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quake or earth vibration. **2.** Earthshaking. **—seis′mi•cal•ly** *adv.* **—seis•mic′i•ty** (-mĭs′ĭ-tē) *n.*

seis•mism (sīz′mĭz′əm) *n.* The phenomena involved in earthquakes.

seismo- or **seism-** *pref.* Earthquake: *seismograph.* [Gk. < *seismos,* seism. See SEISM.]

seis•mo•gram (sīz′mə-grăm′) *n.* The record of an earth tremor made by a seismograph.

seis•mo•graph (sīz′mə-grăf′) *n.* An instrument for detecting and recording the intensity, direction, and duration of a movement of the ground, esp. of an earthquake. **—seis•mog′ra•pher** (sīz-mŏg′rə-fər) *n.* **—seis′mo•graph′ic** (-grăf′ĭk), **seis′mo•graph′i•cal** (-ĭ-kəl) *adj.* **—seis•mog′ra•phy** *n.*

seis•mol•o•gy (sīz-mŏl′ə-jē) *n.* The geophysical science of earthquakes and the mechanical properties of the earth. **—seis′mo•log′ic** (-mə-lŏj′ĭk), **seis′mo•log′i•cal** (-ĭ-kəl) *adj.* **—seis′mo•log′i•cal•ly** *adv.* **—seis•mol′o•gist** *n.*

seis•mom•e•ter (sīz-mŏm′ĭ-tər) *n.* A detecting device that receives seismic impulses. **—seis′mo•met′ric** (-mə-mĕt′rĭk), **seis′mo•met′ri•cal** (-rĭ-kəl) *adj.*

seis•mom•e•try (sīz-mŏm′ĭ-trē) *n.* The scientific study and recording of earthquakes.

seis•mo•scope (sīz′mə-skōp′) *n.* An instrument that indicates the occurrence or time of occurrence of an earthquake. **—seis′mo•scop′ic** (-skŏp′ĭk) *adj.*

sei•tan (sā′tän′) *n.* A chewy, protein-rich food made from wheat gluten and used as a meat substitute.

sei whale (sā) *n.* A rorqual *(Balaenoptera borealis)* that is blue-black above and white below and grows up to about 55 feet (17 meters) in length. [Partial transl. of Norw. *seihval.* See SEI.]

seize (sēz) *v.* **seized, seiz•ing, seiz•es** *—tr.* **1.** To grasp suddenly and forcibly; take or grab. **2a.** To grasp with the mind; apprehend. **b.** To possess oneself of: *seize an opportunity.* **3a.** To have a sudden overwhelming effect on. **b.** To overwhelm physically. **4.** To take into custody; capture. **5.** To take quick and forcible possession of; confiscate. **6.** also **seise** (sēz) **a.** To put (one) into possession of something. **b.** To vest ownership of a feudal property in. **7.** *Nautical* To bind with turns of small line. *—intr.* **1.** To lay sudden or forcible hold of something. **2a.** To cohere or fuse with another part as a result of high pressure or temperature and restrict or prevent further motion or flow. **b.** To come to a halt: *The talks seized up.* [ME *seisen* < OFr. *seisir,* to take possession, of Gmc. orig.] **—seiz′a•ble** *adj.* **—seiz′er** *n.*

sei•zin (sē′zĭn) *n.* Variant of **seisin.**

seiz•ing (sē′zĭng) *n. Nautical* A binding of multiple turns of thread or light line around a rope end to keep it from unlaying.

sei•zor also **sei•sor** (sē′zər, -zôr′) *n.* One that takes seisin.

sei•zure (sē′zhər) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of seizing or the condition of being seized. **2.** A sudden attack, spasm, or convulsion, as in epilepsy. **3.** A sudden onset or sensation of feeling or emotion.

se•la•chi•an (sĭ-lā′kē-ən) *adj.* Of or belonging to the order Selachii of elasmobranch fishes that includes the sharks and in some classifications also the rays and skates. [Prob. < NLat. *Selachii,* order name < Gk. *selakhios,* cartilaginous < *selakhos,* cartilaginous fish.] **—se•la′chi•an** *n.*

se•lag•i•nel•la (sə-lăj′ə-nĕl′ə) *n.* Any of numerous fernlike, usu. prostrate plants of the genus *Selaginella,* having small scalelike leaves and bearing spores. [NLat. *Selāginella,* genus name < Lat. *selāgō, selāgin-,* a plant resembling the savin.]

