

Landforms

Definitions and Study Guide

basin: a natural depression in the earth's surface, usually holding water

bay: any inlet of an ocean, sea or lake that extends into the land

beach: sandy, pebbly, or rocky shore of a body of water

canyon: a deep, narrow valley, usually with steep sides and a river flowing through it

cape: a narrow piece of land projecting into the sea

cave: a deep hollowed-out area, often found in the side of a cliff or hill

desert: dry areas of land having very little rainfall or plant life

glacier: large body of year-round ice and snow that moves slowly across the land

hill: a raised area of land; not as high as a mountain

island: a body of land completely surrounded by water

isthmus: narrow strip of land that connects 2 large landmasses and separates 2 bodies of water

lake: a body of water completely surrounded by land

lowlands: an area of land that is lower than the land around it

mesa: flat-topped, elevated landform

mountain: a large, steep area of land which usually rises more than 1,000 feet

peninsula: a piece of land that is surrounded by water on 3 sides

plateau: a raised, flat area of land that is higher than surrounding land

river: a large, natural stream which flows into a larger body of water

valley: long, low area of land between hills or mountain ranges

volcano: a mountain or hill with a crater through which lava, rock, or gas erupt

waterfall: a steep fall or flow of water from a higher elevation

wetlands: water ecosystems, such as swamps, marshes, and mud flats