

Lesson 11

Unfamiliar Words

Learning Target

Figuring out the meanings of unfamiliar words will help you better understand the texts you read and discuss in school.

- **Read** When you read, you probably come across words you do not know. Some of these unfamiliar words may be **academic vocabulary**, or general words that are found in a variety of subjects you study in school. Other words may be found only in a particular **subject area**, such as science, social studies, or economics. A subject area can have many topics. For example, money is one **topic** in the subject area of economics.

Read the poster below. Underline any words you might not know.

The Westfield Animal Shelter Needs Your Help!

We have outgrown our space here. Can you help us build a new shelter to protect our pets?

Please make a donation to the Westfield Animal Shelter today. Even a small amount of money will help. Once we raise \$10,000, we'll be able to begin construction.

We at the shelter will be grateful for your generosity in giving. The animals will thank you for your kindness. Remember that each act of benevolence counts!



- **Think** Use the chart below to help determine the meanings of unfamiliar words. The word's context has been provided for you. In the "Possible Meaning" column, write what you think the word means. Then go back to the text, find **context clues** that tell you about the word's meaning, and write them in the "Clues" column.

Unknown Word	Context	Possible Meaning	Clues
Shelter	"... build a new <u>shelter</u> to protect our pets?"		
Donation	"Please make a <u>donation</u> ..."		
Benevolence	"... each act of <u>benevolence</u> counts!"		

- **Talk** Share your chart with a partner.
- Did you come up with similar meanings?
 - Did you find the same clues to the words' meanings?
 - Are there any school subjects for which figuring out words is especially important? If so, which subjects?



Academic Talk

Use this word and these phrases to talk about the text.

- **academic vocabulary**
- **subject area**
- **topic**
- **context clues**

Here, Pigggy Pigggy

by Gail Hutter

1 The first time you heard about or saw a piggy bank, you might have wondered: Why a pig? Why not some other animal? Wouldn't a bear or a wolf be a more appropriate guard of a person's money? To understand how the pig became the animal of choice for a small, personal bank, we need to peer into the past—all the way back to England in the Middle Ages.

2 During the Middle Ages, people in England used dishes, pots, and bowls made of clay. Clay was an ideal substance for such objects because it was cheaper than metal and easier to shape than wood. One type of orange-colored clay was particularly inexpensive and easy to mold into shapes. The name of this clay was "pygg."

3 So pygg was used to make common household objects—but what's the connection between pygg and piggy banks? Hundreds of years ago, banks did not exist as they do today, but people still needed to keep their coins in a place from which they could be easily removed. So, they put them into pygg jars, which later became known as "pygg banks." In the 1800s, some inventive potters began making pygg banks in the form of a pig with a slot in the back. Not only were these "piggy banks" more pleasing to look at than regular jars, potters could charge more money for them. Thus the piggy bank was born.

4 For centuries, most piggy banks were made of clay and could be opened only by shattering them. Today's piggy banks are made from clay, metal, glass, or plastic, and most contemporary piggy banks have a hole in the bottom for taking out money easily. Most people agree that the hole in the bottom was a good addition to the piggy bank. Otherwise, every time you retrieved your money, you'd have to spend some of it on a new piggy bank.



Close Reader Habits

Are there any unfamiliar words or phrases in this article? When you reread, **underline** context clues that can help you figure out what they mean.

Explore**What context clues can help you understand unfamiliar words and phrases in the text?**

Look for context clues in the same sentence or nearby sentences.

► Think

- 1 Complete the chart below by telling the context of each unfamiliar word or phrase, its possible meaning, and the clues that led you to that definition.

Unfamiliar Word or Phrase	Context	Possible Meaning	Clues
Peer into the past (paragraph 1)			
Inventive potters (paragraph 3)			
Contemporary (paragraph 4)			
Retrieved (paragraph 4)			

► Talk

- 2 Use context clues to determine why clay was an “ideal substance” for making certain objects.

► Write

- 3 **Short Response** Define the phrase ideal substance. Support your definition with context clues from the passage. Use the space provided on page 194 to write your answer.

HINT First, define *ideal substance*. Then explain how clay fit that definition.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 191.

Here, Pyggy Pyggy

3 Short Response Define the phrase ideal substance. Support your definition with context clues from the passage.

HINT First, define *ideal substance*. Then explain how clay fit that definition.



Don't forget to check your writing.

