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DICTIONARY
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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person), as by way of friendship or duty; call on: *visit Aunt Martha*. 2. To go or come to see (a place), as on a tour: *visit a museum*. 3. To stay with as a guest. 4. To go or come to see in an official or professional capacity. 5. To go or come to see generally: *I visit the bank on Fridays*. 6. To go or come to in order to aid: *visit the wounded*. 7. To afflict; assail: *A plague visited the village*. 8. To inflict punishment upon or for; avenge: *"I shall visit their sin upon them."* (Exodus 32:34). 9. *Archaic*. To come to in order to comfort or bless. Said of the Deity. —*intr.* 1. To pay a call or calls. 2. To inflict punishment; avenge. 3. *Informal*. To converse or chat: *Stay and visit with me for a while*. —*n.* 1. An act or instance of visiting a person, place, or thing. 2. A stay or sojourn as a guest. 3. An act of visiting in a professional capacity. 4. An act of visiting in an official capacity, as an inspection or examination. [Middle English *visiten*, from Old French *visiter*, from Latin *visitāre*, to go to see, from *visare*, to view, from *visus*, sight, vision.]

vis-it-a-ble (viz'ə-tə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of or suitable for a visit. 2. Subject to or allowing official visit, as for inspection.

vis-i-tant (viz'ə-tənt) *n.* 1. A visitor; guest; a transient. 2. A supernatural being; a ghost or specter. 3. A migratory animal or bird that stops in a particular place for a limited period of time. —*adj.* *Archaic*. Visiting. [Latin *visitans*, present participle of *visitāre*, to visit.]

vis-i-ta-tion (viz'ə-tā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of visiting or being visited; a visit. 2. A visit for the purpose of making an official inspection or examination, as of a bishop to his diocese. 3. The right of a parent to visit a child as specified in a divorce or separation order. 4. a. A visit of punishment or affliction or of comfort and blessing, regarded as being ordained by God. b. A calamitous event or experience; grave misfortune. 5. The appearance or arrival of a supernatural being. 6. *Capital V*. a. The visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-56. b. The Roman Catholic Church festival held July 2 in commemoration of this visit. —*vis-i-ta-tion-al adj.*

vis-i-ta-to-ri-al (viz'ə-tə-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'ē-əl) *adj.* Also *vis-i-to-ri-al* (viz'ə-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'ē-əl). 1. Of or pertaining to an official visitor or visit. 2. Having the right or power of visitation.

visiting card. A calling card.

visiting fireman. *Informal*. 1. An influential visitor who is entertained impressively. 2. A visitor to a city who is welcomed because he is thought to be a free spender.

visiting professor. A professor on leave invited to serve as a member of the faculty of another college or university for a limited period of time, often an academic year.

visiting teacher. A teacher affiliated with a public school system who visits sick or handicapped children in the area for the purpose of instruction.

vis-i-tor (viz'ə-tor) *n.* 1. One who pays a visit; a guest; caller. 2. A sightseer or tourist.

vis ma-jor (vis mā'jor) *pl. vires majores* (vī'rēz mə-jōr'ēz, -jōr'ēz). *Law*. An overwhelming force of nature having unavoidable consequences that under certain circumstances can exempt one from the obligations of a contract. [Latin, "greater force."]

Vis-o, Mount (vē'zō). The highest (12,002 feet) of the Cottian Alps, in northwestern Italy near the border with France.

vis-or (vī'zər, viz'ər) *n.* Also *vi-zor*. 1. A piece projecting from the front of a cap to shade the eyes or protect against wind or rain. 2. A fixed or movable shield against glare above the windshield of an automobile. 3. The front piece of the helmet of a suit of armor, capable of being raised and lowered and designed to protect the eyes, nose, and forehead. 4. Any means of concealment or disguise; a mask. —*tr. v. visored* (vī'zərd), -soring, -sors. Also *vi-zor*. To mask or protect with a visor. [Middle English *viser*, from Norman French, from Old French *vis*, face, from Latin *visus*, sight, vision.]

vis-ta (vis'tə) *n.* 1. A distant view seen through a passage, as between buildings or rows of trees; scene; prospect. 2. The passage framing the approach to such a scene; an avenue. 3. A comprehensive awareness of a series of remembered, present, or anticipated events: *"He opened a vista into a mean life."* (Rebecca West). [Italian, from *visto*, past participle of *vedere*, to see, from Latin *videre*. See *weid-* in Appendix*.]

VISTA (vis'tə) An organization sponsored by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity composed of volunteer members devoted to educating and teaching skills to the poor. [V(OLUNTEERS) I(N) S(EERVICE) T(O) A(MERICA).]

