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development. 2.a. Having or showing qualcharacter, such as courage, generosity, or hon- Proceeding from or indicative of such a magnanimity: "What poor an instrument! May shakespeare).
 Grand and stately in appearnighty Spanish chestnut, bare now of leaves, ble tree" (Richard Jeffries). 4. Chemistry. Innoble n. 1. A member of the nobility. 2. A used in England, worth half of a mark. [Mid-Old French, from Latin nöbilis. See gnö- in ble-ness n. -no'bly adv.

ly of the elements in Group O of the periodic ium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon, sic and with limited exceptions chemically in-

bəl-mən) n. A man of noble rank.

metal or an alloy, such as gold, that is highly on and corrosion.

arasitic fungus (Botrytis cinerea) that attacks ses an increase in their sugar content. Certain French Sauternes and the Hungarian Tokay, such grapes.

(s) n. 1. Noble birth or condition. 2. The ality, especially the French nobility. [Middle French, from noble, noble, from Latin nobilis.

9 (ö-blēzh') n. Benevolent, honorable bebe the responsibility of persons of high birth iobility obligates : noblesse, nobility + oblige, resent tense of obliger, to obligate.]

(nō/bəl-woom'ən) n. A woman of noble

d'ē, -būd'ē, -bə-dē) pron. No person; not d you to go. —nobody n., pl. -ies. A perce or influence.

adj. Causing injury; harmful. [Middle Engfrom Latin nocens, nocent-, present participle See nek-1 in Appendix.]

10'sĭ-sĕp'tĭv) adj. 1. Causing pain. Used of a ed by or responding to a painful stimulus: a eflex. [From NOCICEPTOR.]

ō'sī-sĕp'tər) n. A sensory receptor that retin nocēre, to hurt; see NOCENT + (RE)CEPTOR.] The groove at either end of a bow for holding The notch in the end of an arrow that fits on ock tr.v. nocked, nock-ing, nocks. 1. To ow or an arrow). 2. To fit (an arrow) to a English nokke.]

at of nocti-.

(nok-tam'by-liz'am) also noc-tam-bulä'shən) n. See sleepwalking. [NOCT(I)-+ walk + -ISM.] -noc·tam/bu·list n.

pref. Night: noctilucent. [New Latin, from ght. See nek"-t- in Appendix.]

'tə-loo'kə) n. Any of various bioluminescent e genus Noctiluca that when grouped in large ea phosphorescent. [New Latin Noctilūca, gein noctilūca, lantern, moon : nocti-, nocti- + leuk- in Appendix.]

nok'tə-loo'sənt) adj. Luminous at night. ertain high clouds.

noo-Id) n. Any of numerous, usually dullmoths of the family Noctuidae, having a wellfor sucking nectar and larvae such as the worms that are destructive to young trees and lled owlet moth. - noctuid adj. Of, relating the family Noctuidae. [From New Latin Noe, from Noctua, type genus, from Latin noctua,

\*-f- in Appendix.]

ol') n. A large, reddish-brown insectivorous ctalus, found in Eurasia, Indonesia, and the pically dwelling in the hollows of trees. n nottola, bat, owl, from Late Latin noctula, ive of noctua, night owl. See nek"-t- in Ap-

n') n. Any of the three canonical divisions of [Middle English nocturne, from Medieval n Latin, feminine of nocturnus, of the night.

tûr'nəl) adj. 1. Of, relating to, or occurring nal stillness. 2. Botany. Having flowers that nt. 3. Zoology. Most active at night: nocture English, from Old French, from Late Latin atin nocturnus, from nox, noct-, night. See x.] -noc·tur/nal·ly adv.

irn') n. 1. A painting of a night scene. 2. ntal composition of a pensive, dreamy mood, e piano. [French from Old F

nod (nŏd) v.  $nod \cdot ded$ ,  $nod \cdot ding$ ,  $nod \cdot -intr$ . 1. To lower and raise the head quickly, as in agreement or acknowledgment. 2. To let the head fall forward when sleepy; doze momentarily: nodded off on the train. 3. To be careless or momentarily inattentive as if sleepy; lapse: Even Homer nods. 4. To sway, move up and down, or droop, as flowers in the wind. -tr. 1. To lower and raise (the head) quickly in agreement or acknowledgment. 2. To express by lowering and raising the head: He nodded his agreement. 3. To summon, guide, or send by nodding the head: The chairperson nodded us into the room. — nod n. 1. A forward or up-and-down movement of the head, usually expressive of drowsiness or agreement: gave a nod of affirmation. 2. An indication of approval or assent: The contestant got the nod from the judges. [Middle English nodden; perhaps akin to Middle High German notten.] -nod'der n.

