

## UNIT FIVE

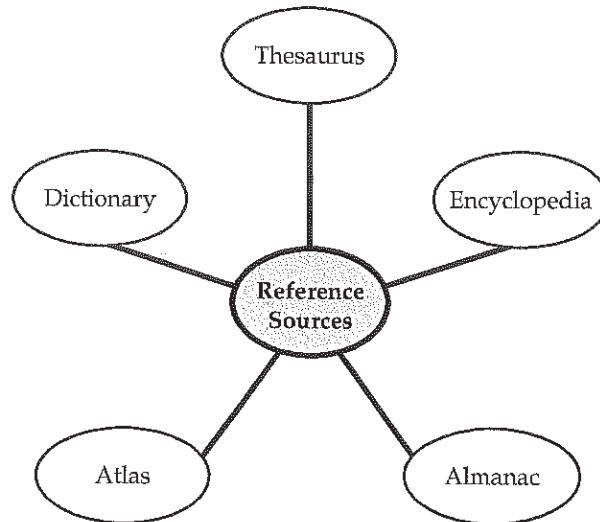
# *Using Reference Sources*

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- 5-2 Reference Source Formats
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- 5-4 Practice Using a Dictionary
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**Reference sources** are used to find background information, to locate facts, and to answer questions. Look at the graphic organizer. It shows the major types of reference sources. Then read the brief description of each type of reference source.



A **dictionary** provides information about the meanings, pronunciation, and spelling of words.

A **thesaurus** contains synonyms for words. A *synonym* is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning of another word. A thesaurus may contain antonyms for words. An *antonym* is a word that has the opposite meaning on another word.

An **encyclopedia** contains articles and information on a variety of subjects.

An **almanac** contains very specific facts and data on a variety of subjects.

An **atlas** is a collection of maps.

Write the type of the reference source you would use to

1. Find the name of the third-longest suspension bridge in the world. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Find a similar word to use instead of "beautiful." \_\_\_\_\_
3. Learn about the water cycle. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Locate which countries border France. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Learn about the childhood of George Washington. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Learn the two most common meanings of "liberty." \_\_\_\_\_
7. Learn as much as you can about the original 13 American colonies. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Learn how to pronounce "iguana." \_\_\_\_\_



A **format** is the way information is packaged. Reference sources may be in a *print* format or in an *electronic* format.

## PRINT FORMAT

A **print format** uses paper. Each reference source is presented in the form of a book. Here is a print format example of each of the reference sources you learned about in Activity 5-1.

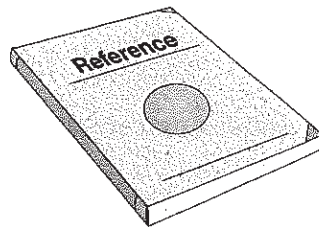
*Dictionary:* The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

*Thesaurus:* Webster's New World Thesaurus

*Encyclopedia:* Encyclopedia Britannica

*Almanac:* World Almanac

*Atlas:* National Geographic Atlas of the World



Using your school or public library, locate and write the title of a print format example of each of the following.

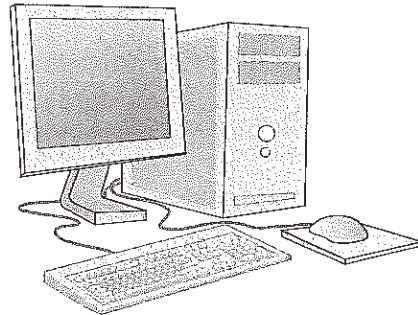
1. Encyclopedia \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dictionary \_\_\_\_\_
3. Atlas \_\_\_\_\_
4. Almanac \_\_\_\_\_
5. Atlas \_\_\_\_\_



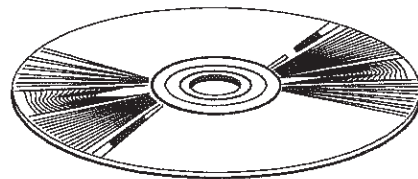
## ELECTRONIC FORMAT

An **electronic format** is any format other than print. The most important electronic formats you should use are the Internet and CD-ROMs.

The Internet is a worldwide network that allows you to connect to millions of computers using your own computer. The World Wide Web is one part of the Internet. It contains information presented on Web sites. Search engines such as Google and Yahoo allow you to locate Web sites.



A **CD-ROM** is a thin disk that can store thousands of pages of information. You can retrieve and print the information using a computer. You cannot add to or change the information in any way.