Vis-tu-la (vis'tchō-lə). *Polish Wis-la* (vēs'lā). A river of Poland, rising in the Carpathians in the south and flowing 678 miles northeast, northwest, and then north to the Gulf of Danzig.

vis-u-al (vizh'ō-əl) *adj.* *Abbr.* *vis.* 1. Serving, resulting from, or pertaining to the sense of sight. 2. Capable of being seen by the eye; visible. 3. *Optics*. Optical. 4. Done, maintained, or executed by the sight only: *visual navigation*. 5. Having the nature of or producing an image in the mind. 6. Designating a method of instruction involving sight. [Middle English, from Late Latin *visūālis*, from Latin *visus*, vision.] —*vis'u-al-ly adv.*

visual aid. Graphic material used in education to impart instruction by visual means. Often used in the plural.

visual field. *Abbr.* *V.F.* The entire area visible to the immobile eye or eyes at a given moment; the field of vision.

vis-u-al-ize (vizh'ō-ə-līz') *v.* -ized, -izing, -izes. —*tr.* To form a mental image or vision of; envisage. —*intr.* To form a mental image or images. —*vis'u-al-i-zation n.*

vis-u-al-iz-er (vizh'ō-ə-līz'ər) *n.* One who visualizes; especially, one whose mental images are predominantly visual.

visual purple. A red-light-sensitive pigment of the retina, rhodopsin (see).

vi-tal (vī'təl, vīt'l) *adj.* 1. Of or characteristic of life: *vital processes*. 2. Necessary to the continuation of life; life-sustaining: *vital functions*. 3. Full of life; energetic; vigorous; animated: *"The sky was blue, and young and vital, there were no clouds in it"* (Thomas Wolfe). 4. *Poetic*. Imparting life or animation; invigorating. 5. Having immediate importance; essential; indispensable: *"Irrigation was vital to early civilization"* (William H. McNeill). 6. Concerned with or recording data pertinent to lives. 7. *Archaic*. Destructive to life; fatal; deadly: *a vital wound*. —*See* Synonyms at necessary. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *vitālis*, from *vita*, life. See *gwel-* in Appendix*.] —*vi'tal-ly adv.* —*vi'tal-ness n.*

vi-tal-ism (vīt'l-iz'm) *n.* The philosophical doctrine that life processes possess a unique character radically different from physiochemical phenomena. —*vi'tal-ist n.* —*vi'tal-is'tic adj.*

vi-tal-i-ty (vī-tāl'ə-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. That which distinguishes the living from the nonliving; an energy, force, or principle characteristic of life. 2. The capacity to live, grow, or develop. 3. Vigor; energy; exuberance: *"to combine the experience of an old hand with the vitality of a young one"* (G.B. Shaw). 4. The power to survive.

vi-tal-ize (vīt'l-iz') *tr. v.* -ized, -izing, -izes. 1. To endow with life. 2. To invigorate or animate. —*vi'tal-i-za-tion n.* —*vi'tal-iz'er n.*

vi-tals (vī'təlz) *pl. n.* 1. Any bodily parts or organs regarded as the center or source of life: *"the overmastering chill seized my own vitals"* (Edward Bellamy). 2. Those elements essential to continued functioning, as of a system.

vital statistics. Data that record significant events and dates in human life, as births, deaths, and marriages.

vi-ta-mēr (vī'tə-mər) *n.* One of two or more similar chemical compounds capable of fulfilling a specific vitamin function. [VITA(MIN) + (ISO)MER.]

vi-ta-min (vī'tə-mən) *n.* Also *rare vi-ta-mine* (-mēn, -mīn). Any of various relatively complex organic substances occurring naturally in plant and animal tissue and essential in small amounts for the control of metabolic processes. [German *Vitamine*: Latin *vita*, life (see *gwel-* in Appendix*) + AMINE (so called because it was once thought to be an amine).] —*vi'ta-min'ic adj.*

vitamin A. A vitamin or a mixture of vitamins, especially vitamin A₁ or a mixture of vitamins A₁ and A₂, occurring principally in fish-liver oils and some yellow and dark-green vegetables, functioning in normal cell growth and development, and responsible in deficiency for hardening and roughening of the skin, night blindness, and degeneration of mucous membranes.

vitamin A₁. A yellow crystalline compound, C₂₀H₃₀O, extracted from fish-liver oils. See *vitamin A*.

vitamin A₂. A golden-yellow oil, C₂₀H₂₈O, occurring in pike-liver oils and having approximately 40 per cent of the biological activity of vitamin A₁. See *vitamin A*.

vitamin B. 1. Vitamin B complex. 2. A member of the vitamin B complex, especially thiamine.

vitamin B₁. Folic acid (see).

vitamin B₂. Thiamine (see).

vitamin B₃. Riboflavin (see).

vitamin B₄. Pyridoxine (see).

vitamin B₅. A complex, cobalt-containing coordination compound produced in the normal growth of certain microorganisms, found in liver, and widely used to treat pernicious anemia.

