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comprises the islands of St. Eustatius, St. Martin, and Saba. In 1954, the islands were granted self-government and became an autonomous region of the Netherlands.

Netherlands Reformed Church the largest Protestant church in the Netherlands, established in 1816 as the successor to the Dutch Reformed Church.

nether-regions plural *n.* the lowest or furthest parts of a place, esp. with allusion to hell or the underworld: rumors of strange creatures haunting the lake's bottomless nether regions. ■ (one's nether regions) used euphemistically to refer to a person's genitals and buttocks.

nether-world /'nɛθər,wɜːld/ *n.* (the netherworld) the underworld of the dead; hell. ■ a hidden underworld or ill-defined area: the narcotic netherworld thriving in postwar America.

neti-quette /'netɪkɪt; -ket/ *n.* the correct or acceptable way of communicating on the Internet. ▶ 1990s: blend of NET and ETIQUETTE.

netizen /'netɪzən/ *n.* a user of the Internet, esp. a habitual or avid one. ▶ 1990s: blend of NET (sense 4) and CITIZEN.

net-keeper /'net,kēpər/ *n.* another term for GOAL-KEEPER.

net metering *n.* a system in which solar panels or other renewable energy generators are connected to a public-utility power grid and surplus power is transferred onto the grid, allowing customers to offset the cost of power drawn from the utility. ▶ surplus energy, measured by an electric meter, is netted from the amount passing from the utility to the customer.

net national product (abbr.: NNP) *n.* the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year, after depreciation of capital goods has been allowed for.

net present value *n.* see PRESENT VALUE.

net profit *n.* the actual profit after working expenses not included in the calculation of gross profit have been paid.

net-suke /'netsək/ *n.* (pl. same or -kes [-kɛz]) a carved buttonlike ornament, esp. of ivory or wood, formerly worn in Japan to suspend articles from the sash of a kimono. ▶ late 19th cent.: from Japanese.

net-ter /'netər/ *n.* 1 a fisherman who uses nets to catch fish: because of the ban on gill nets, Louisianians fear an influx of jobless Florida netters. ■ [usu. in combination] someone who uses a net of a specified type: drift-netters. 2 (also Netter) a person who uses the Internet.

netting /'netɪŋ/ *n.* open-meshed material made by knotting together twine, wire, rope, or thread.

nettle /'netl/ *n.* a herbaceous plant that has jagged leaves covered with stinging hairs. • Genus *Urtica*, family Urticaceae: several species, in particular the Eurasian stinging nettle (*U. dioica*). ■ used in names of other plants of a similar appearance or properties, e.g., dead-nettle.

▶ *v.* [trans.] 1 irritate or annoy (someone): I was nettled by Alene's tone of superiority. 2 archaic beat or sting (someone) with nettles. ▶ Old English *netle*, *netele*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *netel* and German *Nessel*. The verb dates from late Middle English.

nettle-rash /'netl,ræʃ/ *n.* another term for URTICARIA (from its resemblance to the sting of a nettle).

nettle-some /'netlsəm/ *adj.* causing annoyance or difficulty: complicated and nettlesome regional disputes.

nettle tree *n.* an Old World tree related to the hackberries, with a straight, silvery-gray trunk and rough, toothed, nettlelike leaves. • Genus *Celtis*, family Ulmaceae: several species, in particular *C. australis*, which is a popular street and shade tree in Mediterranean countries.

net ton /tən/ *n.* another term for TON (sense 1).

network /'net,wɜːk/ *n.* 1 an arrangement of intersecting horizontal and vertical lines. ■ a complex system of roads, railroads, or other transportation routes: a network of railroads. 2 a group or system of interconnected people or things: a trade network. ■ a group of people who exchange information, contacts, and experience for professional or social purposes: a support network. ■ a group of broadcasting stations that connect for the simultaneous broadcast of a program: the introduction of a second TV network [as *adj.*] network television. ■ a number of interconnected computers, machines, or operations: specialized computers that manage multiple outside connections to a network [a local cellular phone network. ■ a system of connected electrical conductors.

▶ *v.* [trans.] connect as or operate with a network: the stock exchanges have proven to be resourceful in working these deals. ■ link (machines, esp. computers) to operate interactively: [as *adj.*] (networked) networked workstations. ■ [intrans.] [often as *n.*] (networking) interact with other people to exchange information and develop contacts, esp. to further one's career: the skills of networking, bargaining, and negotiation. —networkable *adj.*

network analysis *n.* the mathematical analysis of complex working procedures in terms of a network of related activities. ■ calculation of the electric currents flowing in the various meshes of a network, often carried out by a device used to model the network.

network appliance *n.* a relatively low-cost computer designed chiefly to provide Internet access without the full capabilities of a standard personal computer.

networker /'net,wɜːkər/ *n.* 1 Computing a person who operates from home or from an external office via a computer network. 2 a person who interacts or exchanges information with others working in a similar field, esp. to further their career.