6. Locate an Internet Web site that provides information about presidents of the United States. Write the Web site address (also known as a URL). You will find the address of the Web site at the top left portion of the computer screen. It will begin with `http:` \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is a limitation of a CD-ROM reference source?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





A **dictionary**, whether in print format or electronic format, provides information about words.

## PRINT FORMAT DICTIONARY

Each page of a print format dictionary contains a number of *entry words*. Entry words are the words about which information is presented. They are printed in bold type to make them easy to locate.

At the top of each page are two *guide words*. The first guide word is called the *opening guide word*. It shows the first entry word on the page. The second guide word is called the *closing guide word*. It shows the last entry word on the page. The guide words help you locate a word quickly.

Here is the information you will find about entry words in most dictionaries.

- a. **Meaning or meanings:** Many entry words have more than one meaning. If so, the meanings are numbered to show how commonly they are used. The most commonly used meaning is listed as 1, the next most common meaning as 2, and so on.
- b. **Syllabication:** The entry word is shown broken into syllables. If no syllabication is shown, the entry word has just one syllable.
- c. **Phonetic respelling:** The entry word is shown in phonetic respelling form, usually in parentheses ( ). The phonetic respelling helps the user pronounce the entry word.
- d. **Usage:** Sometimes one or more sentences containing the entry word is provided to show how the word might be used.
- e. **Parts of speech:** The parts of speech of the entry word are shown. Some entry words have just one part of speech. An abbreviation is typically used to represent a part of speech as follows:

noun (n)	verb (v)	adjective (adj)	conjunction (con)
pronoun (pron)	adverb (adv)	preposition (prep)	

- f. **Variants:** Different forms of the entry word are shown. For example, *directed*, *directing*, and *directs* may be shown for the entry word *direct*.
- g. **Etymology:** Sometimes information is provided about the history of an entry word from its beginning to its present form. The language the entry word came from may be noted as well as any changes in its spelling or meaning.
- h. **Synonym and/or antonym:** A synonym and/or an antonym may be shown for the entry word. A synonym (syn) is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. An antonym (ant) is a word that has the opposite meaning of another word.
- i. **Illustration:** A drawing or picture of the entry word may be provided.
- j. **Pronunciation keys:** A *short pronunciation key* is provided at the bottom of each right-hand page of the dictionary. The short pronunciation key shows the special symbols and spellings that are used to show sounds when pronouncing a word. A *long pronunciation key* is located at the front of the dictionary. The long pronunciation key shows



the different sounds of the English language and the different ways these sounds are spelled.

1. Look at the following entry from a page from a print format dictionary. In each box, write the letter that represents the underlined information in the entry. Refer to the descriptions of the information found about entry words at the beginning of this activity as you do this. For example, use the letter "c" to show where the phonetic respelling of dispute appears in the entry.

dis-pute      (dĭ-spyŭōōt')       v.       1. To argue against; disagree with.

They disputed your claim that you were the smartest kid in your class.

2. To argue or fight over.       syn. squabble; ant. agree       n.   An argument or quarrel.

syn. disagreement.       From Old French disputer.       disputed, disputing, disputes.

### ELECTRONIC FORMAT DICTIONARY

Dictionaries are also available on the Internet. Most are free. Some have additional features that can be purchased. Dictionaries can also be purchased as a CD-ROM or as a download from the Internet to an iPod.

A good example of a dictionary on the Internet is the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. The address of this site is: <http://www.m-w.com/>. Go to this site to see the information provided about the entry word *dispute*.

2. What valuable feature is provided at this site that is not provided in most print format dictionaries?

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Use a print format and/or an electronic format dictionary to answer the following questions.

1. What is the most common meaning of **hazel** as a noun?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the phonetic respelling of **distinguish**?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the etymology of **overture**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What parts of speech are shown for **savage**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the most common meaning of **grade** as verb?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What part of speech is **impetuous**?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is an antonym for **relaxed**?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Is **gale** a noun or a verb?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How many syllables does **photosynthesis** contain?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What variants are shown for **shuttle**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Does **inquisitive** mean to be afraid? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, what does it mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What are three meanings of **offense**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



A **thesaurus** contains synonyms for words. A *synonym* is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. When using a thesaurus, you will usually find more than one synonym for a word. In this case, you will need to select the synonym that best fits the context in which you wish to use the synonym.

A thesaurus may also include antonyms. An *antonym* is a word that has the opposite meaning of another word. However, you will primarily use a thesaurus to locate synonyms. Using a thesaurus can increase your vocabulary and add precision and variety to your writing.

