

Physical Regions & Landforms

What in the world is a Landform?

Can you think of any examples?

Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Examples of Landforms



Landforms Defined

- ♦ A natural feature on the Earth's surface
- ♦ Landforms are different types of formations in a location
- ♦ A location's climate is affected by its landforms
- ♦ Physical regions are often defined by the landforms found there

1. Mountain Region

- ♦ Mountain- a landform that rises at least 2,000 feet above surrounding land; usually wide at the bottom and narrow at the top.
- ♦ Several mountains, grouped together, form a Mountain Range- several mountains in a row.

Example: Rocky Mountains



Plateau

- ♦ Plateaus – Landforms that are found in mountain regions
- ♦ Often are attached to mountains
- ♦ The Great Plains are located on a plateau that comes off the Rocky Mountains



2. Valley Region

- ♦ Valleys are low lands that often lie between mountain ranges
- ♦ Water runs down from the mountains causing the soil to be rich
- ♦ This is good for communities, as the rich soil causes abundant crops to grow

Types of Valleys

Mountain Valley – A valley between two mountain ranges



Glacial Valley – A valley in a polar region, formed by glaciers (moving sheets of ice) →AKA: Fjords.



Canyon – A deep valley in an arid region. Carved into a mountain by water.



Rift – A valley formed along a fault line.

3. River Basin Region

River Basin- a low lying area of land, shaped kind of like a bowl.

- Basins are areas that are drained by rivers and their tributaries. Water from the basins eventually reaches the river mouth and runs into a sea or ocean
- Tributary- A smaller river or stream that flows into a bigger river



4. Desert Region

- ♦ Desert- dry land that receives less than 10 inches of rain a year and has little to no vegetation
- ♦ They can be hot or cold
- ♦ Examples: Sahara in Africa (Hot) or Antarctica (Cold)



Common landforms in Deserts

- ♦ Mesas- a hill that has a flat top and steep sides
- ♦ Butte- a steep sided hill with a flat top that usually stands alone around a flat area. A Butte is smaller than a mesa



5. Plains Region

- ♦ Plains- a large area of flat or gently rolling land. (like Kansas)
- ♦ This region is often used by ranchers to graze cattle
- ♦ Prairie- United states (The Great Planes)
- ♦ Pampas- South America
- ♦ Savanna- Africa



6.Coastal Plain Region



Coastal Plain- The area of flat land along a sea or ocean

Example: Beach but not all coastal plains are sandy like a beach

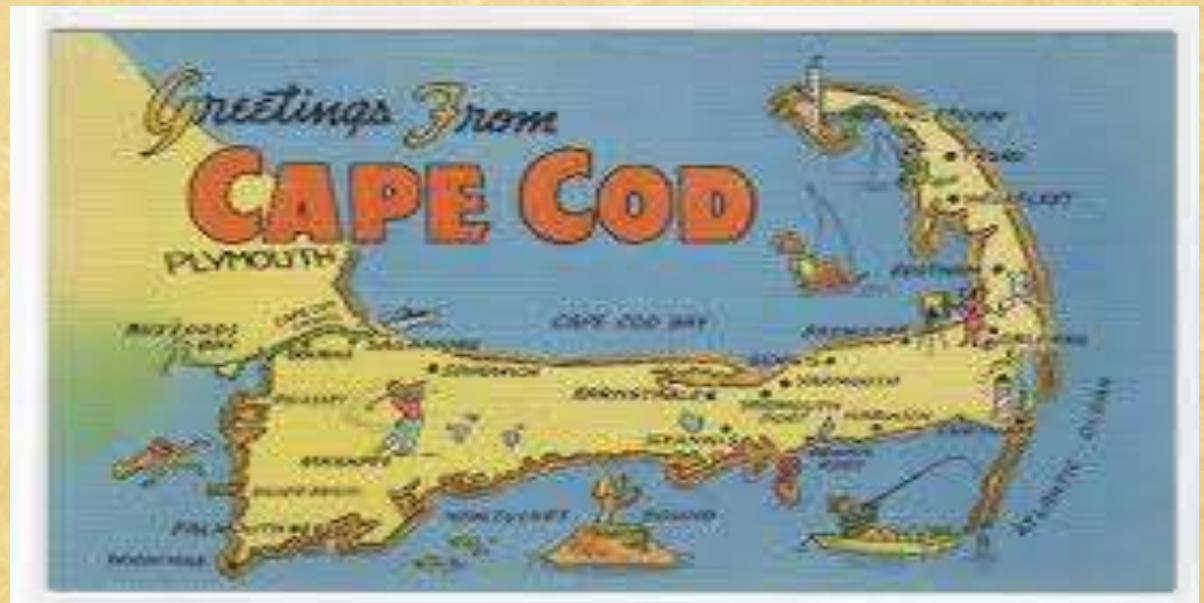
Peninsula

- ♦ Is part of a coastal plain that has water on three sides and is attached to another piece of land
- ♦ Example: Florida



Cape

- ♦ Like a peninsula but is pointed
- ♦ Example: Cape Cod, Massachusetts



Gulfs and Bays

- ♦ Gulf/Bay- Are bodies of water almost entirely surrounded by land
- ♦ A Gulf is usually bigger than a bay
- ♦ They are located next to coastal plains

Examples: Gulf of Mexico and Bay of Bengal



Sea

- ♦ Sea- A large body of water that may be partially enclosed by land
- ♦ It is larger than a gulf and smaller than an ocean



Example:
Mediterranean Sea

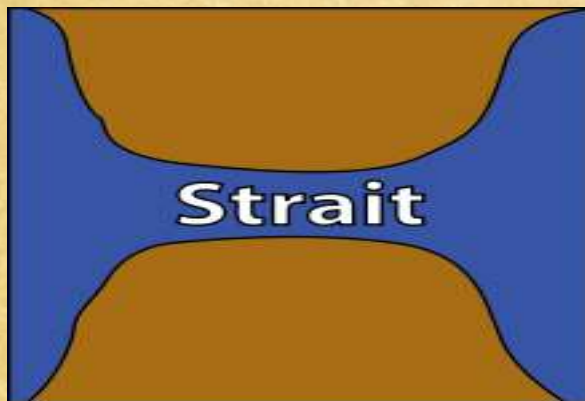
7. Island Region

- ♦ Island- a body of land totally surrounded by water
- ♦ Archipelago- a series of islands
- ♦ Example: Hawaii



8. Other Words to Know.

- ♦ Strait- a skinny piece of water in between two bodies of land.
- ♦ Example: Strait of Gibraltar
(*between Spain & Morocco*)



Isthmus

- ♦ A skinny piece of land that attaches two a bigger piece of land
- ♦ Example: Panama → Connects Central America to South America

