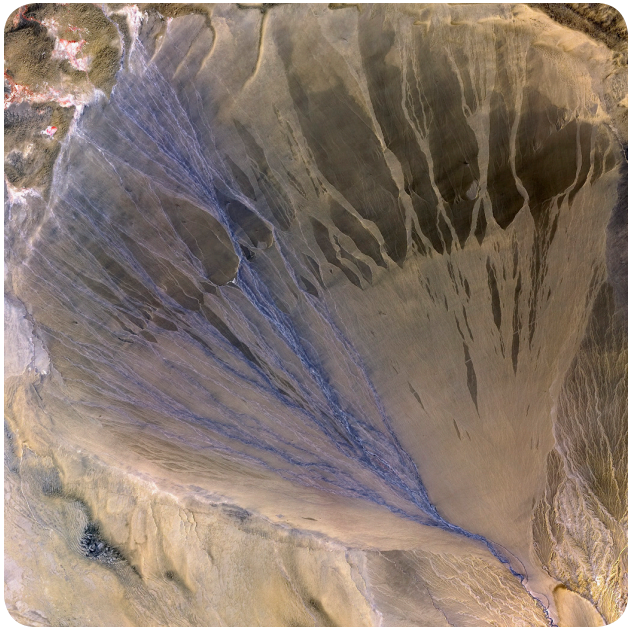

alluvial soils

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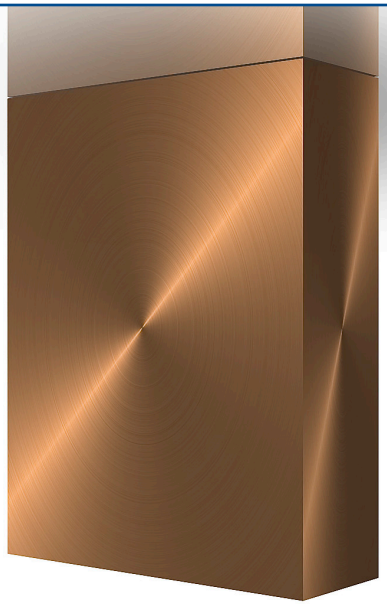
bronze



A yellowish-brown metal that is made by mixing copper and tin.

Material deposited by a stream or by running water.

caste

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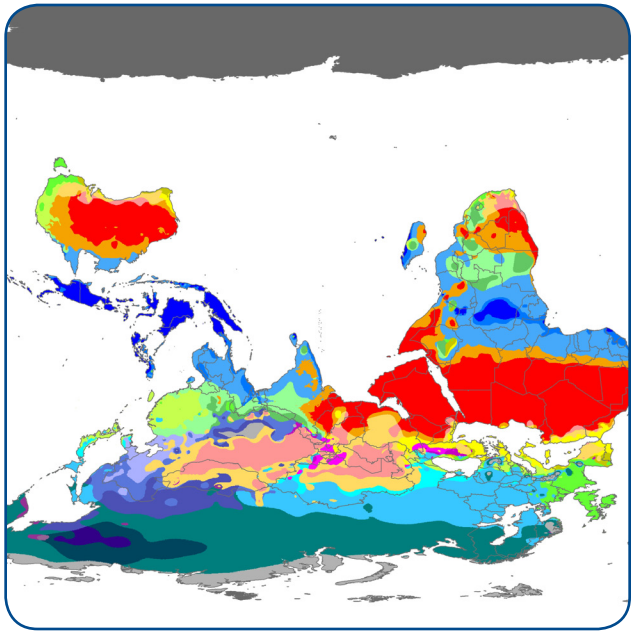
climate



The weather in an area averaged over a long period of time.

A social class based on hereditary or marital status.

crop

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dredging

Removing sand, silt, or mud from the bottom of a body of water.

A type of plant, or the seasonal production of plants, grown by humans for food, animal feed, or fiber.

dynasty

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ecosystem

goods

Materials, such as timber and water, produced by natural systems, that are used by humans.

