

# Mountain



A mountain is a landform that rises high above the land around it, and has a peak at the top. A mountain is higher and steeper than a hill.

Mountains are made of rocks and earth. Some mountains are rocky with no trees. Other mountains have trees on their sides. Very tall mountains have snow on their peaks. The top of the mountain is called the summit. The side of the mountain is called the slope.

Mountains exist on every continent. There are even mountains on the bottom of the ocean! The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. It is located in Nepal, on the continent of Asia.

# Plains



Plains are broad areas of flat land. Plains can be grassy, icy, or dry. Plains can be created by floods, glaciers, lava, wind erosion, and water erosion.

Some plains are very **fertile** land. Fertile land is good for planting **crops**, or plants we use for food.

There are plains on every continent of the earth. Grassy plains are called **prairies**. Icy plains are called **tundras**. Tropical grassland plains are called **savannah**. **Deserts** can be plains too. There are even plains on Mars!

# Valley



A valley is the low area between mountains or hills. There is often a river that runs through it.

Valleys are created by water erosion. Rivers or glaciers move rocks away, and create deep valleys. The faster the water flows, the deeper the valley is.

Valleys are usually protected from wind and storms by the mountains around them. Medellin is located in a valley between mountains.

# Canyon



A canyon is a deep valley with very steep sides that is located in an area where not much rain falls.

Most canyons are created by water erosion. Rivers move rocks away, and create deep canyons. The faster the water flows, the deeper the canyon is. Some canyons are made by earthquakes.

The largest canyon in the world is the Grand Canyon. It is located in the United States, in the state of Arizona. Chicamocha canyon is in Colombia. It is located in Santander.

# Glacier



A glacier is a large mass of packed ice. Glaciers are always moving! They flow like very slow rivers. As they move, glaciers move the rocks underneath them from one place to another. This is called erosion.

Glaciers are made of fresh water. This is different than ocean water, which is salty. Almost all of the fresh water on Earth is stored in glaciers.

Glacial ice is so compact that it often appears dark blue. Glacial ice can be thousands of years old! Scientists use glacial ice to study how our earth's climate, or weather and temperature, is changing.

There are large glaciers called continental ice sheets, like the glaciers in Antarctica. Other glaciers form on mountainsides, like the glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

# Island



An island is an area of land surrounded by water on all sides.

Some islands are made by volcanic explosions. Other islands are made when the tectonic plates, or the large masses of land that make up the Earth, move and overlap each other.

Some islands are large enough for people to live and work, like the Islas de Rosario, Hawaii, Greenland, or New Zealand. Other islands are very small.

Every island has its own ecosystem with plants and animals that live on that island. Seeds can get to the island by blowing in the wind or floating. Some islands are sandy with large beaches. Some are cold and icy. Other islands are made of only rock!

# Peninsula



A peninsula is an area of land that sticks out into the water. It is surrounded by water on 3 sides. It is connected to the mainland on one side.

Some peninsulas are very small. They can be just small enough for a lighthouse to sit on the end. Some peninsulas are larger and have room for people to live, like Bocagrande or Castillogrande. Other peninsulas are very large. The state of Florida is a large peninsula.

# Plateau



A plateau is a flat mass of land that sticks up from the land around it.

Plateaus can be made by wind and water erosion, when the wind or water breaks down the rock to create a flat surface. Other plateaus are made when magma from deep inside the earth pushes up towards the surface, but doesn't break through the rock above it. Instead, the magma pushes the rock up into flat plateaus.

Rivers that run through plateaus can create canyons. The Grand Canyon in Arizona was created by the Colorado River that ran through a large plateau.