nod·al (nod'l) adj. Of, relating to, resembling, being, or situated near or at a node. -nod'al·ly adv.

nod ding pogonia (nod ing) n. A North American orchid (Triphora trianthophora) having nodding flower buds and ascending, pink or white flowers.

nod·dle (nŏd'l) n. The head. [Middle English noddel, back of the head, perhaps from Latin nodulus, lump, knob. See NODULE.] nod dy (nod e) n., pl. -dies. 1. A dunce or fool; a simpleton. 2. Any of several terns of the genera Anous and Micranous, found in tropical waters and having a dark brown or black color with a white or gray head. [Perhaps from obsolete noddy, foolish, pos-

sibly from NOD.] node (nod) n. 1. A knob, knot, protuberance, or swelling. 2.a. Botany. The point on a stem where a leaf is attached or has been attached; a joint. b. See knot 1 (sense 7). 3. Physics. A point or region of virtually zero amplitude in a periodic system. 4. Mathematics. The point at which a continuous curve crosses itself. 5. Computer Science. A terminal in a computer network. 6. Astron-

omy. a. Either of two diametrically opposite points at which the orbit of a planet intersects the ecliptic. b. Either of two points at which the orbit of a satellite intersects the orbital plane of a planet. [Middle English, lump in the flesh, from Latin nödus, knot. See **ned-** in Appendix.]

node of Ran·vier (ran/vyā, ran-vyā/, ran-) n., pl. nodes of Ranvier. A constriction in the myelin sheath, occurring at varying intervals along the length of a nerve fiber. [After Louis Antoine Ranvier (1835–1922), French histologist.] no di (nō/dī) n. Plural of nodus.

no.dose (no'dos') adj. Characterized by or having many nodes or protuberances, jointed or knobby at intervals. -no-dos/i-ty

nod-ule (nöj/ool) n. 1. A small knotlike protuberance. 2.

Anatomy. A small mass of tissue or aggregation of cells. 3. Botany. A small knoblike outgrowth, as those found on the roots of many leguminous plants. 4. Mineralogy. A small rounded lump of a mineral or mixture of minerals, usually harder than the surrounding rock or sediment. [Middle English, from Latin nodulus, diminutive of nodus, knot. See ned- in Appendix.] —nod'u-lar (noj'a-lar), nod'u·lose' (-los'), nod'u·lous (-las) adi.

no·dus (no/das) n., pl. -di (-di). A difficult situation or prob-lem: a complication. [Latin nodus, knot. See ned- in Appendix.] NOED also N.O.E.D. abbr. New Oxford English Dictionary.

No-ël also No-el (nō-ĕl') n. 1. Christmas. 2. noël also noel. A Christmas carol. [Middle English noel, from Old French, variant of nael, from Latin nātālis (diēs), (day) of birth, from nātus, past participle of nāscī, to be born. See gene- in Appendix.]

No-el-Ba-ker (nō'əl-bā'kər), Philip John. 1889-1982. British politician who helped draft the Covenant of the League of Nations (1919) and the United Nations Charter (1945). He won the 1959 Nobel Peace Prize.

noes (noz) n. Plural of no 1.

no·e·sis (nō-ē/sīs) n. Psychology. The cognitive process; cognition. [Greek noësis, understanding, from noein, to perceive, from nous, mind.]

no •et•ic (nō-ĕt/īk) adj. Of, relating to, originating in, or apprehended by the intellect. [Greek noētikos, from noēsis, understanding. See NOESIS.]

no-fault (no'fôlt') adj. 1. Of, indicating, or being a system of motor vehicle insurance in which accident victims are compensated by their insurance companies without assignment of blame. 2. Law. Of, indicating, or being a type of divorce in which blame is assigned to neither party.

no-frills (no'frilz') adj. Informal. Marked by the absence of extra or special features; basic: no-frills housing; no-frills airline

 $nog^1$  (nog) n. 1. A wooden block built into a masonry wall to hold nails that support joinery structures. 2. A wooden peg or pin. [Origin unknown.]

nog<sup>2</sup> (nŏg) n. Eggnog.

