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The American Heritage[®] College Dictionary

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seismism

self-annihilation

quake or earth vibration. 2. Earthshaking. —*seis/mi·cal·ly* *adv.* —*seis·mic/i·ty* (—mīs/i-tē) *n.*

seis·mism (sīz/mīz/əm) *n.* The phenomena involved in earthquakes.

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

seis·mo·gram (sīz/mō-grām') *n.* The record of an earth tremor made by a seismograph.

seis·mo·graph (sīz/mō-grāf') *n.* An instrument for detecting and recording the intensity, direction, and duration of a movement of the ground, esp. of an earthquake. —*seis·mo·graph·er* (sīz-mōg/rā-fēr) *n.* —*seis·mo·graph·ic* (—grāf'ik), *seis·mo·graph·i·cal* (—i-kāl) *adj.* —*seis·mo·graph·y* *n.*

seis·mol·o·gy (sīz-mōl/ō-jē) *n.* The geophysical science of earthquakes and the mechanical properties of the earth. —*seis·mo·log·ic* (—mō-lōj'ik), *seis·mo·log·i·cal* (—i-kāl) *adj.* —*seis·mo·log·i·cal·ly* *adv.* —*seis·mo·log·ist* *n.*

seis·mom·e·ter (sīz-mōm/i-tēr) *n.* A detecting device that receives seismic impulses. —*seis·mo·met·ric* (—mō-mēt'rik), *seis·mo·met·ri·cal* (—i-kāl) *adj.*

seis·mom·e·try (sīz-mōm/i-trē) *n.* The scientific study and recording of earthquakes.

seis·mo·scope (sīz/mō-skōp') *n.* An instrument that indicates the occurrence or time of occurrence of an earthquake. —*seis·mo·scop·ic* (—skōp'ik) *adj.*

seitan (sā'tān) *n.* A chewy, protein-rich food made from wheat gluten and used as a meat substitute.

sel whale (sā) *n.* A orquid (*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 SEL.]

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.*

sel·zin (sē'zīn) *n.* Variant of *seisin*.

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

sel·zor also **sel·sor** (sē'zər, —zōr') *n.* One that takes *seisin*.

sel·zure (sē'zūr) *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 (sī-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 (sā-lāj'ō-nē'lā) *n.* Any of numerous fernlike, usu. prostrate plants of the genus *Selaginella*, having small scalelike leaves and bearing spores. [NLat. *Selaginella*, genus name < Lat. *selāgō*, *selagin*-, a plant resembling the savin.]

se·lah (sē'lā, sē'lā) *interj.* Used to conclude a verse in the Psalms. [Heb. *selā*.]

sel·dom (sēl'dəm) *adv.* Not often; infrequently or rarely. ♦ *adj.* Archaic Infrequent; rare. [ME < OE *seldum*, alteration of *seldan*.] —*sel·dom·ness* *n.*

se·lect (sī-lēkt') *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. *selegere*, select-: *se-*, apart; see (w)e- in App. + *legere*, to choose; see leg- in App.] —*se·lect·a·ble* *adj.* —*se·lect·ness* *n.* —*se·lect·or* *n.*

se·lect·ee (sī-lēkt'ē) *n.* One who is selected, esp. for military service.

se·lec·tion (sī-lēk/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 (sī-lēk/shə-nīst) *adj.* also **se·lec·tion·al** (—shə-nāl) 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 (sī-lēk/tiv) *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 (sī-lēk'tiv/i-tē, sē'lēk-) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The state or quality of being selective. 2. The degree to which an electronic receiver is selective.

se·lect·man (sī-lēkt'mān', -mən) *n.* One of a board of town officers chosen annually in New England communities to manage local affairs.

se·lect·wom·an (sī-lēkt'wōm'ən) *n.* A woman who is one of a board of town officers chosen annually in New England communities to manage local affairs.

se·le·nate (sē'lō-nāt') *n.* A salt or ester of selenic acid.

se·le·ne (sā-lē'nē) *n.* *Greek Mythology* The goddess of the moon.

Se·len·ga (sē'lēng-gā) *n.* A river of N Mongolia and SE Russia flowing c. 1,207 km (750 mi) to Lake Baikal.

se·le·nic (sā-lē'nīk, -lēn'ik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing selenium.

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

se·le·ni·fer·ous (sē'lō-nīf'ər-əs) *adj.* Containing selenium.

se·le·nite (sē'lō-nīt', sī-lē'-) *n.* Gypsum in the form of colorless clear crystals. [Lat. *selēnites* < Gk. *selēnites* (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 (sī-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.]

se·le·nog·ra·phy (sē'lō-nōg'rā-fē) *n.* The study of the physical features of the moon. —*se·le·nog·ra·pher*, *se·le·nog·ra·phist* *n.* —*se·le·no·graph·ic* (—nō-grāf'ik), *se·le·no·graph·i·cal* (—i-kāl) *adj.* —*se·le·no·graph·i·cal·ly* *adv.*

se·le·no·log·y (sē'lō-nōl/ō-jē) *n.* The astronomical study of the moon. —*se·le·no·log·i·cal* (—nōl/ō-jē-kāl) *adj.* —*se·le·no·log·ist* *n.*

se·le·no·sis (sē'lō-nō'sis) *n.* Poisoning, esp. of livestock, caused by ingesting selenium.

Sel·es (sē'lās), Monica b. 1973. Yugoslavian-born Amer. tennis player who between 1990 and 1993 won eight Grand Slam events.

Se·leu·ci·a (sī-lōō'shē-ā, —shā) *n.* An ancient city of Mesopotamia on the Tigris R. SSE of Baghdad; founded c. 300 B.C.

Se·leu·cid (sī-lōō'sīd) *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 (sī-lōō'kās) 358?–281 B.C. Macedonian general who founded and ruled (312–281) the Seleucid dynasty.

self (sēlf) *n., pl. selves* (sēlvz) 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 (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 (sēlf'ā-bān'dənd) *adj.* Lacking self-restraint. —*self·a·ban·don·ment* *n.*

self·ab·ne·ga·tion (sēlf'āb-nī-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 (sēlf'ā-byōōs') *n.* 1. Abuse of oneself or one's abilities. 2. Masturbation.

self·act·ing (sēlf'ākt'ing) *adj.* Able to act automatically.

self·ad·dressed (sēlf'ādrēst') *adj.* Addressed to oneself.

self·ad·he·sive (sēlf'ādhē'siv) *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 (sēlf'ā-grān'dīz-mənt) *n.* The act or practice of enhancing or exaggerating one's own importance, power, or reputation. —*self·ag·gran·diz·ing* (—grān'dīz-īng) *adj.*

self·a·nal·y·sis (sēlf'ā-nāl'i-sis) *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* (—ān'ā-līt'i-kāl), *self·an·a·lyt·ic* (—ik) *adj.*

self·an·ni·hi·la·tion (sēlf'ā-nī'lā'shən) *n.* 1. Self-destruc-



seismograph

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
ā	care	ōō	took
ā	father	ōō	boot
ē	pet	ū	cut
ē	be	ūr	urge
ī	pit	th	thin
ī	pie	th	this
ī	pier	hw	which
ō	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ā	about
ō	paw		item

Stress marks:
 ' (primary);
 ' (secondary), as in
 lexicon (lēk'si-kōn')

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