vitamin B complex. A group of vitamins originally thought to be a single substance, generally regarded as including thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, biotin, pyridoxine, folic acid, inositol, and vitamin B₁₂, and occurring chiefly in yeast, liver, eggs, and some vegetables.

vitamin C. Ascorbic acid (see).

vitamin D. Any of several chemically similar activated sterols, especially vitamin D₂ or vitamin D₃, produced in general by ultraviolet irradiation of sterols, obtained from milk, fish, and eggs, required for normal bone growth, and used to treat rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults.

vitamin D₂. A white crystalline compound, C₂₈H₄₄O, produced by ultraviolet irradiation of ergosterol. Also called "calciferol," "ergocalciferol," "viosterol." See *vitamin D*.

vitamin D₃. A colorless crystalline compound, C₂₇H₄₄O, with essentially the same biological activity as vitamin D₂ but significantly more potent in poultry. See *vitamin D*.

vitamin E. Any of several chemically related viscous oils, especially C₂₉H₅₀O₂, found chiefly in grains and vegetable oils and used to treat sterility and various abnormalities of the muscles, red blood cells, liver, and brain.

vitamin G. Riboflavin (see).

vitamin H. Biotin (see).

vitamin K. Any of several natural and synthetic substances essential for the promotion of blood clotting and prevention of hemorrhage, occurring naturally in leafy green vegetables, tomatoes, and vegetable oils.

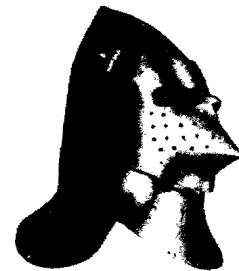
vitamin P. A crystalline fraction of citrus juices used to treat certain conditions involving hemorrhage into the skin.

vi-ta-scope (vī'tə-skōp') *n.* An early type of motion-picture projector. [Latin *vita*, life (see *gwel-* in Appendix*) + -SCOPE.]

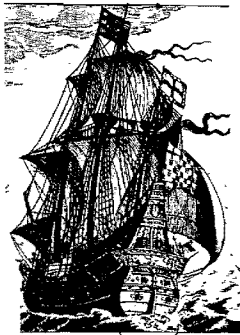
Vi-tebsk (vē'tēpsk', vē-tēpsk'). A city of the Soviet Union, in northeastern Byelorussia. Population, 231,000.

vi-tel-lin (vī-tē'līn, vī-) *n.* A protein found in egg yolk. [VITELL(US) + -IN.]

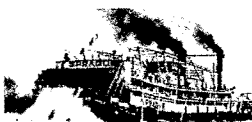
vi-tel-line (vī-tē'līn, vī-) *adj.* 1. Pertaining to or associated with the yolk of an egg: *the vitelline membrane*. 2. Having the yellow color of an egg yolk; dull-yellow. —*n.* The yolk of an egg. [VITELL(US) + -INE.]