A sequence of rulers from the same family or group.

ecosystem services

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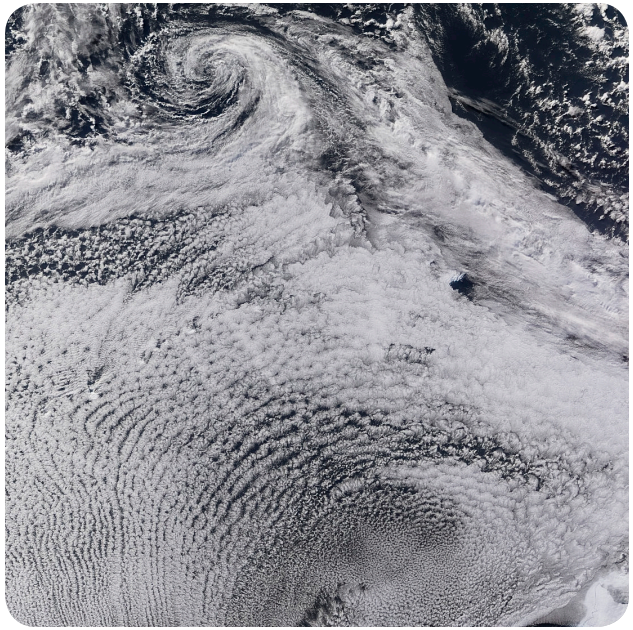
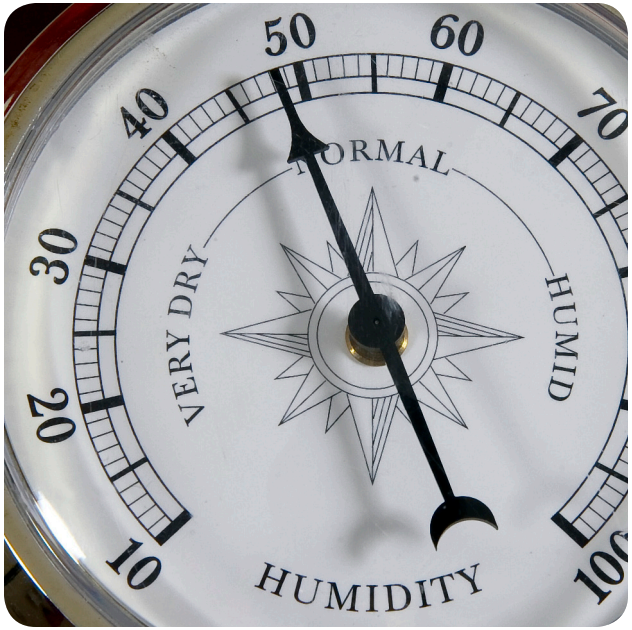


high pressure

A condition in which the atmospheric pressure of a mass of air is greater than that of the surrounding air.

Processes that take place in nature, such as pollination, that support or produce things that help sustain human life, economies, and cultures.



humidity

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irrigation

A system that provides water to land through pipes, artificial channels, or other methods.

The amount of water vapor in the air.

jet stream

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levee

A raised bank beside a river, formed naturally, or built to control flooding.

A fast corridor of air flowing 20,000 feet to 30,000 feet (6,096 meters to 9,144 meters) above Earth.

monsoon

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nomad

A member of a tribal people with no permanent home, who travels to find food, pasture, and water for livestock.

A seasonal wind that brings heavy rains and flooding.

oracle

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plateau

A large, flat area of land that is higher than the surrounding land.

A person who divines the future.

surplus

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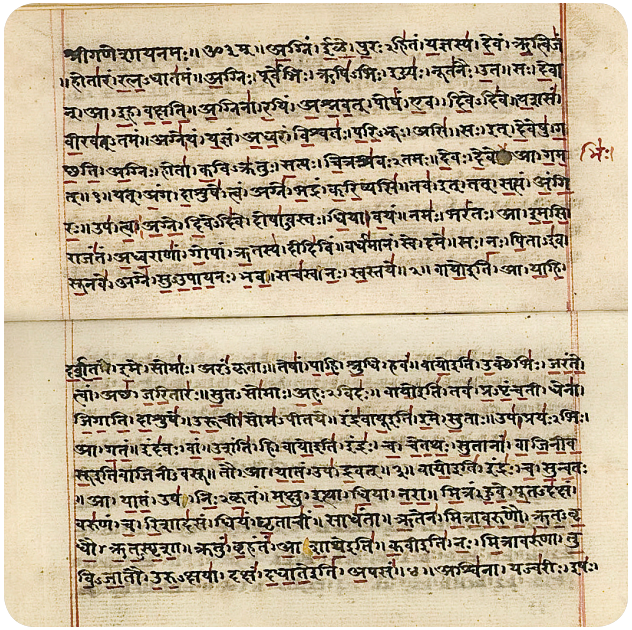
tectonic plate

A massive piece of solid rock that “drifts” on the surface of Earth’s crust.

The amount of goods above the amount needed to meet one’s own needs.



Vedas

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The most ancient of Sanskrit literature and Hindu scriptures, comprised of hymns to various deities.