A *print format* thesaurus is generally found in two forms.

- In *dictionary form*, entry words are listed in alphabetical order. All synonyms for the word are found on the page where the word appears.
- In *index form*, entry words are classified by categories. An index in the back of the thesaurus guides you to the page or pages where the word appears.

You can also find a thesaurus in an *electronic format* on the Internet or on a CD-ROM. For example, *Roget II: The New Thesaurus* can be found at the following Internet address: <http://education.yahoo.com/reference/thesaurus/>.

Use a print format and/or electronic thesaurus to find a synonym for each of the following words. The context in which the synonym is to be used is shown in the parentheses ( ).

1. innocent (used as an adjective for someone who does not have much worldly experience)  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. probability (used as a noun to suggest a probable event or condition)  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. incline (used as a verb to suggest bending in a certain way)  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. elaborate (used as a verb to suggest explaining something more fully)  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. colleague (used as a noun to refer to someone who shares the same profession or work)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. emphasis (used as a noun to suggest special importance given to something)  
\_\_\_\_\_





7. fundamental (used as an adjective to suggest serving as a foundation)

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8. outrageous (used as an adjective to suggest an act that is offensive or wrong)

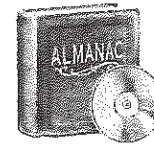
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9. sarcastic (used as an adjective to suggest something expressing or characterized by sarcasm)

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10. contradict (used as a verb to suggest or assert the opposite of something)

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When using a thesaurus, you will typically find more than one synonym for a word. Choose the synonym that best fits your purpose. You may need to use a dictionary to learn the meanings and usage of some of the synonyms shown.

For example, for the word *lengthen*, you will find the synonyms *extend* and *prolong*. Both of these synonyms mean to make longer, but *prolong* refers to time, such as when someone prolongs a vacation. “*I have to extend the ladder to reach the light fixture*” makes sense. “*I have to prolong the ladder to reach the light fixture*” does not make sense because *prolong* is not being used in the context of the sentence.

For each of the following sentences, choose the synonym that best replaces the highlighted word. Write that synonym on the blank line.

1. The accident was the **result** of carelessness. (conclusion, consequence, end)

---

2. I wanted to go to the movies, but I **only** had two dollars. (barely, just, merely)

---

3. Tommy hid his baseball card collection in a **safe** place. (guarded, protected, secure)

---

4. Tanya’s performance in the dance recital was **perfect**. (exact, flawless, ideal)

---

5. There is only a **minor** chance of rain tomorrow. (slight, trivial)

---

6. Maria was **anxious** about her first day in seventh grade. (concerned, upset, worried)

---

7. Our long car **journey** across the state took two days. (expedition, tour, trip, voyage)

---

8. Tony spent an **excessive** amount of time cleaning his room. (extravagant, lavish, undue)

---



9. The **normal** temperature for a person is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. (commonplace, everyday, standard)
- 

10. The desk was too **heavy** for me to lift. (massive, stout, weighty)
-



An **encyclopedia** contains articles on a variety of subjects. Each of the articles is written by one or more experts. A *general encyclopedia* includes overview articles on a wide range of subjects. A *subject encyclopedia* includes very detailed articles covering all aspects of a particular subject such as science or history.

1. Use your school or public library to find a general encyclopedia in *print format*. Write the name of this encyclopedia and the year it was published.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find a subject encyclopedia in *print format*. Write the name of this encyclopedia and the year it was published.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

A *print format* encyclopedia may consist of a single volume or a set of volumes. Articles appear in alphabetical order according to subject. For an encyclopedia that includes more than one volume, letters on the spine of each volume (A–B, C–E, and so on) show the first letter of subjects that are included in that volume.

3. Find an encyclopedia in *print format* that consists of one volume. Write the name of this encyclopedia and the year it was published.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

4. Find an encyclopedia in *print format* that consists of a set of volumes. Write the name of this encyclopedia and the year it was published.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many volumes does this encyclopedia contain?

\_\_\_\_\_

The index of an encyclopedia identifies the pages on which information about a subject appears. For an encyclopedia that is a single volume, the index is found at the end of the volume. For an encyclopedia that consists of a set of volumes, there is usually a separate index volume.



