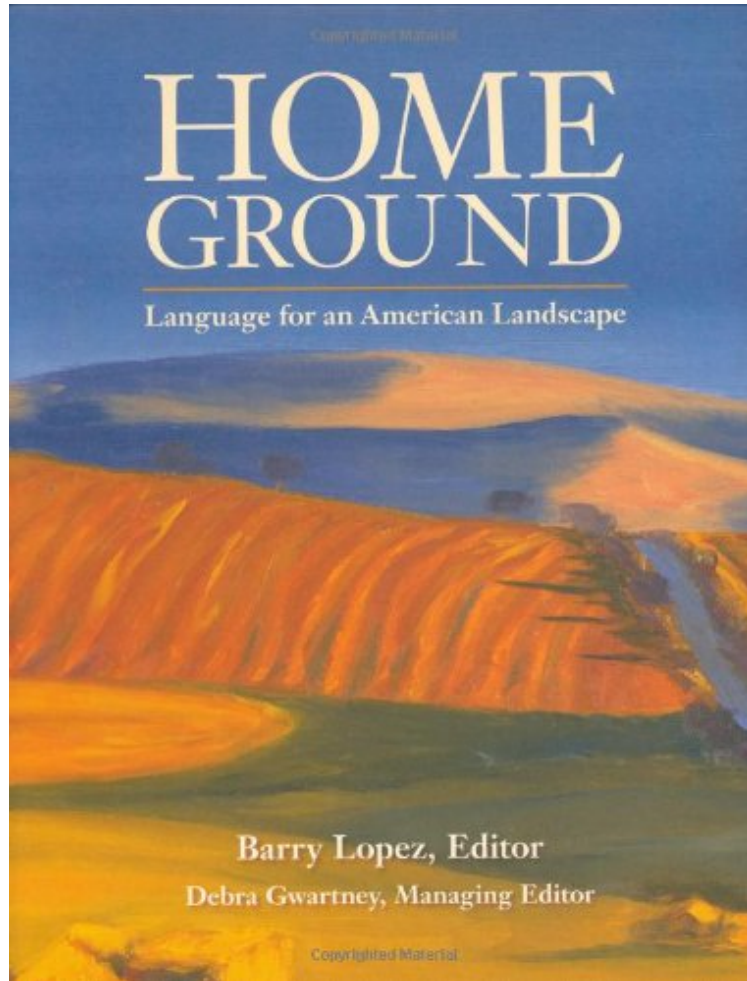


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Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape

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From Trinity University Press : Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I love the book, but want more!By L. ReznicekIf I have one complaint about this book (which is really an encouragement) it's that it could be much larger. Each one of the contributing authors (and some who were not tapped into) could add many more words, and hopefully will in an expanded edition at some point. I've started with Pattiann Rogers and am adding well-loved words from her poetry collection along the margins (which are wide and mostly empty and beg to be written upon). Words such as staub, vine maple, flotsam--I could go on and on. I intend to make this book my one-stop wordshop; it will be messy, and personalized, and uncollectable by the time I'm done with it. There's a reason everyone who has reviewed it has given it five stars; it's a thought-provoking read; a great start in our search for a lexicon to describe our landscape and our

lives; a book to be kept by your reading/writing chair and referred to and used forever and ever. And, as I mentioned, the contributing authors (Kittredge, Barnes, Hass, Rogers, and other western writers/poets not included) are worth reading through again and again with this book, and a pen, in hand--it's a good beginning. 32 of 33 people found the following review helpful. More than a reference, a Literary Anthology of our American Homeland By ALJ When I first got my hands on this beautiful book, I'd barely read a page before I started to cry. Barry Lopez, Debra Gwartney, and more of the best writers of our day have saved what I didn't even realize I was losing. I've often felt, when near an exotic Asian or spicy islander that being an American, especially a Midwesterner, meant I had no culture. The United States was developed under the influence of a vast wild land, a land to conquer. We tore down and built up, paying little attention to what we destroyed. I wonder if that accounts for empty Americans trying to fill themselves up with stuff? But the U. S. isn't only about development and acquisition. Home Ground preserves the culture and language of our landscape. "we will conserve only what we love we will love only what we understand we will understand only what we're taught" Baba Dioum, Senegal The marginalia literature quotations and the descriptive entries bind place to culture. Because I do feel a connection to the landscapes I have known, this book reminds me that I am a part of a culture that has a language. A language we might have lost. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By robert Lowing brilliant idea and satisfying to read.