No-gal·es (nō-gāl/īs, -gā/līs). A city of southern Arizona south of Tucson on the Mexican border adjacent to Nogales, Mexico. Both cities are ports of entry and tourist centers. Nogales, Arizona, has a population of 15,683; Nogales, Mexico, has 14,254



Noah 15th-century French rendering of Noah in his ark from La Mer des Histoires



Alfred Nobel



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sieve At an archaeological dig

[Spanish, from Latin sexta (hōra), sixth (hour), midday, feminine of sextus, sixth. See SEXT.]

sieve (siv) n. A utensil of wire mesh or closely perforated metal, used for straining, sifting, ricing, or puréeing. -sieve v. sieved, siev-ing, sieves. -tr. To pass through a sieve. -intr. To use a sieve; sift. [Middle English sive, from Old English sife.]

sieve plate n. Botany. The perforated end wall of a sieve tube

sieve tube n. Botany. A series of cells joined end to end, forming a tube through which nutrients are conducted in flowering plants and brown algae.

sift (sift) v. sift ed, sift ing, sifts.  $-t\tau$ . 1. To put (flour, for example) through a sieve or other straining device in order to separate the fine from the coarse particles. 2. To distinguish as if separating with a sieve: sifted the candidates for the job. 3. To apply by scattering with or as if with a sieve: sift sugar on a 4. To examine and sort carefully: sift the evidence. -intr. 1. To make use of a sieve. 2. To pass through or as if through a sieve: a meal that sifts easily. 3. To make a careful examination: sifted through back issues of the magazine. [Middle English siften, from Old English siftan.] -sift'er n.

sig. abbr. 1. Signal. 2. Signature. 3. Often Sig. Signor; signore. Sig. abbr. 1. Latin. Signa (mark or label it). 2. Medicine. Signature. 3. Latin. Signetur (let it be marked or labeled).

sigh (sī) v. sighed, sigh-ing, sighs. -intr. 1.a. To exhale audibly in a long, deep breath, as in weariness or relief. b. To emit a similar sound: willows sighing in the wind. 2. To feel longing or grief; yearn: sighing for their lost youth. -tr. 1. To express with or as if with an audible exhalation. 2. Archaic. To lament. -sigh n. The act or sound of sighing. [Middle English sighen, probably back-formation from sighte, past tense of siken, to sigh, from Old English sican.] -sigh/er n.

◆ sight (sīt) n. 1. The ability to see. 2. The act or fact of seeing: hoping for a sight of land; caught sight of a rare bird. 3. Field of vision. 4. The foreseeable future; prospect: no solution in sight. Something seen; a view.
 Something worth seeing; a spectacle: the sights of London.
 Informal. Something unsightly: Your hair is a sight. 8.a. A device used to assist aim by guiding the eye, as on a firearm or surveying instrument. b. An aim or observation taken with such a device. 9. An opportunity to observe or inspect. 10. Upper Southern U.S. A large number or quantity: A sight of people were there. — sight v. sight ed, sight ed, and after 40 days at sea. 2. To observe through a sight or an optical instrument: sight a target. 3. To adjust the sights of a rifle for example). 4. To take aim with (a finger). (a rifle, for example). 4. To take aim with (a firearm). -intr. 1. To direct one's gaze; look carefully. 2. To take aim: sighted along the barrel of the gun. - idioms. on sight. Immediately upon being seen: threatened to shoot looters on sight. out of sight. Slang. Remarkable; incredible: The graduation party was out of sight. sight for sore eyes. Informal. One whom it is a relief or joy to see. sight unseen. Without seeing the object in question: bought the horse sight unseen. [Middle English, from Old English sihth, gesiht, something seen. See sek\*-2 in Appendix.] sight draft n. Abbr. SD. A draft or bill that is payable on

demand or upon presentation. Also called demand draft.

