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transverse wave A wave that oscillates perpendicular to the axis along which the wave travels. Electromagnetic waves are transverse waves, since the electric and magnetic fields oscillate at a right angle to the direction of motion. Waves in bodies of water are also transverse waves, since the molecules of water oscillate up and down perpendicular to the direction of the wave's motion. Compare **longitudinal wave**. See more at **wave**.

trapezium (trə-pē'zē-əm) Plural **trapeziums** or **trapezia**. A four-sided plane figure having no parallel sides.

trapezoid (trăp'ī-zoid') A four-sided plane figure having two parallel sides.

trauma (trô'mă, trou'-) 1. Severe bodily injury, as from a gunshot wound or a motor vehicle accident. 2. Psychological or emotional injury caused by a deeply disturbing experience.

traumatology (trô'mă-tôl'ə-jē, trou'-) The branch of medicine that deals with the treatment of serious wounds and injuries.

travertine (trăv'ər-tên', -tīn) A white, tan, or cream-colored form of limestone, often having a fibrous or concentric appearance. Travertine is formed through the rapid precipitation of calcium carbonate, especially at the mouth of a hot spring or in limestone caves, where it forms stalactites and stalagmites. It is similar to, but harder, than **tufa**.

tree (trē) Any of a wide variety of perennial plants typically having a single woody stem, and usually branches and leaves. Many species of both gymnosperms (notably the conifers) and angiosperms grow in the form of trees. The ancient forests of the Devonian, Mississippian, and Pennsylvanian periods of the Paleozoic Era were dominated by trees belonging to groups of seedless plants such as the lycophytes. The strength and height of trees are made possible by the supportive conductive tissue known as **vascular tissue**.

tree line See **timberline**.

trematode (trēm'ə-tôd') Any of numerous parasitic flatworms of the class Trematoda, having a thick outer cuticle and one or more suckers or hooks for attaching to host tissue. Flatworms include both external and internal parasites of animal hosts, and some cause diseases of

humans in tropical regions, such as schistosomiasis. Liver flukes, blood flukes, and planarians are flatworms. Also called **fluke**.

tremor (trēm'ər) 1. A relatively minor seismic shaking or vibrating movement. Tremors often precede larger earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. 2. An involuntary shaking or trembling of the head or extremities that can be idiopathic or associated with any of various medical conditions, such as Parkinson's disease.

trench (trénch) A long, steep-sided valley on the ocean floor. Trenches form when one tectonic plate slides beneath another plate at a subduction zone. The Marianas Trench, located in the western Pacific east of the Philippines, is the deepest known trench (10,924 m or 35,831 ft) and the deepest area in the ocean.

triangle (tri'ang'gəl) A closed geometric figure consisting of three sides.

triangulation (tri-ang'gyə-lă'shən) A method of determining the relative positions of points in space by measuring the distances, and sometimes angles, between those points and other reference points whose positions are known. Triangulation often involves the use of **trigonometry**. It is commonly used in the navigation of aircraft and boats, and is the method used in the **Global Positioning System**, in which the reference points are satellites.

Triassic (tri-ăs'ik) The earliest period of the Mesozoic Era, from about 245 to 208 million years ago. During the early part of the Triassic Period the supercontinent Pangaea was located along the equator; by the end of the Triassic it had started to split up. Land life diversified in the Triassic in response to the mass extinctions of the end of the Paleozoic. Conifers, cycads, marine reptiles, dinosaurs, and the earliest mammals first appeared. See **Chart** at **geologic time**.

triboelectricity (tri'bō-y-lēk-tris'ī-tē, trib'ō-) An electrical charge produced by friction between two objects that are nonconductive. Rubbing glass with fur, or a comb through the hair, can build up triboelectricity. Most everyday static electricity is triboelectric.

tributary (trib'yə-tēr'ē) A stream that flows into a river, a larger stream, or a lake.



tributary

a system of tributaries flowing into a river, D

triceps (tri'sēps') The n upper arm that raises The triceps has three bone at its origin.

triceratops (tri-sēr'ə-tō dinosaur of the gent Cretaceous Period, 11 ft) in length. Tricerat body, a beaklike mou it, and a long horn o its neck was covered

trichinosis (trik'ə-nō' the parasitic nema that is ingested as li tissue of undercool Once digested, the worms in the inte characterized by fi sea, muscular pain

trichloroacetic acid (less, deliquescent, pound used as a h astringent and ant C₂Cl₃O₂H.

trichloroethane (tri nonflammable co odor, existing in (solvent for adhes cants, and in in Chemical formul

trichloroethylene heavy, colorless, degrease metals, fruit, as a refrigerant, fumigant. Chemical formula: C₂HCl₃.