

Prefixes and Suffixes (continued)

The word *bothersome* consists of the core word *bother* ("to worry, trouble, or annoy") and the suffix *-some* ("tending to"). Poor weather tended to bother the travelers in Washington's party.

What about *undoubted*? Take the prefix *un-* ("not") and the familiar word *doubted*. The meaning of this word is "not doubted," or "certain."

Finally, take the word *counterproductive*. The prefix *counter-* means "against" or "the opposite of." The core word *product* means "effect" or "result." The suffix *-ive* means "having the quality of." Taken as a whole, this word means that Washington's discussions with the French were the opposite of having a good effect—they did not have a positive result.

Application

Read the passage below. Then use your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to answer the questions that follow.

In 1848 and 1849, the gold rush lured thousands of fortune hunters from all over the world to California. In a number of uninhabited wilderness areas, one canvas city after another sprang up nearly overnight. In places like Sacramento and Stockton, men dug feverishly for the subterranean gold dust that could bring up to five hundred dollars a day for the lucky. However, once the gold was extracted

from the earth and sold, many fortunes were foolishly lost through drinking, gambling, horse trading, and other wild behavior. There was a general feeling that the gold supply would last forever. As one prospector wrote of his fellow diggers, "They had found gold at every step and looked on the supply as inexhaustible." Of course, this assumption was proved wrong in the years that followed.

1. The word *uninhabited* means
 - (a) not occupied
 - (b) not behaving in a socially acceptable way
 - (c) crowded
 - (d) not having a regular routine

Which vocabulary strategies helped you figure out the meaning of this word? _____