visor
Fifteenth-century French helmet with visor



stern²
Seventeenth-century
Dutch engraving



stern-wheeler



sterlet



Stetson

erism created by differences in the spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule. —*stér'è-o-i'so-mér'ic* (-so-mér'ik) *adj.*
stér'e-o-mi-cro-scope (stér'è-ò-mi'krà-skòp', stír'-) *n.* A microscope optically equipped for stereoscopic viewing.
stér'e-o-pho-nic (stér'è-ò-fòn'ik, -fò'n'ik, stír'-) *adj.* Of or for sound reproduction in which two channels are used to give an illusion of a more natural distribution of sources of sound. Compare **binaural**. [**STEREO** + **PHONIC**.] —*stér'è-o-phò'n'i-cal-ly* *adv.* —*stér'è-ò-ph'òn-ò-ny* (-è-òf'ò-nè) *n.*
stér'e-òp-sis (stér'è-òp'sis, stír'-) *n.* Stereoscopic vision. [New Latin: **STEREO** + **OPSIS**.]
stér'e-òp-ti-con (stér'è-òp'ti-kòn', stír'-) *n.* A magic lantern (see), especially one made double so as to produce dissolving views. [New Latin: **STEREO** + Greek *optikon*, neuter of *optikos*, **OPTIC**.]
stér'e-ò-scope (stér'è-ò-skòp', stír'-) *n.* An optical instrument used to impart a three-dimensional effect to two photographs of the same scene taken at slightly different angles and viewed through two eyepieces. [**STEREO** + **SCOPE**.]
stér'e-ò-scop-ic (stér'è-ò-skòp'ik, stír'-) *adj.* Also **stér'e-ò-scop-i-cal** (-i-kàl). 1. Of or pertaining to stereoscopy; especially, three-dimensional. 2. Of or pertaining to a stereoscope. —*stér'è-o-scòp'i-cal-ly* *adv.*
stér'e-òs-co-py (stér'è-òs'kò-pè, stír'-) *n.* 1. The viewing of objects as three-dimensional. 2. The technique of making or using stereoscopes and stereoscopic slides. [**STEREO** + **SCOPY**.] —*stér'è-òs'kò-p'ist* *n.*
stér'e-ò-tax-is (stér'è-ò-tàk'sis, stír'-) *n.* Also **stér'e-ò-tax-y** (stér'è-ò-tàk'se, stír'-). *Biology.* Thigmotaxis (see). —*stér'è-ò-tac'tic* (-tàk't'ik), *stér'è-ò-tac'ti-cal* *adj.* —*stér'è-ò-tac'ti-cal-ly* *adv.*
stér'e-ò-t-ro-pism (stér'è-ò-trò-piz'm, stír'-) *n.* *Biology.* Thigmotropism (see). —*stér'è-ò-tròp'ic* (-è-ò-tròp'ik) *adj.*
stér'e-ò-type (stér'è-ò-tìp', stír'-) *n.* 1. A metal printing plate cast from a matrix that is molded from a raised printing surface, such as type. 2. A conventional, formulaic, and usually oversimplified conception, opinion, or belief. 3. A person, group, event, or issue considered to typify or conform to an unvarying pattern or manner, lacking any individuality: *the very stereotype of a college sophomore*. —*tr.v.* **stereotyped**, -*tying*, -*types*. 1. To make a stereotype of. 2. To print from a stereotype. 3. To develop a fixed, unvarying idea about. [**French stéréotype**: **STEREO** + **TYPE**.] —*stér'è-ò-ty-p'èr* *n.* —*stér'è-ò-ty-p'ic* (-tìp'ik), *stér'è-ò-ty-p'i-cal* *adj.*
stér'e-ò-ty-ped (stér'è-ò-tìp'èd, stír'-) *adj.* 1. Printed or reproduced from stereotype plates. 2. Not individualized; unoriginal; conventional. —See **Synonyms at trite**.
stér'e-ò-ty-p-y (stér'è-ò-tìp'è, stír'-) *n.* 1. The process or art of making stereotype plates. 2. *Psychology.* Excessive repetition or lack of variation in movements, ideas, or patterns of speech.
stér'e-ò-vi-sion (stér'è-ò-vìzh'òn, stír'-) *n.* Visual perception of or exhibition in three dimensions.
stér-ic (stér'ik, stír'-) *n.* Also **stér-i-cal** (-i-kàl). Of or pertaining to the spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule. [**STER(EO)** + **-IC**.] —*stér'ic-al-ly* *adv.*
stér-ile (stér'èl; chiefly *British* stér'il) *adj.* 1. Incapable of reproducing sexually; barren; infertile. 2. Capable of producing little or no vegetation; unfruitful. 3. Free from bacteria or other microorganisms. 4. Lacking in imagination or vitality; not stimulating; dry. 5. Lacking any power to function; not productive or effective. [**Old French**, from Latin *sterilis*, unfruitful. See **ster**⁵ in Appendix.*] —*stér'ile-ly* *adv.* —*stè-ril'i-ty* (stè-ril'è-tè), *stér'ile-ness* *n.*
Synonyms: *sterile, infertile, barren, unfruitful, impotent.* These adjectives, in literal usage, mean lacking or seemingly lacking in power to produce offspring. Figuratively they suggest absence of a productive result. *Sterile* means being unable to procreate because of some defect in the reproductive organs; by extension it describes any lack of creativity. *Infertile* means *sterile* in the literal sense of the latter term. *Barren* describes, in particular, a woman who has tried and failed to have children. It can also apply to what is devoid of profit, enjoyment, or any other desirable thing. *Unfruitful* literally means not bearing fruit and figuratively means not having a useful result. *Impotent* specifies inability of a male to engage in sexual intercourse; in a general sense, it means powerless to act effectively.

stér-il-i-za-tion (stér'è-lè-zà'shàn, -lì-zà'shàn) *n.* 1. The procedure or act of sterilizing. 2. The condition of being sterile or sterilized.
stér-il-ize (stér'è-lìz') *tr.v.* -ized, -izing, -izes. 1. To render sterile. 2. *Economics.* To place (gold) in safekeeping so as not to affect the supply of money or credit. —*stér'ìl-iz'èr* *n.*
stér-let (stér'lit) *n.* A sturgeon, *Acipenser ruthenus*, of the Black Sea and adjacent waters, used as food and as a source of caviar. [**Russian steryad'**, possibly akin to Germanic *sturjôn* (unattested), **STURGEON**.]
stér-ling (stér'ling) *n.* *Abbr.* **ster.**, **stg.** 1. British money; especially, the pound as the basic monetary unit of the United Kingdom. 2. British coinage of silver or gold, having as a standard of fineness 0.500 for silver and 0.91666 for gold. 3. a. Sterling silver. b. Articles made of sterling silver, such as tableware. —*adj.* *Abbr.* **ster.**, **stg.** 1. Consisting of or relating to sterling or British money. 2. Made of sterling silver. 3. Of the highest quality. [**Middle English** *sterling, starling*, "small star" (from the small star stamped on the silver pennies), probably from Old English *steorling* (unattested): *steorra*, **STAR** + **-LING**.]
stér-ling sil-ver. 1. An alloy of 92.5 per cent silver with copper or another metal. 2. Collectively, objects made of this alloy.