From Furs to Five-Dollar Bills

by Jason Liu

- 1 Imagine paying for new sneakers with a handful of shells. In ancient times, people around the world paid for goods with commodity money. A commodity is a product or raw material offered as payment for another thing. Cows, sheep, or other kinds of animals were bartered for what a person wanted. Furs, beads, grain, giant stones, or salt were also exchanged.
- 2 Gradually, ancient peoples stopped using cattle and crops as money. Around 1000 B.C.E., the Chinese began to exchange metal tools for what they needed. They also used copper and bronze coins. By 700 B.C.E., the first silver and gold coins were produced in Lydia (what is now Turkey). These coins were stamped with images of different gods or important rulers.
- 3 Paper money developed in China around 800 C.E. Paper was light and easy to carry. But the Chinese printed too much paper money, and it lost its value. In 1455, the Chinese stopped using paper money for several hundred years. Meanwhile, Europeans only began using paper money in the 1600s.
- 4 After the American Revolution, the Continental Congress established a national currency based on the dollar in 1785. The first American coins were minted in 1793. These copper cents were produced by hand. Nearly seventy years later, the U.S. government began to issue paper money for the first time in 1861. Since then, the appearance of American coins and bills has changed. For example, today's paper money in the United States has a new design every seven to ten years.



In China, knife money was used from 600 to 200 B.C.E.



This is one of the earliest American silver dollars ever minted.

Close Reader Habits

How can you determine the meaning of *minted* in paragraph 4? Reread the text. **Underline** the sentence that gives a context clue.

► **Think** Use what you learned from reading the text to answer the following questions.

1 This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the meaning of the word currency as it is used in paragraph 4?

- A goods used in trade
- B an idea accepted by many people
- C something that is up-to-date
- D the money used in a country

Part B

Which phrase from the passage helps the reader understand the meaning of currency?

- A "based on the dollar"
- B "produced by hand"
- C "lost its value"
- D "a new design"

2 Underline the word in the paragraph below that means "traded or exchanged one thing for another."

A commodity is a product or raw material offered as payment for another thing. Cows, sheep, or other kinds of animals were bartered for what a person wanted. Furs, beads, grain, giant stones, or salt were also exchanged.

► **Talk**

3 Discuss the meaning of minted as it is used in paragraph 4 of the text.

►  **Write**

4 **Short Response** Define the word minted. Then describe what words or phrases helped you figure out the meaning of minted. Use the space provided on page 195 to write your answer.



A context clue may give a definition, an explanation, or an example. Sometimes an author will include a word with a similar meaning. Other times, the clue may be a word with an opposite meaning.

HINT Use quotes from the passage to show what words or phrases help you define *minted*.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 193.

From Furs to Five-Dollar Bills

4 Short Response Define the word minted. Then describe what words or phrases helped you figure out the meaning of minted.

HINT Use quotes from the passage to show what words or phrases help you define *minted*.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the prompt carefully?
- Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- Are your ideas clearly organized?
- Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- financial
- economy

WHAT WAS THE GREAT DEPRESSION?

by Fran Severs

- 1 When World War I officially ended in 1919, Americans were tired of the war and ready for good times. In the early 1920s, there were plenty of jobs in the United States. People earned good incomes. Businesses grew quickly. During the Roaring Twenties, American consumers enjoyed spending money. Those who could not afford the most expensive items borrowed money so they could “buy now, pay later.” They bought new homes. They purchased cars, washing machines, and other large items. They also bought smaller goods, such as toasters and irons. To meet the demand, factories rushed to make even more products. But companies made too many goods, and people stopped buying them. By the end of the 1920s, warehouses were filled up with merchandise that no one bought. Factory production slowed down. Many factory workers lost their jobs.

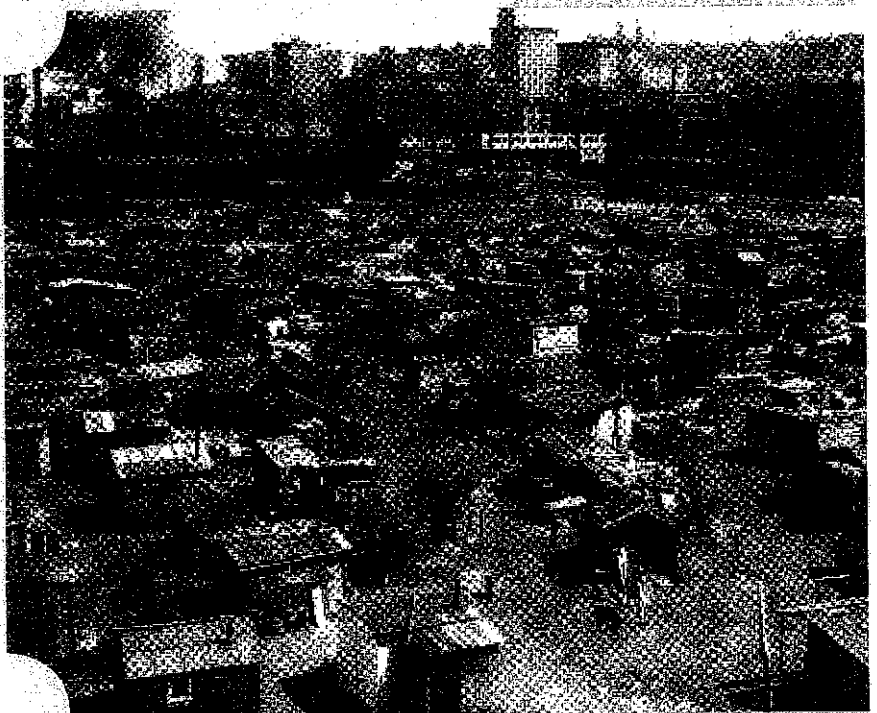
During the 1920s, many Americans grew wealthier. They spent their money on new inventions such as the electric refrigerator shown in this photograph.



