



Vocabulary - Lesson 6

Core Vocabulary

complaint: a document that starts a civil lawsuit and is filed by a person who claims to have suffered harm by the actions of another person

decision: a conclusion reached by a judge or jury after an evaluation of evidence

defendant: in a lawsuit, a person accused of causing the harm

plaintiff: in a lawsuit, a person who claims to have suffered harm caused by actions of another person

remedy: in a trial, the actions by a court of law to fix or make up for wrongful harm to the plaintiffs

standing: ability of a person to bring a lawsuit before a court to obtain judicial remedy or relief

trial: the judicial process of examining and determining facts and legal issues between parties in a civil or criminal lawsuit

Support Vocabulary

appeal: when a case is brought before a higher court to review a lower court's decision

beneficiaries under public trust doctrine: in a democratic society, citizens; present and future generations

Commonwealth: another name for some states

dismiss: a ruling by a judge to throw out all or part of a plaintiff's case

Executive Order: A presidential policy directive that interprets or puts into effect a federal law, constitutional requirement, or treaty

infringe: violate

intervenor: a person that the court allows to join an ongoing lawsuit when the decision in the case may affect that person's rights or property

jury: in a trial, a group of people who are selected and sworn to investigate matters of fact and to reach a decision or verdict

lawsuit: a legal case filed by one person against another and to be decided in a court of law





Vocabulary - Lesson 6 (con't)

party: any person involved in a legal case; for example, plaintiffs, defendants, and intervenors are parties in a lawsuit

petition: a written application from a person to a governing body or public official to ask for relief

posterity: future generations of people

precedent: a legal ruling that sets a new standard for future cases

private property: property owned by private persons or entities

procedural due process: prohibits the government from depriving individuals of legally protected interests without first giving them notice and an opportunity to be heard

protected class: a group of people with a common characteristic who are legally protected from discrimination on the basis of that characteristic

public property: property owned by the government or held in trust by the government for the people

public trust doctrine: the principle that certain natural and cultural resources critical for survival are held in trust by governments, and that it is the duty of governments to protect and maintain these resources for the survival and benefit of present and future generations

remand: send back

rule-making: a process used by the executive branch to create or change rules or to put rules into effect

substantive due process: prohibits the government from infringing on fundamental constitutional liberties

trust relationship: a special relationship that establishes a duty on Trustees to act for the care and benefit of Trust beneficiaries

trustees of public trust doctrine: in a democratic society, elected representatives in Congress and state legislatures

