

LANDFORM AND WATERFORM DEFINITIONS

Landform or Waterform	Definition
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.



Landform or Waterform	Definition
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.