# Volcano



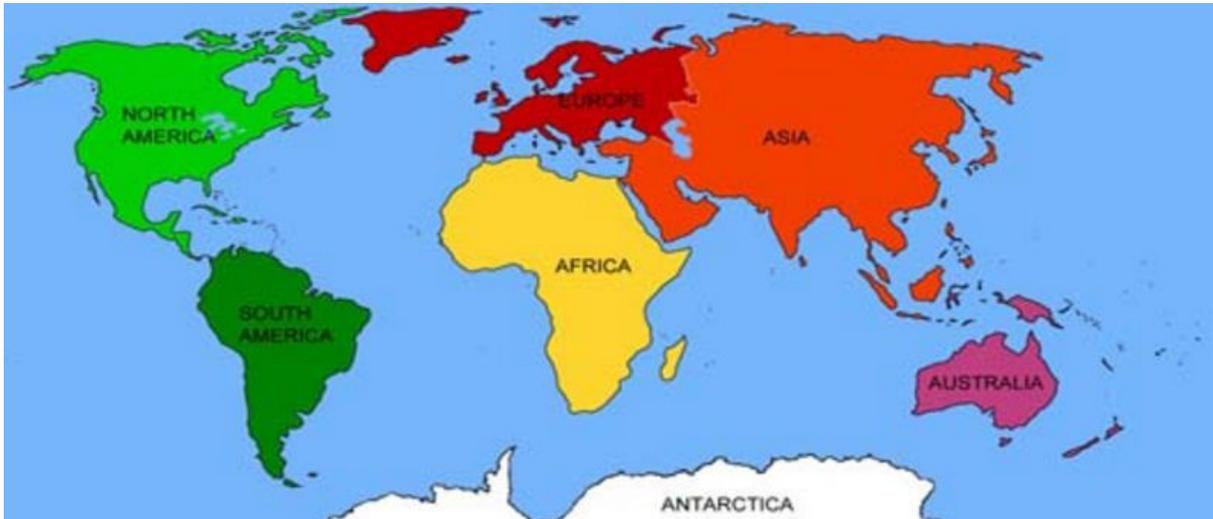
A volcano is an opening in the earth's surface. When a volcano is active, it can allow gas, ash, and magma, or hot liquid rock, to escape, sometimes in spectacular explosions!

Hot liquid rock underneath the Earth's surface is called magma. When it comes to the surface and comes out of the volcano, it is called lava. Volcanoes are on every continent, under the ocean, and even in space! The largest volcano in our solar system is on Mars.

Some volcanoes are active. This means that magma comes to the surface frequently. Other volcanoes are dormant. They have not erupted for a long time. Other volcanoes are extinct. These volcanoes have not erupted for a very long time, and are very unlikely to ever erupt again.

Magma from volcanoes that erupt can cool to form islands or other landforms.

# Continents



Continents are the largest landforms on Earth. Earth's continents are South America, North America, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica. Some countries teach that there are seven continents. Other countries teach that North and South America are really one continent--the continent of America.

There are more than 7 billion people that live on all of the continents combined.

Asia has the world's highest mountains--the Himalayas. Africa has the most countries. It has 54 different countries! South America has the world's largest mountain range, the Andes mountains. The world's largest lake is in Asia. The coldest continent is Antarctica.

Australia looks like an island because it is surrounded by water, but since it is a continent, it isn't considered a true island.

# Cave



A cave is a naturally occurring space under the surface of the Earth. Caves are often a series of connected tunnels and passages. Caves are created by the weathering of rock--when water breaks down the rock to create empty space.

There are many different animals that live in caves. Some animals that live in caves are: bats, fish, salamanders, insects, and spiders. There is a special kind of animal called a troglobite that lives in some caves. Troglobites do not have any eyes, because they live in the complete darkness of caves.

Scientists explore caves to learn more about the cave ecosystem, or the animals and plants that live inside caves. Other people explore caves for fun. Spelunking is exploring a cave for fun.

# Coast



A coast is a landform where the land meets the ocean or sea. This is also called the coastline, shoreline, or seashore.

Coasts can be rocky, sandy, or have a variety of other landforms. Coasts are always changing as the water level of the ocean is also always changing. Coasts are also changing as the ocean waves cause erosion of the land.

Cartagena is on the coast of Colombia. Cartagena's coastline is made of sand and beaches. Santa Marta is also on the coast, but it has mountains near the coast.