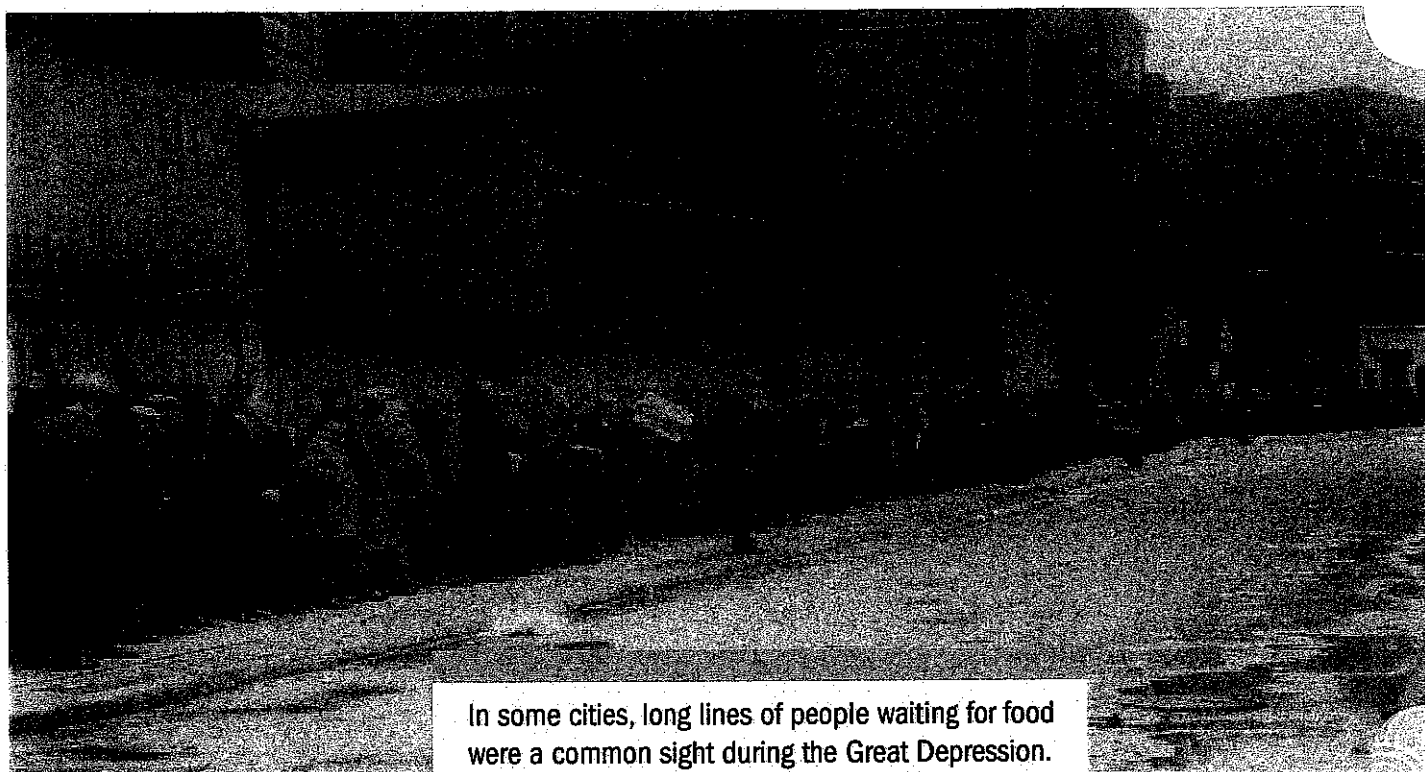
2 At the same time, many Americans decided to invest money in the stock market. They hoped to get rich quickly. The stock market is a place where shares of stock in different companies are bought and sold. People hope to make a high return by buying stock at a low price and selling it at a higher price. From June through September 1929, the prices of stocks soared. Then prices began to dip slightly. Nervous investors began selling millions of stock shares for less than the purchase price, losing billions of dollars. On October 31, 1929, the stock market crashed when stock prices dropped sharply. The crash caused panic. People took their money out of banks, and banks were forced to close. More than 600 banks failed in 1929.