sight•ed (sī'tīd) adj. 1. Having the ability to see. 2. Having eyesight of a specified kind. Often used in combination: keen-sighted. —sight²ed•ness n.

sight gag n. A comic bit or effect that depends on sight rather

sight ing (sifting) n. The act of catching sight of something, especially something unusual or searched for: a sighting of a whale in the harbor; a reported sighting of a UFO

sight less (sīt lis) adj. 1. Unable to see with the eyes; blind. 2. Invisible. — sight/less·ly adv. — sight/less·ness n.

sight-line also sight line (sīt'līn') n. A line of sight, especially one between a spectator and the spectacle in a theater or stadium.

sight·ly (sīt'lē) adj. -li·er, -li·est. 1. Pleasing to see; visually appealing. 2. Affording a fine view; scenic. -sight/li-ness n. sight-read ( $s\bar{s}t'r\bar{e}d'$ ) v. -read (- $r\bar{e}d'$ ), -read-ing, -reads. -tr. To read or perform (music, for example) without preparation or prior acquaintance. -intr. To read or perform something on sight without preparation or prior acquaintance. -sight/-

sight rhyme n. See eye rhyme.

sight·see (sti'sē') intr.v. -saw (-sô'), -seen (-sēn'), -see ing, -sees. To tour sights of interest. —sight/se'er n.

sight\*see\*ing (sit\*se\*ing) n. The act or pastime of visiting sights of interest. —sightseeing adj. Used or engaged in sightseeing: a sightseeing bus; a sightseeing tour.

sig·il (sĭj'əl, sĭg'ĭl) n. 1. A seal; a signet. 2. A sign or an image considered magical. [Latin sigillum, diminutive of signum, sign. See SIGN.]

Sig-is-mund (sig'is-mand). 1368-1437. Holy Roman emperor 433-1437) and kind of Hundamy (1997-1497)

sigma factor n. A protein component of RNA polym determines the specific site on DNA where transcription

sigma hyperon n. Any of three unstable subatomic pe in the baryon family, having a mass of 2,328 to 2,343 tim the electron and a positive, neutral, or negative electic char table at subatomic particle.

sig·moid (sig/moid') also sig·moi·dal (sig-moid'l) as Having the shape of the letter S. 2. Of or relating to the sa flexure of the colon. [Greek sigmoeidēs : sigma, sigma; see - -oeidēs, -oid.]

sigmoid flexure n. An S-shaped section of the colon b the descending section and the rectum. Also called sign

sig·moid·o·scope (sĭg-moi/də-skōp') n. A tubular ment for visual examination of the sigmoid flexure. moid'o·scop'ic (-skop'ik) adj. -sig'moid·os'co·py moi-dos/ka-pē) n.

sign (sin) n. 1. Something that suggests the presence of tence of a fact, condition, or quality. 2.a. An act or a g used to convey an idea, a desire, information, or a comm the go-ahead sign. b. Sign language. 3.a. A displayed str. bearing lettering or symbols, used to identify or advertise of business: a motel with a flashing neon sign outside. b ed notice bearing a designation, direction, or command: sign above a door; a traffic sign. 4. A conventional figure vice that stands for a word, a phrase, or an operation; a as in mathematics or in musical notation. 5. pl. sign. As cator, such as a dropping or footprint, of the trail of an a looking for deer sign. 6. A trace or vestige: no sign of life. portentous incident or event; a presage: took the eclipse as a from God. 8. A body manifestation that serves to indipresence of malfunction or disease. 9. One of the 12 divi the zodiac, each named for a constellation and represente symbol. -sign v. signed, sign-ing, signs. -tr. one's signature to. 2. To write (one's signature). 3. To or ratify (a document) by affixing a signature, seal, or oth sign a bill into law. 4. To hire or engage by obtaining a sign on a contract: signed a rookie pitcher for next season; actors for a tour. 5. To relinquish or transfer title to by s signed away all her claims to the estate. 6. To provide with or signs: sign a new highway. 7. To communicate with a s by sign language: signed his approval; sign instruction hearing-impaired teammate. 8. To consecrate with the si cross. — intr. 1. To make a sign or signs; signal. 2. To language. 3. To write one's signature. - phrasal verb in. To record the arrival of (another or oneself) by signing ister. sign off. 1. To announce the end of a communic clude. 2. To stop transmission after identifying the broad station. 3. Informal. To express approval formally or co ly: got the Congress to sign off on the tax proposal. sign o Informal. To enlist oneself, especially as an employee: politicians often sign on with top-dollar law firms" (Ne Times). 2. To start transmission with an identification broadcasting station. sign out. To record the departure of other or oneself) by signing a register. sign up. To agree to participant or recipient by signing one's name; enlist: signing for military service; signing up for a pottery course. [Middlish signe, from Old French, from Latin signum. See sek Appendix.] -sign/er n.

