

Altitude

the elevation of an
object in relationship to
a given plane, often sea
level

Archipelago

a body of water
interspersed with many
isles

Arm

a long, narrow passage
of water; a creek

Atoll

a ring-shaped coral reef,
island, or set of small
islands nearly or
completely surrounding a
lagoon

Bank

a steep slope of ground
rising from a lake, a river,
or the sea

Basin

a hollow place for water;
an enclosed part of water,
forming a broad space
within a strait or narrow
entrance; a little bay

Bay

an arm of the sea,
extending into the land,
smaller than a gulf and
larger than a creek

Bayou

a soggy, swampy, slow-
moving body of water,
obstructed by
vegetation

Beach

a shore of the sea or of
a lake, washed by the
tide and waves

Bluff

a high bank, almost
perpendicular,
projecting into the sea

Bog

soft, wet ground
covered with grass or
other plants, too soft to
bear a man

Branch

a smaller stream running
into a larger one or
proceeding from it

Breakers

a rock that breaks the waves; a wave that breaks against a rock, a sand bank, or the shore, exhibiting a white foam

Brink

the edge, margin, or
border of a steep place,
as of a precipice or the
bank of a river

Brook

a small natural stream of
water; a current flowing
from a spring

Canal

an artificial cut or
passage for water used
for transportation

Canyon

a long deep hollow with
steep, rocky sides worn
by a stream or torrent of
water

Cape

a head land; the head,
point, or termination of a
neck of land, extending
some distance into the sea
beyond the common shore

Cave

a hollow place in the earth; a subterraneous cavern; a den; may be natural or artificial

Cavern

a deep natural hollow
place in the earth,
deeper than a cave

Channel

an arm of the sea; a
straight or narrow sea
between two continents or
between a continent and
an isle

Chasm

a cleft or fissure in a
rock or the earth's
surface caused by a
disrupture

Cinder cone

a cone-shaped hill of
volcanic material
surrounding an opening
in the earth

Cliff

a high, steep almost
vertical rock, usually on
a coast

Coast

the edge or margin of
the land next to the sea;
the seashore

Continent

a great extent of land,
not disjoined or
interrupted by a sea

Continental Shelf

the edge of a continent
that is submerged in
water

Country

any tract of land or
inhabited land; any region,
as distinguished from other
regions; a kingdom, state,
or lesser district

Cove

a small inlet or bay; a
recess in the sea shore

Crag

a steep rugged rock; a
rough, broken rock or
point of a rock

Crater

the aperture or mouth of
a volcano

Creek

a small inlet; a recess in
the shore of the sea or
of a river; a small stream

Cultivated Land

land prepared for crops

Current

a flowing or passing of
water; a stream

Dale

a low place between
hills; a vale or valley

Dam

a bank or mound of earth;
any wall, or a frame of
wood, raised to obstruct a
current of water

Dell

a small vale with woods

Delta

an area of triangular shaped land located at the mouth of a main river from which distributaries flow

Desert

a vast sandy plain
characterized by
minimal precipitation
and plant growth

Dike

a ditch; a mound of earth, stones, or other materials, intended to prevent low lands from being inundated by the sea or a river

Divide

a ridge that determines
the direction water
drains for adjacent water
systems; a watershed

Downstream

the direction a river
flows; flowing with the
current

Drainage Basin

area drained by a river
and its tributaries; a
watershed

Dune

hill, mound, or ridge of
sand formed by wind

Earth

the terraqueous globe
that we inhabit

Elevation

elevated ground; a rising
ground; a hill or
mountain

Estuary

an arm of the sea; the
mouth of a river or lake
where the tide meets the
current

Fall Line

the point where rivers
descend rapidly due to
a distinct decline in
elevation

Field

a piece of land enclosed
for tillage or pasture

Fjord

a long, narrow, deep
valley formed by glacial
erosion and flooded by
ocean water

Foothill

a hill at the base of a
mountain

Ford

a place in a river or
other water where it may
be passed by man or
beast on foot or by
wading

Forest

an extensive wood; a
large tract of land
covered with trees

Glacier

a field or an immense mass
of ice formed in deep but
elevated valleys, remaining
frozen throughout the heat
of summer

Glen

a valley; a dale; a
depression or space
between hills

Gorge

a narrow hollow with
steep, rocky sides worn
by a stream or torrent of
water

Grove

a wood of small extent

Gulch

a small, narrow hollow
with steep walls worn by
a stream or torrent of
water

Gulf

a recess in the ocean from the general line of the shore into the land; a tract of water extending from the ocean or a sea into the land between two points or promontories; a large bay

Harbor

a port or haven for
ships; a bay or inlet of
the sea where ships can
moor

Headland

a cape; a promontory; a point of land projecting from the shore into the sea or other expanse of water

