

# GEOGRAPHY TERMS

archipelago	a large group or chain of islands
atoll	a ring-shaped coral island or string of islands surrounding a lagoon
basin	an area of low-lying land surrounded by higher land
bay	part of an ocean, sea, or lake that extends into the land...usually smaller than a gulf
butte	a small flat-topped hill...smaller than a plateau or mesa
canal	a waterway built to carry water for navigation or irrigation...navigation ones usually connect two bodies of water
canyon	a deep narrow valley with steep sides
cape	a projecting part of a coastline that extends into an ocean, sea, gulf, bay, or lake
cliff	a high steep face of rock or earth
delta	land formed at the mouth of a river by deposits of silt, sand, and pebbles
desert	a very dry area where few plants grow
fjord	a deep, narrow inlet of the sea between high, steep cliffs
foothills	a hilly area at the base of a mountain range
glacier	a large sheet of ice that moves slowly over some land surface or down a valley
gulf	part of an ocean or sea that extends into the land...this is usually larger than a bay
hill	a rounded, raised landform, not as high as a mountain
island	a body of land completely surrounded by water
isthmus	a narrow strip of land bordered by water, that connects two larger bodies of land
lagoon	a shallow body of water partially or completely enclosed within an atoll; a shallow body of sea water partially cut off from the sea by a narrow strip of land
mesa	a high flat landform rising steeply above the surrounding land...smaller than a plateau and larger than a butte

mountain	a high, rounded or pointed landform with steep sides...higher than a hill
mountain range	a row or chain of mountains
oasis	a place in the desert made fertile by a steady supply of water
ocean	one of the earth's four largest bodies of water...actually they are all a single connected body of salt water that covers about 3/4 of the earth's surface
peak	the pointed top of a mountain or hill
peninsula	a body of land nearly surrounded by water
plain	a large area of flat or nearly flat land
plateau	a high, flat landform that rises steeply above the surrounding land...larger than a mesa and a butte
reservoir	a natural or artificial lake used to store water
river	a large stream of water that flows across the land and usually empties into a lake, ocean, or other river
river mouth	the place where a river empties into another body of water
river source	the place where a river or stream begins
strait	a narrow waterway or channel connecting two larger bodies of water
tributary	a river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream
valley	an area of low land between hills or mountains
volcano	an opening in the earth through which lava, rock, gases, and ash are forced out
waterfall	a flow of water falling from a high place to a lower place