SYNONYMS: sign, badge, mark, token, symptom, note. I nouns are compared as they denote an outward indication existence or presence of something not immediately evident existence of presence of sometiming not immediately evident is the most general: A high forehead is thought to be a sintelligence. "The exile of Gaveston was the sign of the batriumph" (John R. Green). "The V sign is the symbol of the conquerable will of the occupied territories" (Winston S. C. chill). Badge usually refers to something that is worn as ac signia of membership, is an emblem of achievement, or characteristic sign: The sheriff's badge was shaped like a "Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge" (Shakespeare). Mark refer to a visible trace or impression (a laundry mark) or indication of a distinctive trait or characteristic: Intolerance mark of a bigot. The term can also denote a lasting effect, as experience: Poverty had left its mark. Token usually refers to idence or proof of something intangible: sent flowers as a toher affection. Symptom suggests outward evidence of a proceed condition, especially an adverse condition: "dying of a has good symptoms" (Alexander Pope); "the gale having rath creased than shown any symptoms of abating" (Frederick Ma at). Note applies to the sign of a particular quality or feature eternal note of sadness" (Matthew Arnold). See also Synony

Si-gnac (sēn-yāk'), Paul. 1863-1935. French neoimpres painter. He painted mainly landscapes and marine views, so Port of St. Tropez (1916).

sign·age (sī'nĭj) n. 1. Signs considered as a group. 2 design or use of signs and symbols.

sound, image, or message transmitted or received in telegratelephony, radio, television, or radar. -signal adj. Notably of the ordinary: a signal feat. See Synonyms at noticeable. gnal v. -naled, -nal-ing, -nals or -nailed, -nal-ling, s. -tr. 1. To make a signal to: I signaled the driver to pro-2. To relate or make known by signals: They have signaled willingness to negotiate. — intr. To make a signal or signals. idle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin signale, neuter of Late Latin signālis, of a sign, from Latin signum, See SIGN.] -sig'nal·er, sig'nal·ler n.

nal·ize (sig'nə-līz') tr.v. -ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. 1. To e remarkable or conspicuous: a life signalized by high accomiments. 2. To point out particularly. -sig'nal-i-za'tion

-li-zā/shən) n.

nal·ly (sīg'nə-lē) adv. To a conspicuous degree; notably. nal-ment (sig'nəl-mənt) n. A detailed description of a ion's appearance, as for police files. [French signalement, a signaler, to mark out, from signal, signal. See SIGNAL.]

na·to·ry (sīg'nə-tôr'ē, -tōr'ē) adj. Bound by signed ement: the signatory parties to a contract. —signatory n., -ries. One that has signed a treaty or other document. [Latin atorius, from signatus, past participle of signare, to mark,

n signum, sign. See SIGN.]

na ture (sig'na-char) n. 1. Abbr. sig. One's name as writby oneself. 2. The act of signing one's name. 3. A distinctive k, characteristic, or sound indicating identity: A surprise endis the signature of an O. Henry short story. 4. Abbr. Sig., S. dicine. The part of a physician's prescription containing direcis to the patient. 5. Music. a. A sign used to indicate key. b. ign used to indicate tempo. 6. Printing. a. A letter, number, symbol placed at the bottom of the first page on each sheet of nted pages of a book as a guide to the proper sequence of the ets in binding. b. A large sheet printed with four or a multiple four pages that when folded becomes a section of the book. ench, from Old French, from Medieval Latin signatūra, from in signātus, past participle of signāre, to mark, from signum, See SIGN.

