

Landforms

Glossary

WHO MADE THIS?

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ILLUSTRATIONS

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Alluvial Fan	Cone-shaped deposit of sediment left by a stream.
Arch	Natural rock formation forming a bridge.
Archipelago	Group of islands.
Arroyo	Narrow river bed that is frequently dry.
Atoll	Ring shaped reef formed from coral.
Bay	Body of water formed by an indentation in the shoreline (bigger than a cove, smaller than a gulf).
Bluff	High steep bank by a river or sea.
Butte	Isolated hill with steep sides and a flat top.
Canal	Man-made waterway constructed to allow the passage of boats or to carry water.
Canyon	Long narrow valley with steep cliff walls.
Cape	Large point of land extending into the water, usually at an abrupt angle.
Cave	Large underground chamber.
Chasm	Deep split in the earth's surface.
Cinder Cone	Cone of lava rock formed around the vent of a volcano.
Cliff	Very steep face of rock, earth or ice.
Cove	Small sheltered indentation in the shoreline.
Delta	Flat area of sediment deposited at the mouth of a river.
Fault	Place where sections of the earth's crust move relative to each other.
Fjord	Long narrow inlet of the sea between high cliffs.
Geyser	Spring that throws forth jets of hot water and steam.
Glacier	Large body of ice moving slowly down a slope.
Gulf	Part of an ocean or sea extending into the land (bigger than a bay).
Hill	Usually rounded elevation of land (lower than a mountain).
Iceberg	Large floating mass of ice.
Island	Land surrounded by water (smaller than a continent).
Isthmus	Narrow strip of land connecting two larger land masses.

Lagoon	Shallow body of water protected from the sea by sandbars or reefs.
Lake	Large body of water surrounded by land.
Marsh	Area of low wet land usually with lots of grasses.
Mesa	Isolated flat-topped elevation that rises abruptly from the surrounding area.
Mountain	Large landmass that rises notably above its surroundings (larger than a hill).
Mud Flat	Stretch of muddy land that is exposed at low tide.
Oasis	Fertile area with water in the middle of a desert.
Pass	Lowest possible route through a mountain range.
Peak	Very top of a mountain ending in a point.
Peninsula	Area of land nearly surrounded by water.
Plain	Large area of flat land.
Pond	Small body of water.
Prairie	Large area of flat grassland.
Range	Series of connected mountains.
Rapids	Fast flowing and agitated part of a river.
Reef	Ridge of rock, coral or sand just above or below the surface of the sea.
River	Large stream of water flowing in a channel.
Sand Dune	Ridge of sand created by the wind.
Sandbar	Long narrow bank of sand.
Scree	Accumulation of loose rocks and debris on a mountain slope.
Sea	Large body of water partially enclosed by land (smaller than an ocean).
Shoreline	Line along which a large body of water meets the land.
Spring	Source of water coming out of the ground.
Strait	Narrow passage of water connecting two larger areas of water.
Stream	Small, narrow river.
Swamp	Low-lying area of land where water collects.
Valley	Low area of land between hills or mountains.
Volcano	Mountain or hill with a vent through which lava escapes from the earth's crust.
Waterfall	Cascade of water falling from a height.
Yardang	Ridge of compact sand formed by the wind in desert regions.