Neuchâtel, Lake /,nəʊʃə'tel; noʃ-/ the largest lake that lies wholly within Switzerland, located at the foot of the Jura Mountains in western Switzerland.

Neue Sachlichkeit /'noie 'zækʃlɪkɪt/ a movement in the visual arts, music, and literature that developed in Germany during the 1920s and was characterized by realism and a deliberate rejection of romantic attitudes. ▶ German, literally 'new objectivity.'

Neufchâtel /,nəʊʃə'tel; ,nəʊʃə-/ *n.* a creamy white cheese made from whole or partly skimmed milk in Neuchâtel, France.

Neuhaus /'ny(ʊ)ðə,hous/, Solomon, see NEWHOUSE.

Neumann /'ny(ʊ)ðəmən; 'noimən/, John von (1903–57), U.S. mathematician and computer pioneer, born in Hungary. He pioneered game theory and the design and operation of electronic computers.

neume /'ny(ʊ)ðəm/ *n.* Music (in plain-song) a note or group of notes to be sung to a single syllable. ■ a sign indicating this. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *neume*, from medieval Latin *neup[er]ma*, from Greek *pneuma* 'breath.'

neur. *abbr.* neurological or neurology.

neur-al /'ny(ʊ)ðərəl/ *adj.* of or relating to a nerve or the nervous system: patterns of neural activity. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from Greek *neuron* in the sense 'nerve' + *-al*. —neur-ally *adv.*

neur-al arch *n.* Anatomy the curved rear (dorsal) section of a vertebra, enclosing the canal through which the spinal cord passes.

neur-al computer *n.* a computer that uses neural networks based on the human brain. Also called NEUROCOMPUTER. —neur-al computing *n.*

neur-al-gia /'ny(ʊ)ðə'raɪə/ *n.* intense, typically intermittent pain along the course of a nerve, esp. in the head or face. —neur-al-gic /-jɪk/ *adj.*

neur-al network (also **neural net**) *n.* a computer system modeled on the human brain and nervous system.

neur-al tube *n.* Zoology & Medicine (in an embryo) a hollow structure from which the brain and spinal cord form. Defects in its development can result in congenital abnormalities such as spina bifida.

neur-aminic acid /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'mɪnɪk/ *n.* Biochemistry a crystalline compound of which derivatives occur in many animal substances, chiefly as sialic acids. • A sugar with amino and acid groups; chem. formula: C₈H₁₇NO₈. ▶ mid 20th cent.: *neuraminic* from NEURO- (because it was originally isolated from brain tissue) + AMINE + *-ic*.

neur-amin-dase /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'mɪnə,dæs/ *n.* Biochemistry an enzyme, present in many pathogenic or symbiotic microorganisms, that catalyzes the breakdown of glycosides containing neuraminic acid.

neur-as-the-nia /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'thɛnɪə/ *n.* an ill-defined medical condition characterized by lassitude, fatigue, headache, and irritability, associated chiefly with emotional disturbance. —neur-as-the-nic /-tɛnɪk/ *adj.* & *n.*

neur-ecto-my /'ny(ʊ)ðə'rektəmɪ/ *n.* Medicine surgical removal of all or part of a nerve.

neur-ilemma /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'lemə/ *n.* (pl. -lem-mas or -lem-mata [-lɪ'mætoʊ]) Anatomy the thin sheath around a nerve axon (including myelin where this is present). —neur-ilemmal *adj.*

neur-itis /'ny(ʊ)ðə'rɪtɪs/ *n.* Medicine inflammation of a peripheral nerve or nerves, usually causing pain

and loss of function. ■ (in general use) neuropathy.

