

# WHAT ARE LANDFORMS?????

Landforms are the shapes of natural features of the earth's surface. Here are some examples:

- VERY LARGE: continents, ocean basins.
- LARGE: whole mountain ranges, vast plains and plateaus.
- INTERMEDIATE: individual mountains, hills, valleys.
- SMALL: hillside slopes, river banks, dunes, large boulders.
- VERY SMALL: grooves, scratches and other irregularities on rock surfaces.

## How are they made/formed?

Tectonic plates move and interact with each other constantly. Their activities lead to earthquake, volcanic eruptions and the splitting of the earth's crust. These events change the surface of the earth by creating different landforms. A landform is a term that describes the shape of a natural land feature. Landform are created by different forces of nature. For example, mountains, oceans, valleys and called landforms. A group of landforms in one are makes up a landscape. The view from an aeroplane or from the top of hill gives a good picture of a landscape.

## Types of landforms

There are many different types of landforms on the Earth. Some of them were formed over millions of years and others were formed in a matter of hours. The formation of a mountain range, for example, would usually take a few million years. Events like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions can 'wipe off' landforms, or form new ones in a matter of hours. Examples of some natural landforms are mountains, oceans, rivers, hills, volcanoes, valleys, desserts, waterfalls, caves and cliffs. This chapter looks at the formation of some major types of landforms.

## Vocabulary

Plateau	an elevated level expanse of land; a tableland.
Mountain	a high, steep elevation of the earth's surface, higher than a hill.
Volcano	an opening in the earth's crust through which molten lava, ash, and gases are ejected
Archipelago	a chain of islands
Island	a piece of land completely surrounded by water
Peninsula	a narrow stretch of land surrounded on three sides by water



Isthmus	a narrow strip of land, like a bridge, connecting two larger strips of land
Delta	a place at the river's mouth, where the river splits into many different sections, forming a marshy triangle.
Harbor	a sheltered part of a body of water deep enough to provide anchorage for ships
Cape	a point or head of land projecting into a body of water
River valley	an elongated lowland between ranges of mountains, hills, or other uplands, having a river or stream running along the bottom
Moraine	an accumulation of boulders, stones, or other debris carried and deposited by a glacier
Glacier	a huge mass of ice slowly flowing over a land mass
Butte	a hill that rises abruptly from the surrounding area and has sloping sides and a flat top
Mesa	a broad, flat-topped elevation with one or more cliff-like sides
Canyon	a narrow chasm with steep cliff walls, cut into the earth by running water
Basin	a large, bowl-shaped depression in the surface of the land, often drained by a single river (the Amazon Basin)
Hill	a small elevation in the earth's surface
Beach	a shore of a body of water covered by sand, gravel, or larger rock fragments
Flood plain	a flat or nearly flat land adjacent to a stream or river that experiences occasional or periodic flooding.
Waterfall	a steep descent of water from a height
Alluvial fan	a relatively flat landform created by the deposition of sediment over a long period of time by one or more rivers coming from highland
river source	Point where a river begins
plain	extensive tract of level open land
barrier sand bar	ridges whose crests are parallel to shore and which are usually made up of water worn gravel put down by currents in shallow water at some distance from the shore