

Spotlight on Landforms

Geographers have many different names for landforms. Here are some common landforms.

- Butte:** A butte is a rock with steep sides. Yellowstone National Park has many buttes.
- Canyon:** A canyon is a deep valley made by erosion from a river. The Grand Canyon is one of the largest canyons in the world.
- Cliff:** A cliff is a large rock formation that is sharp and jagged. Cliffs are found in the Rocky Mountains.
- Cape:** A cape is a piece of land that juts out to the sea. Cape Cod in Massachusetts is a famous cape.
- Atoll:** An atoll is a circle of coral that forms an island. Atolls are often found in the Pacific Ocean.
- Delta:** A delta is a triangle-shaped piece of land at the mouth of a river. The Mississippi River delta is one of the largest deltas in the United States.
- Glacier:** A glacier is a large sheet of ice. Glaciers are in Alaska, Montana, and Canada.
- Isthmus:** An isthmus is a small piece of land connecting two landforms.
- Peninsula:** A peninsula is a piece of land surrounded on three sides by water. Florida is a peninsula.
- Prairie:** A prairie is a flat area that stretches for miles. Prairies are commonly found in the plains region of the United States.
- Savanna:** A savanna is known as a grassy part of land. Savannas exist in Africa.
- Tundra:** A tundra is a cold region with no trees. Often low grasses grow on the tundra. Alaska has areas of tundra.
- Wetland:** A wetland is known as a dense swamp. Florida has many wetlands.
- Valley:** A valley is an area between mountains. There are many valleys in California.
- Volcano:** A volcano is a hill or mountain formed by material ejected from the earth's deep layers. When the land masses shift, the volcano can erupt. Hawaii has many volcanoes.

Check for Understanding

Read the list of terms above. Write a poem about an explorer visiting landforms. Use as many landforms as possible. You can use this chart to grade yourself.

Number of Landforms in Poem	Grade
14–16	Awesome Work! A+
10–14	Great Job! A-
6–10	Good Job! B
1–6	Good Try! C