i-board (sīn'bôrd', -bōrd') n. A board bearing a sign. nef (sig/nit) n. 1. A seal, especially one used officially to rk documents. 2. The impression made with such a seal. signet tr.v. -net-ed, -net-ing, -nets. To mark or endorse th a signet. [Middle English, from Old French, diminutive of ne, sign. See SIGN.]

net ring n. A finger ring bearing an engraved signet. Also

nif-i-cance (sig-nif'i-kens) also sig-nif-i-can-cy (-kenn. 1. The state or quality of being significant. See Synonyms mportance. 2. A meaning that is expressed. 3. A covert or plied meaning. See Synonyms at meaning.

nifficance level n. Statistics. See level of significance. nif-i-cant (sig-nif/I-kent) adj. 1. Having or expressing a eaning; meaningful. 2. Having or expressing a covert meaning; ggestive: a significant glance. See Synonyms at expressive. 3. wing or likely to have a major effect; important: a significant ange in the tax laws. 4. Fairly large in amount or quantity: mificant casualties. 5. Statistics. Of or relating to observations occurrences that are too closely correlated to be attributed to ance and therefore indicate a systematic relationship. [Latin mificans, significant-, present participle of significare, to signi-See SIGNIFY.] -sig-nif/i-cant-ly adv.

nificant digits pl.n. Mathematics. The digits of the decal form of a number beginning with the leftmost nonzero digit d extending to the right to include all digits warranted by the curacy of measuring devices used to obtain the numbers. Also

lled significant figures.

nificant other n. 1. A person, such as a spouse or lover, th whom one shares a long-term sexual relationship. 2. A peron, such as a family member or close friend, who is important or fluential in one's life: "The most important variable in success-I smoking cessation is the support of significant others in the nonsmoker's life" (Carolyn Reuben).

•ni·fi·ca·tion (sĭg'nə-fi-kā'shən) n. 1. The established eaning of a word. See Synonyms at meaning. 2. The act of

gnifying; indication.

•nif•i•ca•tive (sīg-nīf'ĭ-kā'tīv) adj. 1. Tending to signify indicate; indicative. 2. Having meaning; significant. -sig-

if/i-ca'tive-ness n.

•ni•fy (sig'nə-fi') v. -fied, -fy ing, -fies. -tr. 1. To decte, mean. See Synonyms at mean 2. To make known, as with sign or word: signify one's intent. —intr. 1. To have meaning importance. See Synonyms at count 1. 2. Slang. To exchange morous insults in a verbal game. [Middle English signifien, com Old French signifier, from Latin significāre : signum, sign; sign + -ficāre, -fy.] —sig'ni-fi'a-ble adj. —sig'ni-fi'er n. nior (sen-yôr', -yōr') n. Variant of signor.

gnio·ry (sēn'ya-rē) n. Variant of signory.

nations n 1. A language that uses manual movements

made in token of faith in Jesus or as an invocation of God's bless-

si-gnor also si-gnior (sēn-yôr', -yōr') n., pl. si-gno-ri (sēn-yôr'ē, -yōr'ē) also si-gniors or si-gnors. Abbr. S., Sig., sig. Used as a courtesy title for a man in an Italian-speaking area, equivalent to Mr. [Italian, variant of signore. See SIGNORE.]

si-gno·ra (sēn-yôr/ə, -yōr/ə, -yô/rā) n., pl. si-gno·re (sēnyôr'ā, -yōr'ā, -yô'rĕ) or si-gno-ras. Used as a courtesy title for a married woman in an Italian-speaking area, equivalent to Mrs. [Italian, feminine of signore, signore. See SIGNORE.]

si-gno-re (sēn-yōr'ā, -yōr'ā, -yō'rē) n., pl. si-gno-ri (sēn-yō'rē, -yōr'ē). Abbr. S., Sig., sig. Used as a form of polite address for a man in an Italian-speaking area. [Italian, from Medieval Latin senior, lord, from Latin, elder. See SENIOR.]

si·gno·ri (sēn-yô/rē, -yōr/ē) n. 1. A plural of signor. 2. A plural of signore.

si-gno·ri·na (sēn'yə-rē'nə, -yô-rē'nä) n., pl. -ne (-nā, -ně) or -nas. Used as a courtesy title for an unmarried woman in an Italian-speaking area, equivalent to Miss. [Italian, diminutive of signora, signora. See SIGNORA.]

si-gno-ry or si-gnio-ry (sēn/yə-rē) n., pl. -ries. See seigniory. [Middle English signorie, from Old French seigneurie, from seigneur, seignior. See SEIGNIOR.]

sign·post (sīn/pōst') n. 1. A post supporting a sign that has information or directions.
 2. An indication, a sign, or a guide.

