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## VOCABULARY LIST

Here are a few of the words and concepts we introduce/reinforce in the course of the **Top Secret** program. The words are presented in context and then defined which helps in creating a meaningful reason for the children to assimilate the information.

**atlas** – a bound collection of maps

**bay** - a wide area of water extending into land from a sea or lake.

**boundaries** – lines indicating the limits of countries, States or other political jurisdictions

**capital** - a town or city that is the official seat of government in a political entity, such as a state or nation.

**cartography** – the study of maps and charts

**cartographer** - a person who draws or makes maps or charts.

**city** - a center of population, commerce, and culture; a town of significant size and importance.

**codes** - a system where every word or phrase in your message is replaced by another word, phrase or series of symbols.

**ciphers** - a system where every letter or your message is replaced by another letter or symbol.

**continent** - one of the large, continuous areas of the Earth into which the land surface is divided. Generally, there are seven recognized continents on the earth: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.

**country** - A nation or state. The territory of a nation or state; land; the people of a nation or state;

**equator** - An imaginary circle around the Earth halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole; the largest circumference of the Earth.

**flag** - a piece of cloth, usually rectangular, of distinctive color and design, used as a symbol, standard, signal, or emblem.

**Florida** – a state located in the Southeastern in United States which is a peninsula

**gulf** - A large arm of an ocean or sea extending into a land mass.

**habitat** – the natural home of a plant or animal

**hemisphere** - Half of the Earth, usually conceived as resulting from the division of the globe into two equal parts, north and south or east and west.



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**invasive species** – a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic, environmental or human harm.

**island** - An area of land, smaller than a continent, completely surrounded by water.

**Italy** – a country located in the continent of Europe; shaped like a boot and a peninsula

**lake** - a body of fresh or salt water entirely surrounded by land.

**legend** - a listing which contains symbols and other information about a map.

**map** – a representation, usually on a flat surface, of a region of the earth

**Mexico** – a country located in the continent of North America

**Michigan** – a state located in the Midwestern United States which is a peninsula

**mountain** - a high point of land rising steeply above its surroundings.

**oasis** - a spot in a desert made fertile by water.

**ocean** - The salt water surrounding the great land masses, and divided by the land masses into several distinct portions, each of which is called an ocean.

**peak** - The highest point of a mountain.

**peninsula** - A piece of land extending into the sea almost surrounded by water.

**plain** - A large area of land, either level or gently rolling, usually at low elevation.

**plateau** (or tableland) - an elevated area of mostly level land, sometimes containing deep canyons.

**Raleigh** – the capital city of the state of North Carolina

**Richmond** – the capital city of the state of Virginia

**reference books** – a book, such as a dictionary or encyclopedia, to which one can refer for authoritative information.

**river** - a stream, larger than a creek, generally flowing to another stream, a lake, or to the ocean.

**state** – a political unit consisting of a territory under a sovereign government

**Washington, DC** - the capital city of the United States of America