



# Key Vocabulary: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Context
arena	the designated area where the Hunger Games take place	"The arena itself is circular, with a diameter of about ten miles."
Capitol	the seat of government in the nation of Panem, where the Hunger Games are organized and controlled	"They don't even bother removing the cameras that followed us into the Capitol."
Career	a tribute from Districts 1, 2, and 4 who trains specifically for the Hunger Games and is typically well-equipped and well-trained	"All of the Careers have ranged themselves in a protective circle around their goods."
chariot	a decorated carriage that carries each pair of tributes during the opening ceremonies of the Hunger Games	"The chariot hits a bump and I see Peeta's hands clutch for support."
district	one of the twelve impoverished regions of Panem that are controlled by the Capitol	"I'm from District Twelve. I've been starving in the woods with Gale for years."
Gamemakers	the officials in the Capitol who design and control the Hunger Games, including the arena and the challenges the tributes face	"The Gamemakers have designed this arena to make it difficult for us to find one another."
muttation	a genetically altered animal created by the Capitol for the Hunger Games	"They release the muttations, and I am still running, but they are faster, and they are hungry."
poacher	a person who hunts or catches game or fish illegally	"I'm a poacher, really. Not much good at anything else."
propaganda	information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a particular political cause or point of view	"But it doesn't matter. By that point, most of the audience had already bought into the propaganda of the Capitol's superior firepower."
reaping	an event in which the Capitol chooses one boy and one girl from each district to compete in the Hunger Games	"That's the mayor's daughter. I know because she was reaped a few years back."
tessera	a small amount of grain or oil given to someone in need, in exchange for entering their name into the Hunger Games more times	"It's worth a tessera. You could get enough to eat."
tribute	a person selected to participate in the Hunger Games from each district	"The tributes are allowed to choose their own outfits for the opening ceremonies."



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## Historical and political context of the book

"The Hunger Games" book series is set in a dystopian future of North America, which has been renamed Panem. The political and historical context of the series is based on several real-life events and situations throughout human history, as well as some fictional elements.

One of the main historical events that influenced the series is the Ancient Roman practice of gladiatorial games. The Hunger Games themselves are similar to the gladiatorial games, in which slaves and prisoners were forced to fight to the death for the entertainment of the Roman citizens. The Hunger Games also draws inspiration from modern-day reality shows and the cult of celebrity that has emerged in recent years.

In addition to the Roman games, the series also draws on the concept of totalitarianism and oppression. The Capitol, the governing body of Panem, controls the citizens through a combination of propaganda, violence, and surveillance. This mirrors real-life totalitarian regimes such as Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and North Korea.

The districts of Panem also draw on real-life examples of economic and social inequality. The districts are divided into a strict hierarchical system, with the Capitol being at the top of the social and economic pyramid. This is similar to the feudal system that existed in medieval Europe, as well as modern-day class systems in many countries.

Overall, the historical and political context of "The Hunger Games" series is a commentary on the dangers of totalitarianism, the effects of economic and social inequality, and the power of propaganda and celebrity culture. The series encourages readers to question authority and to fight against oppression, while also highlighting the importance of community, compassion, and empathy.