—neur-itic /-rɪtɪk/ *adj.*

neuro- *comb. form* relating to nerves or the nervous system: neuroanatomy | neurohormone. ▶ from Greek *neuron* 'nerve, sinew, tendon.'

neuro-an-a-to-my /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'natəmɪ/ *n.* the anatomy of the nervous system. —neuro-an-a-to-m-ic /-ənə'tæmɪkəl/ *adj.* —neuro-an-a-to-mist /-mɪst/ *n.*

neuro-bics /'ny(ʊ)ðə'rɒbɪks/ *n.* mental exercises designed to create new neural pathways in the brain by using the senses in unconventional ways.

neuro-bi-ol-o-gy /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'bɪələʊdʒi/ *n.* the biology of the nervous system. —neuro-bi-ol-o-gist /-dʒɪst/ *n.*

neuro-blast /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'blast/ *n.* Embryology an embryonic cell from which nerve fibers originate.

neuro-blas-to-ma /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'blæstəmə/ *n.* Medicine a malignant tumor composed of neuroblasts, most commonly in the adrenal gland.

neuro-com-pu-ter /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'kəm,pyʊtər/ another term for NEURAL COMPUTER.

neuro-en-do-crine /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'endekrɪn/ *adj.* Physiology relating to or involving both nervous stimulation and endocrine secretion. —neuro-en-do-crino-lo-gy /-endə'krə'nələʊdʒi/ *n.*

neuro-epi-the-li-um /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'epɪ'thelɪəm/ *n.* Anatomy 1 a type of epithelium containing sensory nerve endings and found in certain sense organs (e.g., the retina, the inner ear, the nasal membranes, and the taste buds). 2 (in embryology) ectoderm that develops into nerve tissue. —neuro-epi-the-li-al /-lɪəl/ *adj.*

neuro-fi-bril /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'fɪbrəl; -fɪb-/ *n.* Anatomy a fibril in the cytoplasm of a nerve cell, visible by light microscopy. —neuro-fi-bril-lary /-fɪbrə'ləri/ *adj.*

neuro-fi-bro-ma /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'brəmə/ *n.* (pl. -mas or -mata [-mətə]) Medicine a tumor formed on a nerve cell sheath, frequently symptomless but occasionally malignant.

neuro-fi-bro-ma-to-sis /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'fɪbrəmə'təʊsɪs/ *n.* Medicine a disease in which neurofibromas form throughout the body. Also called VON RECKLINGHAUSEN'S DISEASE.

neuro-gen-e-sis /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'jenəsɪs/ *n.* Physiology the growth and development of nervous tissue.

neuro-gen-ic /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'jenɪk/ *adj.* Physiology caused by, controlled by, or arising in the nervous system.

neuro-glia /'ny(ʊ)ðə'ræglə/ *n.* another term for GLIA. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from NEURO- 'of nerves' + Greek *glia* 'glue.'

neuro-hor-mone /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'hɔːr,mɒn/ *n.* Physiology a hormone (such as vasopressin or norepinephrine) produced by nerve cells and secreted into the circulation. —neuro-hor-mo-nal /-hɔːr'mənl/ *adj.*

neuro-hy-pophy-sis /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'hɪpəfɪsɪs/ *n.* (pl. -ses [-sɛz]) Anatomy the posterior lobe of the hypophysis (pituitary gland), which stores and releases oxytocin and vasopressin produced in the hypothalamus. —neuro-hy-po-phys-e-al /-pəfɪ'seəl/ *adj.*

neuro-lep-tic /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'leptɪk/ *Medicine* *adj.* (chiefly of a drug) tending to reduce nervous tension by depressing nerve functions.

▶ *n.* a drug of this kind; a major tranquilizer. ▶ mid 20th cent.: from NEURO- 'relating to nerves,' on the pattern of psycholeptic.

neuro-lin-guis-tic pro-gram-ming /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'lɪŋ'gwɪstɪk/ (abbr.: NLP) *n.* a system of alternative therapy intended to educate people in self-awareness and effective communication, and to model and change their patterns of mental and emotional behavior.

neuro-lin-guis-tics /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks/ *plural* *n.* [treated as *sing.*] the branch of linguistics dealing with the relationship between language and the structure and functioning of the brain. —neuro-lin-guis-tic *adj.*

neuro-lo-gy /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'lɔːdʒi/ *n.* the branch of medicine or biology that deals with the anatomy, function, and organic disorders of nerves and the nervous system. ▶ late 17th cent.: from modern Latin *neurologia*, from NEURO- + *-LOGY*. —neuro-log-ic-al /-rə'lɔːdʒɪkəl/ *adj.* —neuro-log-ic-al-ly *adv.* —neuro-log-ist *n.*

neuro-ma /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'rəmə/ *n.* (pl. -mas or -mata [-mətə]) another term for NEUROFIBROMA.

neuro-mast /'ny(ʊ)ðərə'mast/ *n.* Zoology a sensory organ of fishes and larval or aquatic amphibians, typically forming part of the lateral line system. ▶ early 20th cent.: from NEURO- 'of nerves' + Greek *mastos* 'breast.'

neuro-mus-cu-lar /,ny(ʊ)ðərə'mʌskjələ/ *adj.* of or relating to nerves and muscles.