

Definition in a dictionary and an encyclopedia – what is linguistic, what encyclopaedic knowledge?

|       | Merriam Websters Online (whole definition)  | Wikipedia (beginning of entry)  |
|-------|---|---|
| oak   | <p>1a : any of a genus (<i>Quercus</i>) of trees or shrubs of the beech family that produce acorns; also : any of various plants related to or resembling the oaks b : the tough hard durable wood of an oak tree</p> <p>2 : the leaves of an oak used as decoration</p>  | <p>An <b>oak</b> is a <a href="#">tree</a> or <a href="#">shrub</a> in the <a href="#">genus <i>Quercus</i></a> (<a href="#">/ˈkwɜːrkəs/</a>;<sup>[1]</sup> Latin "oak tree") of the <a href="#">beech</a> family, <a href="#">Fagaceae</a>. There are approximately <a href="#">600 extant species of oaks</a>. The common name "oak" may also appear in the names of <a href="#">species</a> in related genera, notably <a href="#">Lithocarpus</a>. The genus is native to the <a href="#">Northern Hemisphere</a>, and includes <a href="#">deciduous</a> and <a href="#">evergreen</a> species extending from <a href="#">cool temperate</a> to <a href="#">tropical</a> latitudes in the <a href="#">Americas</a>, <a href="#">Asia</a>, <a href="#">Europe</a>, and <a href="#">North Africa</a>. North America contains the largest number of oak species, with approximately 90 occurring in the United States, while Mexico has 160 species of which 109 are endemic. The second greatest center of oak diversity is China, which contains approximately 100 species.<sup>[2]</sup></p> |
| carp  | <p>1 : a large variable Asian soft-finned freshwater cyprinid fish (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>) of sluggish waters that is often raised for food and has been widely introduced into U.S. waters; also : any of various related cyprinid fishes (as the grass carp)</p> <p>2 : a fish (as the European sea bream) resembling a carp</p>                 | <p><b>Carp</b> are various species of <a href="#">oily</a><sup>[1]</sup> <a href="#">freshwater fish</a> from the family <a href="#">Cyprinidae</a>, a very large group of fish native to Europe and Asia.</p>  |
| vale  | <p>1 : <a href="#">valley</a>, <a href="#">dale</a></p> <p>2 : <a href="#">world</a> &lt;<i>this vale of tears</i>&gt;</p>  | <p>In <a href="#">geography</a>, a <b>vale</b> is a wide river valley, usually with a particularly wide <a href="#">flood plain</a> or flat valley bottom.</p>  |
| seep  | <p>1a : a spot where a fluid (as water, oil, or gas) contained in the ground oozes slowly to the surface and often forms a pool b : a small spring</p>  | <p>A <b>seep</b> is a moist or wet place where <a href="#">water</a>, usually <a href="#">groundwater</a>, reaches the earth's surface from an underground <a href="#">aquifer</a>.</p>   |
| ridge | <p>1 : an elevated body part or structure</p> <p>2a : <b>a range of hills or mountains</b> b : an elongate elevation on an ocean bottom</p> <p>3 : an elongate crest or a linear series of crests</p> <p>4 : a raised strip (as of plowed ground)</p> <p>5 : the line of intersection at the top between the opposite slopes or sides of a roof</p> | <p>A <b>ridge</b> or <b>mountain ridge</b> is a geological feature consisting of a chain of mountains or hills that form a continuous elevated crest for some distance. Ridges are usually termed <a href="#">hills</a> or <a href="#">mountains</a> as well, depending on size.</p>  |

***Home ground: Language for an American landscape.* Ed. Barry Lopez. San Antonio 2006.**

### **seep**

Places where groundwater percolates to the surface too slowly to be considered a spring are seeps. Water oozes out of the ground rather than flows. The soil around the seep is seasonally or perpetually wet, and enough water may collect to form a pool or an area of wetland. This term also applies to places where petroleum rises naturally to the surface, such as the asphalt seeps in Los Angeles known as the la Brea Tar Pits. Material collected from oil seeps in various parts of the continent were used by Native Americans to waterproof baskets and canoes and as medicine. CHARLES FRAZIER

### **vale**

Vale is an archaic, poeticized term for valley, a word that likely has its origins in the Greek oasis, taken by the Greeks from the Arabic word wadi, meaning a low-lying area or depression – one often, as a landscape feature, hidden and a well-kept secret, of great significance because this is where water can be found. In English we have "vale of tears" for life itself. There is a kind of visible onomatopoeia in the word, as though it contains within itself the visual shape of its meaning. V is a declivity, the shape of the land rising on either side. The rest of the word is fluid, the flow of the vowels through the V like the river flowing through the valley. SUSAN BRIND MORROW

### **ridge**

A ridge is best thought of as a spine traversing the top of mountains, hills, or any raised or upward-projecting landform. It is one of the most ubiquitous features of the Earth. Ridges are crossed, surveyed, cut through by roads, gained, climbed, walked, taken, and lost. Our eye measures and records their shapes: shoulder, spur, reef, rib, couch, neck, roostercomb, and hogback, to name a few. Developers use such terms as Ridgecrest, Ridgefield, Ridgemanor, and Ridgehaven to suggest a place of superior view, where in fact no ridge may exist. The Flatirons of Boulder, Colorado, are a dramatic example of a hogback ridge created by uplifting; the ridge and valley system of the Appalachian Mountains was formed by folding, and is also a superb example of ridges formed by erosion. The dominant feature of the Earth is the midocean ridge, a thirty-thousand-mile-long system of underwater fault ridges stitching the planet. MICHAEL COLLIER