Landform and waterform definitions

| **Landform or Waterform** | **Definition** |
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| **Bay** | An area of an ocean, sea, or lake that extends into the land. It’s usually smaller than a gulf. |
| **Canyon** | A deep, narrow valley with steep sides and often with a river or stream on its floor. |
| **Cave** | A natural void in the ground, specifically large enough for a human to enter. |
| **Cliff** | A mass of rock that rises very high and is almost vertical, or straight up-and-down. |
| **Delta** | A small island of sediment that divide a river into smaller parts at its mouth. |
| **Desert** | A dry and often hot area of land that receives very little precipitation. |
| **Floodplain** | A generally flat area of land next to a river or stream. |
| **Glacier** | A large mass of slowly moving ice. |
| **Gulf** | Large part of an ocean that extends into the land. It’s usually larger than a bay. |
| **Hill** | Land that rises to a summit of no more than 1,000 feet. |
| **Island** | Land surrounded by water. |
| **Lake** | A body of water that is surrounded by land. |
| **Mesa** | A flat-topped mountain or hill. It is a wide, flat, elevated landform with steep sides. |
| **Mountain** | A land mass that rises higher than its surrounding area. Higher than a hill. |
| **Ocean** | Areas of salty water that fill enormous basins on the Earth’s surface. |
| **Peninsula** | A portion of land nearly surrounded by water. |
| **Plateau** | Land raised higher than surrounding land with a flat surface. |
| **Prairie** | Flat or rolling grasslands with few trees but covered with grasses. |
| **River** | A large, natural stream of flowing water. |
| **Savanna** | Dry area of flat or rolling grassland with few trees. Located in tropical or subtropical areas. |
| **Strait** | Narrow body of water connecting two larger bodies of water. |
| **Swamp** | Wetland partially or occasionally covered in water. |
| **Tributary** | Stream or river that flows into a large stream of water. |
| **Volcano** | Cone-shaped Mountain formed by eruptions from the interior of the Earth. |
| **Tundra** | Treeless plain in the arctic or sub-arctic regions with black mucky soil and permanently frozen subsoil. |
| **Valley** | Area located between ranges of hills or mountains. |
| **Waterfall** | A place where water flows over the edge of a steep, high cliff in hills or mountains, and falls into a pool below. |