

# List of Landforms/Waterforms

## Landforms [<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/glossary/>]

- archipelago - a group of islands
- atoll - ring-shaped reef, island or chain of islands formed of coral
- basin - a large, shallow depression where rivers and tributaries tend to be found
- butte - hill with flat top, steep sides
- canyon - narrow lowland between hills or mountains, usually gorged by a river with high steep slopes
- cape - piece of hooked land that extends into the ocean or sea
- coast - land around a large lake, sea, or ocean
- (continental) divide - mountain ridges that divide the watershed into rivers flowing east or rivers flowing west
- (coral) reef - an extension ridge of coral under the sea
- delta - huge accumulation of sediment at the mouth of a river usually shaped like a triangle
- foothills/piedmont hill - sloping, rounded top, under 1,000 feet
- island - a piece of land surrounded by water
- isthmus - a narrow piece of land that connects two larger pieces of land
- mesa - form of plateau; lower terrain on all sides
- mountain - steep sides, identifiable peak, over 1,000 feet
- peninsula - land surrounded on three sides by water
- plain - large area of flat land
- plateau - elevated plain, usually with eroded cliffs on one or more sides
- range - a connected line of mountains
- valley - a lowland between hills or mountains
- volcano - conical mountain having a vent through which lava, hot vapor, or gas have erupted
- watershed - a smaller area of land that contributes to a basin

## Waterforms

- bay - a body of water surrounded by land that opens into a larger body of water or an ocean
- channel - a wide strait
- cove - small bay or within a bay, circular or oval in shape, with restricted entrance
- delta - huge accumulation of sediment at the mouth of a river usually shaped like a triangle
- fiord/fjord - a very narrow inlet surrounded by steep cliffs (Norwegian coast)
- geyser - a hot spring in which water intermittently boils, sending a tall column of water and steam into the air
- glacier - a huge, slow moving mass of ice
- gulf - a large bay
- iceberg - a small to large block of ice that is under the ocean with only its top sticking out above the surface
- lake - a body of water with fresh water
- mouth - where a river enters a sea
- ocean - one of 5 huge bodies of water
- river - stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, lake, or another river
- sea - large inland body of salty water, or, a small area of ocean
- source/headwaters - the beginning of a river (opposite of mouth)
- strait - narrow passage of water that connects two larger bodies of water; a narrow channel
- stream/rivulet/brook/creek/spring
- tributary - a small river or branch of a river that flows into a larger one

## Environmental conditions

### Land (vegetation and/or amount of water)

bayou - marshy outlet of a lake or river

barren - land too dry or cold for  
plants to grow

bog - a type of wetland; wet, muddy ground too soft to support a heavy body

desert - an area of land that receives less than 10 inches of rain a year

forest - an area with large trees

grassland - an area of expansive natural tall grasses

icecap - a permanent cover of ice and snow over land

marsh - a type of wetland; low-lying area flooded in wet seasons or high tide

rainforest - trees adapted to high amounts of precipitation

savanna - grassland with scattered trees

steppe - dry grassland area

swamp - a type of wetland

taiga - the sometimes swampy coniferous forest of high northern latitudes,  
esp. that between the tundra and steppes

tundra - frozen ground

wetland - land where water is often close to the surface or at the surface

### Climate zones

Polar ( $60^{\circ}\text{N}$  -  $90^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $60^{\circ}\text{S}$  -  $90^{\circ}\text{S}$ )

Temperate ( $30^{\circ}\text{N}$  -  $60^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $30^{\circ}\text{S}$  -  $60^{\circ}\text{S}$ )

Tropics ( $30^{\circ}\text{N}$  -  $30^{\circ}\text{S}$ )