stern¹ (störn) *adj.* **sterner**, **sternest**. 1. Firm or unyielding; inflexible. 2. Grave or severe in manner or appearance; austere. "She was silent, cold, and stern, and yet in an odd way very clear to her pupils" (Sherwood Anderson). 3. Grim, gloomy, forbidding in appearance or outlook. 4. Inexorable; relentless. *stern demands on his time*. —See **Synonyms at severe**. [**Middle English** *sterne, stierne*, Old English *styrne, stierne*. See **ster**¹ **Appendix.***]
stern² (störn) *n.* 1. The rear part of a ship or boat. 2. The rear part of anything. [**Middle English** *sterne*, probably from **Norse stjórn**, steering, rudder. See **sta-** in **Appendix.***]
Stern (störn), **Otto**. 1888-1969. German-born American physicist; discovered magnetic moment of the proton.
stér-nal (stér'nàl) *adj.* *Anatomy.* Of, near, or pertaining to the sternum. [**New Latin** *sternalis*, from **STERNUM**.]
Stern-berg (störn'bürg'), **George Miller**. 1828-1915. American physician; established Army Medical School, Dental Co and Nurse Corps; organized Yellow Fever Commission.
stern chaser. A gun or cannon mounted on the stern of a ship for firing at a pursuing vessel.
Sterne (störn), **Laurence**. 1713-1768. English satiric novelist; **stern-for-most** (störn'fór'mòst', -mòst, störn'fór'-) *adv.* 1. the stern foremost; backward.
stern-most (störn'mòst', -mòst) *adj.* Farthest astern.
stern-post (störn'pòst) *n.* The principal upright post at stern of a vessel, usually serving to support the rudder.
stern sheets. The stern area of an open boat.
stern-son (störn'sòn) *n.* A bar of metal or wood set between keelson and the sternpost to fortify the joint. Also called "stern knee." "sterson knee." [**STERN** + (**KEELSON**).]
stér-nu-ta-tion (stér'nyà-tà'shàn) *n.* **stér-nu-tà-tion** *n., pl.* -na (-nà) or -nums. A long flat b articulating with the cartilages and of forming the midvent support of most of the ribs in tetrapod vertebrates, and also the coracolebone in man and certain other vertebrates. Also called "breastbone." [**New Latin**, from Greek *sternon*, breastbone. See **ster**² in **Appendix.***]
stér-nu-ta-tion (stér'nyà-tà'shàn) *n.* 1. The act of sneezing. 2. A sneeze. [**Latin sternutiō**, from *sternūtere*, frequentative of *sternere*, to sneeze. See **pster-** in **Appendix.***]
stér-nu-ta-tor (stér'nyà-tà'tòr) *n.* A substance that irritates nasal and respiratory passages and causes coughing, sneezing lachrimation, and sometimes vomiting.
stér-nu-ta-to-ry (stér'nyò-tà-tòr'è, -tòr'è) *adj.* Also **stér-nu-tive** (-tìv). Causing or tending to cause sneezing. —*n., pl.* **sternatories**. A sternatory substance, such as pepper.
stern-ward (störn'wàrd) *adv.* Also **stern-wards** (-wàrdz). ward the stern; astern. —*adj.* In or at the stern.
stern-way (störn'wà) *n.* The backward movement of a vessel.
stern-wheeler (störn'hwèl'èr) *n.* A steamboat propelled by paddle wheel at the stern.
stér-oid (stér'oid) *n.* Any of numerous naturally occurring fat-soluble organic compounds having a 17-carbon-atom ring basis, and including the sterols and bile acids, many hormones, certain natural drugs such as digitalis compounds, and the precursors of certain vitamins. [**STEREOL** + **-OID**.]
stér-ol (stér'òl) *n.* Any of a group of predominantly unsaturated solid alcohols of the steroid group, as cholesterol, ergosterol, occurring in the fatty tissues of plants and animals. [**Short for CHOLESTEROL**.]
stér-ò-pe¹ (stér'ò-pè'). Also **As-ter-ò-pe** (à-stér'ò-pè'). *Gr. Mythology.* One of the seven **Pleiades** (see). [**Greek** (Aster) from (a)sterope, astrape, lightning, "twinkling." See **ster**¹ **Appendix.***]
stér-ò-pe² (stér'ò-pè') *n.* One of the stars in the constellation **Pleiades** (see).
sterson knee. A sternson (see).
stér-tor (stér'tòr) *n.* A heavy snoring sound in respiration. [**New Latin**, from Latin *stertere*, to snore. See **pster-** in **Appendix.***] —*stér'tòr-ò-us-ly* *adv.*
stet (stèt) *n.* *Abbr.* **st.** A printer's term directing that a letter, word, or other matter marked for omission or correction is to be retained. See table of Proofreaders' Marks at **proofer** —*tr.v.* **stetted**, **stetting**, **stets**. To nullify a correction or omission previously made in (printed matter) by marking with word *stet* and with a row of dots. Compare **delete**. [**Latin**, to stand, from *stare*, to stand. See **sta-** in **Appendix.***]
steth-o-scope (stèth'ò-skòp') *n.* An instrument used for listening to sounds produced within the body. [**French stéthoscope**; **Greek stethos**, chest, breast + **SCOPE**.] —*stèth'ò-scòp-i-cal-ly* *adv.* —*stèth'ò-scòp'i-cal-ly* *adv.*
steth'o-sco-py (stè-thòs'kò-pè) *n.*
stét-son (stèt'sòn) *n.* A trademark for a hat having a high crown and wide brim, popular in the western United States [Designed by John Stetson (1830-1906), American hatmaker].
Stet-tin. The former name for **Szczecin**.
Steu-art. Variant of **Stuart**.
Steu-ben (stòb'bàn, styòb'-). *German* sthóit'bàn), Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von. 1730-1771. Prussian-born military leader; trained and organized Continental Army under Washington; naturalized American citizen (1783).
Steu-ben-ville (stòb'bàn-vìl, styòb'-). A city and industrial center of Ohio, in the east on the Ohio River. Population, 30,000.
stè-ve-dore (stè'və-dòr', -dòr') *n.* A person employed in loading or unloading of ships. —*v.* **stevedored**, **doring**, **dor** —*tr.* To load or unload the cargo of (a ship). —*intr.* To load or unload a ship. [**Spanish estibador**, from *estivar*, to stow pack, from Latin *stipare*, to compress, stuff, pack. See **steig-** **Appendix.***]

