**Landforms Glossary Definitions**

* Archipelago-An archipelago is a group or chain of islands clustered together in a sea or ocean.
* Atoll-An atoll is a ring (or partial ring) of coral that forms an island in an ocean or sea.
* Badlands-Extensive tracts of heavily eroded, uncultivable land with little vegetation.
* Bay-A bay is a body of water that is partly enclosed by land and is usually smaller than a gulf.
* Beach-A pebbly or sandy shore, especially by the sea between high- and low-water marks.
* Butte-A butte is a flat topped rock or hill formation with steep sides.
* Canal-An artificial waterway constructed to allow the passage of boats or ships inland or to convey water for irrigation.
* Canyon-A canyon is a deep valley with very steep sides- often carved from the Earth by a river.
* Cape-A cape is a pointed piece of land that sticks out into a sea, ocean, lake or river.
* Cave-A cave is a larger hole in the ground or in the side of a hill or mountain.
* Channel-A channel is a body of water that connects two larger bodies of water (like the English Channel). A Channel is also part of a river or harbor that is deep enough to let ships sail through.
* Cliff-A cliff is a steep face of rock and soil.
* Col-A mountain pass.
* Continent-The land mass on Earth is divided into continents. The current continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
* Cove-A cove is a small, horseshoe-shaped body of water along the coast; the water is surrounded by land formed of soft rock.
* Delta-A delta is a low, watery land formed at the mouth of a river. It is formed from the silt and small rocks that flow downstream in the river and are deposited in the delta. A delta is often, but not always shaped like a triangle.
* Desert-A desert is a very dry area.
* Dune-A dune is a hill or ridge made of sand. Dunes are shaped by the wind and change all the time.
* Estuary-An estuary is where a river meets the sea or ocean.
* Fjord-A fjord is a long narrow sea inlet that is bordered by steep cliffs.
* Forest-A large area covered chiefly with trees and undergrowth.
* Geyser-A geyser is a natural hot spring that occasionally sprays water and steam above the ground.
* Glacier-A glacier is a slowly moving river of ice.
* Gulf-A gulf is a part of the ocean or sea that is partly surrounded by land, it is usually larger than a bay.
* Hill-A hill is a raised area or mound of land.
* Island-An island is a piece of land that is surrounded by water.
* Isthmus-An isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger landmasses. An isthmus has water on two sides.
* Jungle-An area of land overgrown with dense forest and tangled vegetation, typically in the tropics.
* Lagoon-A lagoon is a shallow body of water that is located alongside a coast.
* Lake-A lake is a large body of water surrounded by land on all sides. Really huge lakes are often called seas.
* Mesa-A mesa is a land formation with a flat area on top and steep walls- usually occurring in dry areas.
* Mountain-A mountain is a very tall, high, natural place on earth. It is higher than a hill. The tallest mountain on earth is Mt. Everest located in Nepal on the Nepal-China border.
* Ocean-An ocean is a large body of salt water that surrounds a continent. Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth’s surface.
* Peninsula-A peninsula is a body of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.
* Plain-Plains are flat lands that have only small changes in elevation.
* Plateau-A plateau is a large flat area of land that is higher than the surrounding land.
* Pond-A pond is a small body of water surrounded by land. A pond is smaller than a lake.
* Prairie-A prairie is a wide, relatively flat area of land that has grasses and only a few trees.
* River-A river is a large flowing body of water that usually empties into a sea or ocean.
* Sea-A sea is a large body of salty water that is often connected to an ocean. A sea may be partly or completely surrounded by land.
* Source-A source is the beginning of a river.
* Strait-A strait is a narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water.
* Swamp-A swamp is a type of freshwater wetland that has spongy muddy land and a lot of water. Many trees and shrubs grow in swamps.
* Tributary-A tributary is a stream or river that flows into a larger river.
* Tundra-A tundra is a cold, treeless area. It is the coldest biome.
* Valley-A valley is a low place between mountains.
* Volcano-A volcano is a mountainous vent in the earth’s crust. When a volcano erupts, it spews out lava, ashes, and hot gases from deep inside the earth.
* Waterfall-A waterfall occurs when a river falls off steeply.