of something by force  
(**conquistadors**)

slash

to make a path by cutting plants  
(**slashed**)



fundings

money provided for a special purpose

precious

very valuable

Unit 9: Chapter 1

**spice**

a substance from a plant that has a specific smell or taste and is used to add flavor to food (**spices**)

**scarce**

hard to find

Unit 9: Chapter 1



**expensive**

costs a lot of money

peppercorn

a dried berry from a plant that is used to  
make pepper (**peppercorns**)

grind

to crush something into small pieces or  
powder (**ground**)

**flavor**

taste (**flavors**)

Unit 9: Chapter 1



**hull**

the outer covering of a seed or fruit

kernel

seed

Unit 9: Chapter 1

overwhelm

to take over completely

**import**

to bring in from somewhere else  
(**imported**)



**scroll**

a paper rolled up into a tube (**scrolls**)

**inherit**

to receive money, property, and other things when someone dies (**inherits, inherited**)

**estate**

everything a person owns

Unit 9: Chapter 2

throne

the power and authority of a king or  
queen



noble

a person from a family of high social rank, similar to patricians in ancient Rome (**nobles**)

property

buildings, land, and livestock that  
someone owns

**impressive**

deserving attention or respect

**overrun**

to exist in large numbers



whiz

a person who is extremely skilled at something

voyage

a long journey, usually by water

**convince**

to talk someone into something by  
giving good reasons (**convinced**)

**expect**

to think something will probably  
happen (**expected**)



landmark

an object on land that is easy to see and  
recognize (**landmarks**)

device

a piece of equipment that does a specific  
job

**accurate**

correct

Unit 9: Chapter 4

keep track

to continue to be aware of (**keeping track, kept track**)



**compass**

a tool used for finding directions with  
a magnetic pointer that always points  
north

magnet

a piece of metal that attracts iron or steel and has a north and south pole;  
Earth is a magnet. (**magnets**)

magnetic field

the area around each pole of a magnet  
that has the power to attract other  
metals

gadget

a small tool (**gadgets**)



**method**

a way of doing things

Unit 9: Chapter 4

dead reckoning

a way to measure speed when traveling through water by throwing a knotted rope with a piece of wood on the end overboard and observing how much of and how fast the rope is pulled into the water

hourglass

a tool for measuring time; It is a glass container with an upper part and lower part connected in the middle by a narrow tube and sand falls from the upper part into the lower part in a fixed amount of time, usually an hour.

**forerunner**

something that came before

Unit 9: Chapter 4



**estimate**

(verb) to make a guess based on information you have; (noun) a guess made based on information you have

fort

a large building constructed to survive  
enemy attacks

**establish**

to start something that is meant to last a  
long time (**established**)

**continuously**

without stopping

Unit 9: Chapter 5



**occupied**

lived and worked in

Unit 9: Chapter 5

**destroy**

to completely ruin so that it no longer  
exists (**destroyed**)

wreck

to destroy, ruin (**wrecked**)

**bastion**

a raised gun platform in a fort



**fossil**

a bone, shell, or other remains of a plant or animal from millions of years ago that has formed rock (**fossils**)

shatter

to suddenly break into many small  
pieces

**moat**

a deep ditch, usually filled with water,  
dug around a fort or castle to prevent  
enemy attacks

ravelin

a small building you must pass through  
first in order to enter a fort or castle



**fortress**

# a strong fort

Unit 9: Chapter 5

plain

a large, flat area of land with no trees  
(**plains**)

**distant**

*far away*

Unit 9: Chapter 6

**boast**

to brag (**boasted**)



**vast**

very great in size or amount

league

a distance between 2.4 and 4.6 miles

**tan**

to turn animal skin into leather using a  
specific process

barbarous

wild, sometimes violent

Unit 9: Chapter 6



royal

relating to a king or queen

lordship

authority and power of a lord or high-ranking person

**copper**

a reddish-brown mineral found in the  
earth

**viceroi**

a person sent by the king to rule a colony



**prune**

a dried plum (**prunes**)

mulberry

a dark purple berry (**mulberries**)

humble

respectful, not thinking you are better  
than others

**vassal**

a person who is loyal and serves a lord  
or king



**substantially**

great in size, value, or importance

**equator**

an imaginary line around the middle of the earth that is equally far from both the North Pole and South Pole

charter

a formal document that gives rights to a person or group of people; Kings often issued charters to explorers so explorers would search for land and treasure on behalf of the king.

**claim**

to say something belongs to you  
(**claims, claimed**)



**attempt**

an act of trying

Unit 9: Chapter 7

shortage

when there is not enough

Unit 9: Chapter 7

shallow

not deep

Unit 9: Chapter 7

expedition

a long trip made for a specific purpose  
(**expeditions**)



landmass

a large, continuous area of land, such as  
a continent

territory

a large area of land with defined  
boundaries

ashore

on land

Unit 9: Chapter 7

page

a boy servant (**pages**)

Unit 9: Chapter 7



**bilge pump**

a device used to remove water from the  
bottom part of a ship

**hardtack**

hard bread that has been baked many  
times

**spoil**

to become rotten and not able to be  
eaten

weevil

a small beetle (**weevils**)



**scurvy**

a disease caused by not eating enough fruits or vegetables with vitamin C, leading to spongy gums, loose teeth, skin spots, and sometimes death

watch

the time that someone is on duty to  
guard or protect something

**solid**

firm and hard

Unit 9: Chapter 8

iceberg

a large mass of ice floating in the ocean  
(**icebergs**)



**maize**

corn

Unit 9: Chapter 8

**expanse**

a large, open area

trade

(verb) to exchange something you have for something someone else has; (noun) the act of exchanging goods (**traders, traded, trading**)

**in exchange**

the act of giving something and  
receiving something of similar value in  
return



pelt

an animal skin with fur still on it (**pelts**)

felt

thick cloth made from wool, fur, or  
other fibers

trading post

a place far away from towns where  
people buy, sell, and trade things  
(**trading posts**)

*fine*

excellent (**finest**)



lush

covered with healthy, green plants

treaty

a formal agreement between groups of people, often to stop fighting (**treaties**)

**obtain**

to get (**obtained**)

barter

to trade by exchanging goods and services instead of paying or accepting money for them



**income**

money earned, mostly from working

**raid**

to attack by surprise (**raiding**)

**abandon**

to leave somewhere, never to return  
(**abandoned**)

evidence

information that helps show if  
something is either true or not true



**steer**

to control the direction of

cheap

does not cost much

popular

liked by many people