à pat/à pay/àr care/à father/b bib/ch church/d deed/è pet/è be/I life/g gag/h hat/hw which/I pit/i pie/Ir pier/j judge/k kick/l needle/m mum/n no, sudden/ng thing/ò pot/ò toe/ò paw, for/oi noise/ou out/òò took/òò boot/p pop/r roar/s sauce/sh ship, di

a man might properly sequester himself, to review his life and purify his heart" (Samuel Johnson). —*intr.* *Chemistry.* To undergo sequestration. [Late Latin *sequestrare*, to separate, give up for safekeeping, from Latin *sequester*, depository. See *sekw-* in Appendix.*]

se-ques-trant (sī-kwēs'trānt) *n.* A chemical that promotes sequestration. [From *SEQUESTER*.]

se-ques-trate (sī-kwēs'trāt') *tr.v.* -trated, -trating, -trates. 1. *Law.* To seize; confiscate. 2. *Archaic.* To sequester. [Late Latin *sequestrare*, *SEQUESTER*.] —**se'ques-tra'tor** (sē'kwēs-trā'tor, sī-kwēs'trā-tor) *n.*

se-ques-tration (sē'kwēs-trā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of sequestering; segregation. 2. *Law.* a. Seizure of property. b. A writ authorizing seizure of property. 3. *Chemistry.* The inhibition or prevention of normal ion behavior by combination with added materials, especially the prevention of metallic ion precipitation from solution by formation of a coordination complex with a phosphate.

se-ques-trum (sī-kwēs'trəm) *n., pl.* -tra (-tra). A dead bone fragment separated from healthy bone. [New Latin, from Latin *sequester*, "something separated," from *sequester*, depository. See *sekw-* in Appendix.*]

se-quin (sē'kwīn) *n.* 1. A small shiny ornamental disk, often sewn on cloth; a spangle. 2. A gold coin of the Venetian Republic. In this sense, also called "zechino." [French, from Italian *zechino*, from *zecca*, the mint, from Arabic *sikkah*, coin die.]

se-quoi-a (sī-kwoi'ə) *n.* Any very large evergreen tree of the genus *Sequoia*, which includes the **redwood** and the **giant sequoia** (both of which see). [After *SEQUOYA*.]

Sequoia National Park. An area occupying 604 square miles in the Sierra Nevada of central California, noted for its stands of sequoias and its mountain scenery.

Se-quo-y-a (sī-kwoi'ə). Also **Se-quo-y-ah**. Known as George Guess. 1770?-1843. American Indian leader and scholar; recorded the Cherokee language of his tribe.

ser. 1. *serial.* 2. *series.* 3. *sermon.*

se-ra. Alternate plural of *serum*.

sé-rac (sā-rāk'; French sā-rāk') *n.* A large mass of ice broken off the main body of a glacier and remaining behind in a crevasse after glacial movement or melting. [Swiss French, piece of white cheese (which the ice resembles), perhaps from Latin *serum*, whey. See *ser-* in Appendix.*]

se-ra-glio (sī-rāl'yō, -rāl'yō) *n., pl.* -glios. 1. A large harem. 2. A sultan's palace. [Italian *seraglio*, probably from Turkish *serai*, a palace, lodging, from Persian.]