se•lah (sē′lə, sĕl′ə) *interj.* Used to conclude a verse in the Psalms. [Heb. *selâ.*]

sel•dom (sĕl′dəm) *adv.* Not often; infrequently or rarely. ❖ *adj. Archaic* Infrequent; rare. [ME < OE *seldum,* alteration of *seldan.*] **—sel′dom•ness** *n.*

se•lect (sĭ-lĕkt′) *v.* **-lect•ed, -lect•ing, -lects** *—tr.* To take as a choice from among several; pick out. *—intr.* To make a choice or selection. ❖ *adj.* **1.** Singled out in preference; chosen: *a select few.* **2.** Of special quality or value; choice. **3.** Of or relating to a lean grade of beef. **4.** Careful or refined in making selections; discriminating. ❖ *n.* **1.** One that is chosen in preference to others or because of special value. **2.** (*used with a pl. verb*) Chosen or preferred items or people considered as a group. Often used with *the.* [Lat. *sēligere, sēlēct-* : *sē-,* apart; see **s(w)e-** in App. + *legere,* to choose; see **leg-** in App.] **—se•lec′ta•ble** *adj.* **—se•lect′ness** *n.* **—se•lec′tor** *n.*

se•lect•ee (sĭ-lĕk′tē′) *n.* One who is selected, esp. for military service.

se•lec•tion (sĭ-lĕk′shən) *n.* **1a.** The act or an instance of selecting or the fact of having been selected. **b.** One that is selected. **2.** A carefully chosen or representative collection of people or things. See Syns at **choice. 3.** A literary or musical text chosen for reading or performance. **4.** *Biology* A natural or artificial process that favors or induces survival and perpetuation of one kind of organism over others.

se•lec•tion•ist (sĭ-lĕk′shə-nĭst) *adj.* also **se•lec•tion•al** (-shə-nəl) Of or relating to the view that evolution or genetic variation occurs chiefly as a result of natural selection. **—se•lec′tion•ism** *n.* **—se•lec′tion•ist** *n.*

se•lec•tive (sĭ-lĕk′tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Of or characterized by selection; discriminating. **2.** Empowered or tending to select. **3.** *Electronics* Able to reject frequencies other than the one selected or tuned. **—se•lec′tive•ly** *adv.* **—se•lec′tive•ness** *n.*

selective service *n.* A system for calling up people for compulsory military service.

se•lec•tiv•i•ty (sĭ-lĕk′tĭv′ĭ-tē, sē′lĕk-) *n., pl.* **-ties 1.** The state or quality of being selective. **2.** The degree to which an electronic receiver is selective.

se•lect•man (sĭ-lĕkt′mən′, -mən) *n.* One of a board of town officers chosen annually in New England communities to manage local affairs.

se•lect•wom•an (sĭ-lĕkt′wŏŏm′ən) *n.* A woman who is one of a board of town officers chosen annually in New England communities to manage local affairs.

sel•e•nate (sĕl′ə-nāt′) *n.* A salt or ester of selenic acid.

Se•le•ne (sə-lē′nē) *n. Greek Mythology* The goddess of the moon.

Se•len•ga (sĕl′ĕng-gä′) A river of N Mongolia and SE Russia flowing c. 1,207 km (750 mi) to Lake Baikal.

se•le•nic (sə-lē′nĭk, -lĕn′ĭk) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing selenium.

selenic acid *n.* A highly corrosive hygroscopic white solid acid with composition H_2SeO_4.

sel•e•nif•er•ous (sĕl′ə-nĭf′ər-əs) *adj.* Containing selenium.

sel•e•nite (sĕl′ə-nīt′, sĭ-lē′-) *n.* Gypsum in the form of colorless clear crystals. [Lat. *selēnītēs* < Gk. *selēnītēs (lithos),* moon (stone), selenite (so called because it was believed to wax and wane with the moon) < *selēnē,* moon. See SELENIUM.]

se•le•ni•um (sĭ-lē′nē-əm) *n. Symbol* **Se** A nonmetallic element, with red, black, and gray allotropic forms, resembling sulfur and obtained primarily as a byproduct of electrolytic copper refining; widely used in rectifiers, as a semiconductor, in xerography and in photocells. Atomic number 34; atomic weight 78.96; melting point (of gray selenium) 217°C; boiling point (gray) 684.9°C; specific gravity (gray) 4.79; (black) 4.28; valence 2, 4, or 6. See table at **element.** [Gk. *selēnē,* moon (< *selas,* light, brightness) + -IUM.]

selenium cell *n.* A photoconductive cell consisting of an insulated selenium strip between two suitable electrodes.