Sig·urd (sig/ərd) n. Mythology. A warrior hero in Norse myth who wins an accursed hoard of gold, awakens Brynhild from her enchanted sleep, marries a princess, and is slain through Brynhild's jealous contrivance.

Si-gurds-son (sig/ərd-sən, -ærth-sôn'), Jón. 1811-1879. Icelandic politician and scholar who secured a constitution for his country from Denmark (1874).

Si-ha-nouk (sē'a-nook'), Prince Norodom. Born 1922. Cambodian politician who served as prime minister (1955–1957) and became head of state in 1960. Sihanouk was deposed in 1970 and briefly returned to power (1975-1976) during the Pol Pot regime.

Si-ha-sa-pa (sa-hā/sa-pa) n., pl. Sihasapa or -pas. 1. A Native American people constituting a subdivision of the Teton Sioux. 2. A member of this people. Also called Blackfoot, Blackfoot Sioux.

si-ka (se'ka) n. A medium-sized deer (Cervus nippon) native to Japan and China but naturalized in Europe and other countries, having a small head, compact body, and mostly spotted reddish or chestnut coat. Several of its subspecies are endangered in the wild. [Japanese shika, deer.]

Sikes ton (sik'stan). A city of southeast Missouri west-southwest of Cairo, Illinois. It is a trade and processing center.

Population, 17,431.

Sikh (sēk) n. An adherent of Sikhism. —Sikh adj. Of or relating to the Sikhs or to Sikhism. [Hindi, from Sanskrit sisyah, disciple, from sikṣati, he wishes to learn, desiderative of saknoti, is able.]

Sikh·ism (sēk'ĭz'əm) n. The doctrines and practices of a monotheistic religion founded in northern India in the 16th century and combining elements of Hinduism and Islam.

Si Kiang (sē' kyäng', shē'). See Xi Jiang.

Sik·kim (sik/im). A region and former kingdom of northeast India in the eastern Himalaya Mountains between Nepal and Bhutan. Long isolated from the outside world, Sikkim was virtually a dependency of Tibet until the 19th century, when it came under British protection. The protectorate passed to India in 1949 and became an integral part of that country in 1975.

Si-kor-sky (sĭ-kôr/skē), Igor Ivan. 1889-1972. Russian-born American aviation pioneer. He designed (1939) the first successful

American helicopter.

si-lage (si/lij) n. Fodder prepared by storing and fermenting green forage plants in a silo: [Short for ENSILAGE.]

sil·ane (sĭl/ān') n. Any of a group of silicon hydrides having the general formula SiH that are analogous to the paraffin hy-drocarbons. [SIL(ICON) + (METH)ANE.]

sild (sild) n., pl. sild or silds. A young herring other than a sprat that is processed as a sardine in Norway. [Norwegian and

Danish, from Old Norse sild, herring.] si-lence (si/lens) n.
 1. The condition or quality of being or keeping still and silent.
 2. The absence of sound; stillness.
 3. A period of time without speech or noise.
 4. Refusal or failure to speak out. — silence tr.v. -lenced, -lenc-ing, -lenc-es. 1. To make silent or bring to silence: silenced the crowd with a gesture. 2. To curtail the expression of; suppress: silencing all criticism; silenced their opponents. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin silentium, from silens, silent-, present participle of silere, to be silent.]

si-lenc-er (si/lan-sar) n. One that silences, especially a device attached to the muzzle of a firearm to muffle the sound of firing. si·le·ni (sī-lē/nī) n. Greek Mythology. Plural of silenus.

si-lenf (sī/lənt) adj. 1. Marked by absence of noise or sound; still. 2. Not inclined to speak; not talkative. 3. Unable to speak. 4. Refraining from speech: Do be silent. 5. Not voiced or ex-



signet ring



signpost



sika Cervus nippon

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