Se-ra-je-vo. See *Sarajevo*.

se-ra-pe (sā-rā'pē) *n.* Also **sā-ra-pe**. A woolen cloak or poncho worn by Latin-American men. [Mexican Spanish *sarape*.]

ser-aph (sēr'af) *n., pl.* -aphs or -aphim (-ə-fīm) or -aphin (-ə-fīn). 1. A celestial being having three pairs of wings. Isaiah 6:2. 2. One of the nine orders of angels. See *angel*. [Back-formation from plural *seraphim*, from Middle English *seraphin*, Old English *seraphin*, from Late Latin *seraphim*, *seraphin*, from Hebrew *Serāphīm*, plural of *sārāph*.] —**se-raph'ic** (sī-rāl'ik), **se-raph'i-cal** *adj.* —**se-raph'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

Se-ra-pis (sī-rā'pīs). An ancient Egyptian god of the lower world, also worshipped in ancient Greece and Rome.

Serb (sərb) *n.* A Serbian. [Serbo-Croatian *Srb*.]

Serb. Serbia; Serbian.

Ser-bi-a (sūr'bē-ə) *abbr.* **Serb.** Formerly **Ser-vi-a** (sūr'vē-ə), **Serbo-Croatian** *Srbi-ja* (sūr'bē-yā'). A constituent republic of Yugoslavia, formerly an independent state, occupying 34,194 square miles in the eastern part of the country. Population, 7,638,000. Capital, Belgrade. [Russian *Serbiya*, from Serbo-Croatian *Srb*, *SERB*.]

Ser-bi-an (sūr'bē-ən) *n. abbr.* **Serb.** 1. A member of a southern Slavic people that is the dominant ethnic group of Serbia and adjacent republics of Yugoslavia. 2. A Serbo-Croatian. —*adj.* 1. Of Serbia or the Serbians. 2. Serbo-Croatian.

Ser-bo-Cro-a-tian (sūr'bō-krō-ā'shən) *n.* The Slavic language of the Serbs and Croats of Yugoslavia, generally written in Cyrillic letters in Serbia and in Roman letters in Croatia. Also called "Croatian." —*adj.* Of or pertaining to this language or those who speak it.

Serbs, Cro-ats, and Slo-venes, Kingdom of the. The former name for Yugoslavia.

serp (sēr) *adj.* Also **sear**. Withered; dry. —*n.* Variant of *sear*. [Middle English *serē*, Old English *sēar*. See *saus-* in Appendix.*]

serē (sēr) *n.* The entire sequence of ecological communities successively occupying an area. [From *SERIES*.]

ser-e-nade (sēr'ə-nād', sēr'ə-nād') *n.* 1. An honorific musical performance; especially, one given by a lover for his sweetheart. 2. An instrumental form comprising characteristics of the suite and the sonata. —*v.* (sēr'ə-nād') **serenaded**, **-nading**, **-nades**. —*tr.* To perform a serenade for. —*intr.* To perform a serenade. [French *sérénade*, from Italian *serenata*, evening serenade, from *sereno*, serene (influenced in meaning by *sera*, evening), from Latin *serenus*, *SERENE*.] —**ser'e-nad'er** *n.*

ser-en-dip-i-ty (sēr'an-dip'ə-tē) *n.* The faculty of making fortunate and unexpected discoveries by accident. [Coined by Horace Walpole after the characters in the fairy tale *The Three Princesses of Castile*, who made such discoveries.] —**ser'en-dip'i-**

ty *adj.* bright, clear. See *ksēro-* in Appendix.*] —**se-rene'ly** *adv.* —**se-rene'ness** *n.*

se-ren-i-ty (sī-rēn'ə-tē) *n., pl.* -ties. 1. The state or quality of being serene; dignity; tranquillity; quiet: "this best and meekest woman bore/With such serenity her husband's woes" (Byron). 2. Clearness; brightness. —See *Synonyms* at *equanimity*.

