

LANDFORMS, WATER FORMS, & MEASUREMENTS

Absolute location (p.14) Exact location of a place on earth described by global coordinates

Archipelago (p.192, 216, 219) A group or chain of islands clustered together

Atoll (p.662, 664, 665) Low islands formed by the buildup of coral reefs on the rim of submerged volcanoes; low-lying, ring shaped islands that surround lagoons

Basin (p.14) Area of land drained by a given river and its branches; area of land surrounded by lands of higher elevations.

Butte A tall, flat or jagged topped landform with steep sides; smaller than a mesa

Cape (p.14) Point of land that extends into a river, lake, or ocean

Canyon (p.14, 59) Deep narrow valley with steep-sides, which a river has cut through with steep sides.

Channel (p.14) Wide strait or waterway between two landmasses that lies close to each other; deep part of a river or other waterway

Cliff (p.14) A steep, high wall of rock, earth or ice

Delta (p.14) Flat low-lying land built up from soil carried downstream by a river and deposited at its mouth.

Desert (p.53, 100, 110) A barren or desolate area; dry and often sandy region of little rainfall, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation

Divide (p.14) A stretch of high land that separates river systems

Equator (p.14) Imaginary line that runs around the earth halfway between the North and South Poles; used as a starting point to measure degrees of north and south latitude

Fertile River Valley (p.15, 83, 100) Area of low land between hills and mountains surrounding a river with rich soil, often flooded by the river

Fjord (p.292, 664) Steep-sided, glacial-cut valleys that are inlets to the sea

Glacier (p.14) A large thick body of slow moving ice.

Gulf (p.14) Part of a large body of water that extends into a shoreline, generally larger and more deeply indented than a bay

Island (p.14) Land area, smaller than a continent, completely surrounded by water

Isthmus (p.14) Narrow stretch of land connecting two larger land areas

[Lake](#) (p.14) A sizable inland body of water

[Lagoon](#) (p.659, 662, 665) shallow pools of clear water, usually rise only a few feet above sea level.

[Landform](#) (p.53) Individual feature of the land, such as a mountain or valley

[Latitude \(p.14\)](#) Distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees

[Longitude \(p.14\)](#) Distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, measured in degrees

[Meridian \(p.14\)](#) One of the many lines on the global grid running from the North Pole to the South Pole; used to measure degrees of longitude

[Mesa](#) (p.15) A board, flat topped landform with steep sides; smaller than a plateau

[Mountain](#) (p.15) Land with steep sides that rises sharply (1000 feet or more) from surrounding land; generally larger and more rugged than a hill

[Mouth](#) (of a river) (p.15) Place where a stream or river flows into a larger body of water

[Oasis](#) (p. 101, 358) green area in a desert fed by underground water

[Parallel](#) (p.15) One of the many lines on the global grid that circles the earth north or south of the Equator; used to measure degrees of latitude

[Plain](#) (p.15, 59) Low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land

[Plateau](#) (p.15, 59) area of flat or rolling land at a higher elevation, about 300 – 3000 feet high

[Peninsula](#) (p.15) body of land jutting out into a lake or ocean, surrounded on three sides by water

[Prime Meridian](#) (p.15) Line of the global grid running from the North Pole to the South Pole through Greenwich, England; starting point for measuring degrees of east and west longitude

[River](#) (p.15) Large natural stream of water that runs through the land

[Sea](#) (p.15) Large body of water completely or partly surrounded by land

[Source](#) (p.15) *of a river*, place where a river or stream begins, often in highlands

[Strait](#) (p.15) Narrow stretch of water joining two larger bodies of water

[Swamp](#) (p.280) A lowland region saturated with water; with more woody plants than a marsh and better drainage than a bog.

[Tributary](#) (p.15) A small river or stream that flows into a large river or stream; a branch of the river

[Valley](#) (p.15) area of low land between hills and mountains

[Volcano](#) (p.15) Mountain created as liquid rock and ash erupt from inside the earth.

[Waterfalls](#) (p.593) A steep descent of water from a height; a cascade