6. What is the purpose of an index?
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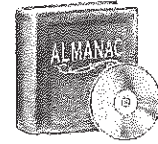
You can also find an encyclopedia in an *electronic format* on the Internet or on a CD-ROM. Articles contained on a CD-ROM encyclopedia often contain multimedia information such as sound, video, and even animation. Further, you can print the articles. Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org>) is a unique encyclopedia on the Internet. Articles are contributed and edited by users of the site.

7. Find an encyclopedia on the Internet. Write the address of the site at which this encyclopedia is found.
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# Practice Using an Encyclopedia

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5-8

Use a *print format* or an *electronic format* encyclopedia to answer the following questions about the Constitution of the United States. Write the name of the encyclopedia or its Internet address here.

1. In what year did the Constitution go into effect? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Constitution puts forth three separate branches of government. What are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. A preamble is an introductory statement. Write the complete preamble to the Constitution.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How many Articles are contained in the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does Article IV of the Constitution explain?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. An amendment is a change to a document. What did Amendment VIII outlaw?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What right was granted by Amendment XIX?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Which amendment declared slavery illegal? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is there an amendment that bans the burning of the United States flag? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Is there an amendment that guarantees every person the right to a speedy trial? \_\_\_\_\_



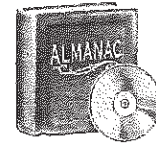
An **almanac** contains facts on a large number of subjects. Because an almanac is published each year, you will find up-to-date information presented with many lists, charts, and tables.

A *print format* almanac is a single volume with information arranged according to subject. You can find the information you need using the table of contents and index. An almanac may also be found in *electronic format* on the Internet or a CD-ROM.

Most almanacs are *general almanacs* that provide information about the world, important events, business and the economy, entertainment, sports, and much more. An example is the *World Almanac and Book of Facts*. Some almanacs are *specialized almanacs*. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* has been published since 1792. It emphasizes weather, astronomy, and food and gardening, with much practical advice offered.

Use a *print format* or an *electronic format* almanac to answer the following questions. Write the name of the almanac or its Internet address you use here.

- 
1. In what state is the Valley Forge National Historic Park found? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What is the height in feet of the Sears Tower located in Chicago? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. In what year did the Liberty Bell reach Philadelphia? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What is the name of the capital of Estonia? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What was the former name of the country now named Myanmar? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Who hit the most home runs in major league baseball in 2002? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many home runs did he hit that year? \_\_\_\_\_
  7. What are two of the major industries of Colorado?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  8. Where was the actress Jennifer Lopez born? \_\_\_\_\_  
In what year was she born? \_\_\_\_\_
  9. In what year was Martin Luther King Jr. Day first officially observed? \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002? \_\_\_\_\_



An **atlas** is a collection of maps. The most common type of atlas is one that contains *political maps* (a political map shows government boundaries). Another common type of atlas contains *physical maps* (a physical map shows features of the earth's surface). Atlases can be found in both *print formats* and *electronic formats*.

Use one or more political maps to answer the following questions.

1. Which five states are along the Gulf of Mexico?

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2. Is Turkey north or south of the Black Sea? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What large island lies just off the coast of Mozambique? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which four countries border Peru?

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5. Which Asian country has the largest land area? \_\_\_\_\_

Use physical maps to answer the following questions.

6. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It lies between the border of which two countries?

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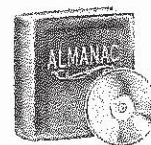
7. Mount St. Helens, an active volcano, exploded in 1980. In what state is this volcano located? \_\_\_\_\_

8. In what state does the Mississippi River begin? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Into which large body of water does the Mississippi River flow? \_\_\_\_\_

10. In which direction does the Mississippi River flow? East to west, west to east, north to south, or south to north? \_\_\_\_\_

# Applying What You Have Learned



5-11

Use the reference sources you have learned about in this unit to answer the questions that follow. Choose the best reference source for each. Next to your answer, write the name of the book, CD-ROM, or the Internet address you used.

1. In which state was George Washington born? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a synonym for *harmony* when used as a noun to mean a state of agreement?

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what ocean would you find Easter Island? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was the Greek god of the sea? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the origin of the word *drama*?

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which is the largest of the Hawaiian Islands? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the capital of Zimbabwe? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the main function of the human immune system?

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which state has the most Electoral College votes? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_



10. The Newbery Medal is awarded to the author of the best children's book. Which author won this award in 2007? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the title of the book for which he or she won this award?

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the most common meaning of the word *honor*?

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

12. In what year was gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in California? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

13. What country has the longest coastline? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

14. Which female singer earned the most money in 2006? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_

15. Which is the tallest cactus in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Source \_\_\_\_\_