Se-roth. See *Siret*.

serf (sūrf) *n.* 1. A slave, especially a member of the lowest feudal class in medieval Europe, bound to the land and owned by a lord. 2. Any person in servitude. [Old French, from Latin *servus*, slave. See *servus* in Appendix.*] —**serf'dom** *n.*

serge (sūj) *n.* A twilled cloth of worsted or worsted and wool, often used for suits. [Middle English *sarge*, *serge*, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin *sārica* (unattested), from Latin *sērica*, feminine of *sēricus*, of Seres (a people), from Greek *sērikos*, from *Sēres*, Seres. See *silk*.]

ser-geant (sār'jənt) *n.* Also chiefly *British* **ser-jeant** (for senses 2, 3). *abbr.* **Sgt.** 1. a. Any of several ranks of noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. b. One holding any of these ranks. 2. a. The rank of police officer next below a captain, lieutenant, or inspector. b. One holding this rank. 3. A **sergeant at arms** (see). [Middle English *sergeante*, *sergant*, from Old French *sergent*, from Latin *serviens*, present participle of *servire*, to serve, from *servus*, slave. See *servus* in Appendix.*] —**ser'gean-cy**, **ser'geant-ship** *n.*

sergeant at arms. An officer appointed to keep order within an organization, such as a legislative, judicial, or social body. Also called "sergeant."

sergeant first class. *abbr.* **Sfc.** A noncommissioned officer next below master sergeant in the U.S. Army.

sergeant fish. The *cobia* (see).

sergeant major. *abbr.* **Sgt. Maj.** 1. A noncommissioned officer serving as chief administrative assistant of a headquarters unit of the U.S. Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps. 2. *British.* A noncommissioned officer of the highest rank. 3. A fish, *Abudefduf saxatilis*, of warm seas, having a flattened body with dark vertical stripes.

Ser-gi-pe (sēr-zhē'pə). The smallest state (8,130 square miles) of Brazil, in the northeastern part of the country. Population, 821,000. Capital, Aracajú.

se-ri-al (sēr'ē-əl) *adj.* 1. Of, forming, or arranged in a series: *serial numbers*. 2. Published or produced in installments, as a novel or television drama. 3. Pertaining to such publication or production. 4. *Music.* Pertaining to or based on a 12-tone row. —*n. abbr.* **ser.** A literary or dramatic work published or produced in installments. [From *SERIES*.] —**se'ri-al-ly** *adv.*

se-ri-al-ize (sēr'ē-əl-īz') *tr.v.* -ized, -izing, -izes. To write or publish in serial form. —**se'ri-al-i-za'tion** (sēr'ē-əl-ī-zā'shən) *n.*

se-ri-ate (sēr'ē-āt', -it) *adj.* Arranged or occurring in a series or in rows. [From *SERIES*.]

se-ri-a-tim (sēr'ē-ā'təm, -ā'təm, sēr'-) *adv.* One after another; in a series. [Medieval Latin, from Latin *seriēs*, *SERIES*.]

se-ri-ceous (sēr'ē-əs) *adj.* 1. Silky. 2. *Botany.* Covered with soft, silky hairs. [Late Latin *sēricus*, from Latin *sēricus*, of Seres. See *serge*.]

ser-i-cin (sēr'ē-sən) *n.* A viscous, gelatinous protein that forms on the surface of raw-silk fibers. [Latin *sēricus*, silken, of Seres (see *serge*) + *-in*.]

ser-i-cul-ture (sēr'ē-kūl'chər) *n.* The production of raw silk and the raising of silkworms for this purpose. [French *sériculture*: Latin *sēricus*, silken, of Seres (see *serge*) + *CULTURE*.] —**ser'i-cul-tur-al** *adj.* —**ser'i-cul-tur-ist** *n.*

ser-i-e-ma (sēr'ē-ē'mə) *n.* Either of two crane-like South American birds, *Cariama cristata* or *Chunga burmeisteri*, having a tuftlike crest at the base of the bill. [Tupi *seriema*, *çariama*, "crested."]

se-ries (sēr'ēz) *n., pl. series.* See *Usage* note below. *abbr.* **ser.** 1. a. A group of events, or objects corresponding to such events, related by order of occurrence, especially by succession: *a series of accidents; a series of wrecks*. b. A group of thematically connected works or performances. 2. A group of objects related by a linearly varying morphological or configurational characteristic: *a radioactive decay series; the paraffin series; stratigraphic series*. 3. *Mathematics.* The indicated sum of a finite or of a sequentially ordered infinite set of terms. 4. *Grammar.* A succession of coordinate elements in a sentence. [Latin *seriēs*, from *serere*, to join. See *ser-* in Appendix.*]

Synonyms: *series, succession, progression, sequence, chain, train, string, set.* These nouns denote groups of things considered from the standpoint of order or arrangement. *Series* refers to like or related things or events arranged or occurring in order. *Succession* applies to like or related things or events that follow each other, generally in order of time and without interruption. A *progression* is a series that reveals a definite pattern of advance. In a *sequence*, things follow one another in chronological or numerical order or in order that indicates causal or logical relationship or a recurrent pattern. *Chain* suggests a series of things closely linked or a sequence of closely related ideas or events. *Train* can apply to a procession of persons or vehicles or to a sequence of ideas or events. *String* refers to a continuous series or succession of like things or events, sometimes with the suggestion of impressive length. *Set* applies to a number of matching or similar things that have a common function or purpose or that form a whole. It can also denote a



sergeant major