3 The stock market crash led to a financial crisis called the Great Depression. A depression is a serious slowdown in the economy that causes people to lose their jobs and businesses to fail. At the start of the Great Depression, about 1.5 million Americans were out of work. By 1933, about 13 million Americans had lost their jobs. To earn money, jobless people sold apples, pencils, and other items on the streets. They shined shoes or washed and mended clothing for others. They sold their personal belongings. Some were forced to beg for money.

4 Without an income, thousands of jobless Americans lost their homes because they did not have the money to pay rent. If they had borrowed money to buy a house, they could not pay their loans, so the bank took their homes. People were forced to live with friends or family members. If necessary, they stayed in churches or rooming houses. Sometimes, the homeless built shacks from old crates and scrap metal. These temporary homes lacked electricity or running water.




During the Great Depression, many Americans lost not just their jobs but also their homes. For shelter, these men and women built shacks on the outskirts of cities.



In some cities, long lines of people waiting for food were a common sight during the Great Depression. Charities gave bread and soup to people who could not pay to feed themselves.

- 5 About two million homeless men, women, and children drifted around the country. They broke the law by hitching free rides on trains. They rode from place to place looking for work, food, and shelter. Millions stood in lines for free bread or soup that charity groups provided. In 1931, charity groups in New York City served about 85,000 free meals every day.
- 6 Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, America's economy slowly improved. Roosevelt's plan to fix the nation's money problems was called the New Deal. To improve the situation, the government passed laws that changed banking systems, provided the needy with aid, and created new jobs. In 1933, about 25 percent of Americans were jobless. By 1937, the unemployment rate had fallen to about 14 percent. Unfortunately, nearly 8 million Americans still did not have jobs.
- 7 The Great Depression lasted for more than ten years. In 1941, the United States entered World War II. Factories started making war supplies, such as airplanes, tanks, and ships. As the need for war supplies increased, businesses hired more and more people. America's hard times finally came to an end.

 **Think** Use what you learned from reading the article to answer the following questions.

1 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Read this sentence from paragraph 1.

By the end of the 1920s, warehouses were filled up with merchandise that no one bought.

What does the word merchandise mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A goods
- B large items
- C shares of stock
- D jobs

Part B

Which detail from paragraph 1 **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A "... that no one bought ..."
- B "... even more products ..."
- C "... factory production slowed ..."
- D "... lost their jobs ..."

2 The author uses a word that means "a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger." Underline a word in the paragraph below that **best** represents that idea.

The stock market crash led to a financial crisis called the Great Depression. A depression is a serious slowdown in the economy that causes people to lose their jobs and businesses to fail. At the start of the Great Depression, about 1.5 million Americans were out of work. By 1933, about 13 million Americans had lost their jobs. To earn money, jobless people sold apples, pencils, and other items on the streets. They shined shoes or washed and mended clothing for others. They sold their personal belongings. Some were forced to beg for money.

- 3 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

What is the **best** meaning of the phrase hard times in paragraph 7 of "What Was the Great Depression?"

- A a period of great difficulty
- B a time when farmers couldn't grow crops
- C a time when jobs paid low wages
- D a period of mild sadness

Part B

Which sentence from the article helps the reader determine the meaning of the phrase hard times as it is used in paragraph 7?

- A "When World War I officially ended in 1919, Americans were tired of the war and ready for good times." (paragraph 1)
- B "From June through September 1929, the prices of stocks soared." (paragraph 2)
- C "About two million homeless men, women, and children drifted around the country." (paragraph 5)
- D "Roosevelt's plan to fix the nation's money problems was called the New Deal." (paragraph 6)

- 4 Read the sentence from paragraph 1.

To meet the demand, factories rushed to make even more products.

Which dictionary entry **best** defines demand?

- A "forceful statement"
- B "wish"
- C "strong need"
- D "question"



5 Short Response Paragraph 6 of the passage states, "By 1937, the unemployment rate had fallen to about 14 percent." Define the phrase unemployment rate. Support your definition with at least **one** context clue from the passage.

Learning Target

In this lesson, you figured out the meanings of several challenging words and phrases. Explain how you can use these skills to help you better understand the texts you read in school.