Barry Lopez asked 45 poets and writers to define terms that describe Americas land and water forms phrases like flatiron, bayou, monadnock, kiss tank, meander bar, and everglade. The result is a major enterprise comprising over 850 descriptions, 100 line drawings, and 70 quotations from works by Willa Cather, Truman Capote, John Updike, Cormac McCarthy, and others. Carefully researched and exquisitely written by talents such as Barbara Kingsolver, Lan Samantha Chang, Robert Hass, Terry Tempest Williams, Jon Krakauer, Gretel Ehrlich, Luis Alberto Urrea, Antonya Nelson, Charles Frazier, Linda Hogan, and Bill McKibben, Home Ground is a striking composite portrait of the landscape. At the heart of this expansive work is a community of writers in service to their country, emphasizing a language that suggests the vastness and mystery that lie beyond our everyday words.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . How to define an arroyo, badlands, eddy, a muskeg? What is a desire path, a kiss tank, a nubble? These words, many forgotten today, refer to various aspects of a landscape to which many of us have lost our connection. Drawing on the polyglot richness of American English, National Book Award-winning author Lopez (*Arctic Dreams*) assembles 45 writers, known for their intimate connection to particular places, to collectively create a unique American dictionary. Barbara Kingsolver, William Kittredge, Arturo Longoria, Jon Krakauer, Bill McKibben, Antonya Nelson, Luis Alberto Urrea and Joy Williams, among others, vividly describe land and water forms. What is a cofferdam? "Imagine a decorative wishing well, then imagine that well writ large," notes Antonya Nelson. And Patricia Hampl tells us that the Dutch word *vly* (marshy headwaters of a stream) "may have occasioned the name of New York's rowdy Fly Market" in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Many entries quote American explorers and writers such as Herman Melville, Willa Cather, Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and Cormac McCarthy, as they uncover layers of etymology and American regional difference. Line drawings enhance geographic understanding; marginal quotations further evoke period and place. This marvelous book enlivens readers to the rich diversity of Americans' complex relationship to the land. (Oct. 4) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Edited by National Book Award winner Lopez and Gwartney and offering contributions by 45 writers, this unique addition to the literature of ecology and the environment presents a series of definitions, arranged alphabetically, of "landscape terms and terms for the forms that water takes." These definitions average a dozen lines apiece, with some entries longer and others shorter. But every definition is at once comprehensive and to the point. To learn what a graded shoreline is and how creek is actually defined and to never have to guess again the meaning of revetment are the distinct pleasures afforded by this large-format but comfortable-to-handle book. It can be used for reference, but its practicality and applicability extend much further. Anyone with an interest in nature, even on a casual basis (one doesn't have to go camping and hiking every weekend to qualify as "interested"), will experience many edifying hours opening a page here or a page there and slowly appreciating the expertise expressed and the knowledge offered. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. About the Author Barry Lopez is the author of "Arctic Dreams, Of Wolves and Men, Resistance, Light Action in the Caribbean, " and eleven other works of fiction and nonfiction. His essays are collected in two books, "Crossing Open Ground" and "About This Life." He contributes regularly to "Granta, the Georgia , Orion, Outside, the Paris , Manoa, " and other publications in the United States and abroad. In addition to the National Book Award, he is the recipient of an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as fellowships from the Guggenheim, Lannan, and National Science Foundations. He lives in western Oregon. Debra Gwartney is the author of the memoir "Live Through This, " published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in February 2009. She teaches creative writing at Portland State University and lives in western Oregon. Molly O'Halloran is an illustrator and cartographer whose work has appeared in volumes of fiction, travel writing, essays, and archaeological editions. She has lived and worked in Chicago, the Upper Sonoran Desert, the northern Sierra Nevada, and the Great Basin and now calls Austin,

TX, home.