seleno- or **selen-** *pref.* **1.** Moon: *selenography.* **2.** Selenium: *selenosis.* [Gk. *selēno-* < *selēnē,* moon. See SELENIUM.]

sel•e•nog•ra•phy (sĕl′ə-nŏg′rə-fē) *n.* The study of the physical features of the moon. **—sel′e•nog′ra•pher, sel′e•nog′ra•phist** *n.* **—sel′e•no•graph′ic** (-nə-grăf′ĭk), **sel′e•no•graph′i•cal** (-ĭ-kəl) *adj.* **—sel′e•no•graph′i•cal•ly** *adv.*

sel•e•nol•o•gy (sĕl′ə-nŏl′ə-jē) *n.* The astronomical study of the moon. **—sel′e•no•log′i•cal** (-nə-lŏj′ĭ-kəl) *adj.* **—sel′e•nol′o•gist** *n.*

sel•e•no•sis (sĕl′ə-nō′sĭs) *n.* Poisoning, esp. of livestock, caused by ingesting selenium.

Sel•es (sĕl′əs), **Monica** b. 1973. Yugoslavian-born Amer. tennis player who between 1990 and 1993 won eight Grand Slam events.

Se•leu•ci•a (sĭ-lōō′shē-ə, -shə) An ancient city of Mesopotamia on the Tigris R. SSE of Baghdad; founded c. 300 B.C.

Se•leu•cid (sĭ-lōō′sĭd) *adj.* Of or relating to a Hellenistic dynasty founded by Seleucus I after the death of Alexander the Great. It ruled much of Asia Minor from 312 to 64 B.C. ❖ *n.* A member or subject of this dynasty.

Se•leu•cus I (sĭ-lōō′kəs) 358?–281 B.C. Macedonian general who founded and ruled (312–281) the Seleucid dynasty.

self (sĕlf) *n., pl.* **selves** (sĕlvz) **1.** The total, essential, or particular being of a person; the individual. **2.** The essential qualities distinguishing one person from another; individuality. **3.** One's consciousness of one's own being or identity; the ego. **4.** One's own interests, welfare, or advantage. **5.** *Immunology* That which the immune system identifies as belonging to the body. ❖ *pron.* Myself, yourself, himself, or herself. ❖ *adj.* **1.** Of the same character throughout. **2.** Of the same material as the article with which it is used. **3.** *Obsolete* Same or identical. [ME, selfsame < OE. See **s(w)e-** in App.]

self- *pref.* **1.** Oneself; itself: *self-control.* **2.** Automatic; automatically: *self-loading.* [ME < OE < *self,* self. See SELF.]

self-a•ban•doned (sĕlf′ə-băn′dənd) *adj.* Lacking self-restraint. **—self′-a•ban′don•ment** *n.*

self-ab•ne•ga•tion (sĕlf′ăb′nĭ-gā′shən) *n.* The setting aside of self-interest for the sake of others or for a belief or principle. **—self′-ab′ne•gat′ing** *adj.*

self-a•buse (sĕlf′ə-byōōz′) *n.* **1.** Abuse of oneself or one's abilities. **2.** Masturbation.

self-act•ing (sĕlf′ăk′tĭng) *adj.* Able to act automatically.

self-ad•dressed (sĕlf′ə-drĕst′) *adj.* Addressed to oneself.

self-ad•he•sive (sĕlf′ăd-hē′sĭv) *adj.* Having a surface coated with an adhesive and not needing any substance, such as glue, to form a bond.

self-ag•gran•dize•ment (sĕlf′ə-grăn′dĭz-mənt) *n.* The act or practice of enhancing or exaggerating one's own importance, power, or reputation. **—self′-ag•gran′diz′ing** (-ə-grăn′dī′zĭng) *adj.*

self-a•nal•y•sis (sĕlf′ə-năl′ĭ-sĭs) *n., pl.* **-ses** (-sēz′) An independent methodical attempt to study and comprehend one's own personality, emotions, or behavior. **—self′-an′a•lyt′i•cal** (-ăn′ə-lĭt′ĭ-kəl), **self′-an′a•lyt′ic** (-ĭk) *adj.*

self-an•ni•hi•la•tion (sĕlf′ə-nĭ′ə-lā′shən) *n.* **1.** Self-destruc-

seismograph

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	o͝o	took
ä	father	o͞o	boot
ĕ	pet	ŭ	cut
ē	be	ûr	urge
ĭ	pit	th	thin
ī	pie	*th*	this
îr	pier	hw	which
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about,
ô	paw		item

Stress marks:
′ (primary);
′ (secondary), as in
lexicon (lĕk′sĭ-kŏn′)

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