Hill

a natural elevation of land;
a mass of earth rising
above the common level
of the surrounding land

Horizon

the line that terminates
the view when extended
on the surface of the
earth

Iceberg

a hill or mountain of ice;
a vast body of ice
accumulated in valleys in
high northern latitudes

Inlet

a bay or recess in the
shore of the sea, a lake, or
a large river; a narrow
body of water between
isles

Irrigated Land

land watered by causing
a stream to flow upon it
and spread over it

Island

a tract of land
surrounded by water

Isthmus

a neck or narrow slip of
land by which two
continents are connected
or by which a peninsula is
united to the mainland

Junction

the place or point of
union

Keys

a chain or range of rocks
lying at or near the
surface of the water; a
cay

Knob

a round hill or mount

Knoll

the top or crown of a
hill; a little round hill or
mount; a small elevation
of earth

Lagoon

an enclosed or partially enclosed shallow body of salt water divided from the ocean by low sandy dunes or a coral reef

Lake

a large and extensive
collection of water
contained in a cavity or
hollow of earth

Land

earth; the solid matter
that constitutes the fixed
part of the surface of the
globe

Latitude

the distance of any
place on the globe,
north or south of the
equator

Ledge

a ridge; a prominent row

Left Bank

the slope of ground on
the left-hand side of the
river when facing
downstream

Levee

a bank or causeway,
particularly along a river
to prevent inundation

Locks

the barrier of a canal
that confines the water
and can be opened or
shut at pleasure

Longitude

the distance of any place on the globe from another place, eastward or westward; the distance of any place from a given meridian

Marsh

a tract of low land, very
wet and miry and
overgrown with coarse
grass

Meadow

pasture or grassland
annually mown for hay

Mesa

a flat-topped mountain
with steep walls

Mine

a pit or excavation in the earth from which metallic ores, mineral substances, and other fossil bodies are taken by digging

Moor

a tract of land overrun
with heath; a marsh; a
fen; ground covered
with stagnant water

Mountain

a large mass of earth and
rock, rising above the
common level of the earth
or adjacent land, but of no
definite altitude

Mountain Chain

a line of connected
mountain ranges

Mountain Range

a row of mountains

Mouth

the opening or entrance
of a cave, pit, well, or
den

Natural Resource

materials found in nature,
such as land, forests, and
minerals, that have
economic value

Oasis

small fertile area in a
desert, irrigated by
natural springs or other
source of fresh water

Ocean

the vast body of water that covers more than three-fifths of the surface of the globe, also called the sea

Pass

a gap in a mountainous
area suitable for passing
through; a means of
passage through a rugged
area

Pasture

ground covered with
grass appropriated for
the food of cattle

Peak

the top of a hill or
mountain, ending in a
point

Peninsula

a portion of land
connected with a
continent by a narrow
neck or isthmus but nearly
surrounded with water

Piedmont

the bottom of a
mountain

Pier

a structure constructed
perpendicular to the harbor
for securing vessels and
receiving goods unladen or to
be shipped on board

Plain

large area of flat land

Plateau

flat section of land
higher than the
surrounding area

Point

a small cape, headland,
or promontory; a tract of
land extending into the
sea

Pond

a body of stagnant
water usually without an
outlet, larger than a
puddle and smaller than
a lake

pool

a small collection of water in a hollow place, supplied by a spring and discharging its surplus water by an outlet, smaller than a lake

Prairie

an extensive tract of land,
mostly level, destitute of
trees, and covered with
tall, coarse grass

Precipice

a steep fall or descent
of land, perpendicular or
nearly so

Rapids

a fast-moving river
current, caused by a
moderate descent

Reef

a chain or range of
rocks, lying at or near
the surface of the water

Reservoir

a place where water is
collected and kept for
use when wanted

Ridge

a long or continued
range of hills or
mountains; the upper
part of such a range

Right Bank

the slope of ground on
the right-hand side of
the river when facing
downstream

River

a large stream of water
flowing in a channel on
land toward the ocean, a
lake, or another river,
larger than brook

River Mouth

the part or channel of a river by which its waters are discharged into the ocean or into a lake

River Source

the beginning of a river;
the headwaters

Sandbar

narrow ridge of fine
particles of stone
created by the current
or tide

Savanna

an extensive open plain
or meadow; a plain
destitute of trees

Sea

a large body of water
nearly enclosed by land

Sea Level

ocean surface level used
as base for measuring
elevation and sea depth;
the average tide level

Seaport

a harbor of the sea,
accommodating
seafaring vessels

Shoal

a place where the water
is shallow or of little
depth; a sand bank or
bar; a shallow

Shore

the coast or land
adjacent to the sea, a
large lake, or river

Shoreline

the place where a body
of water meets the land

Slope

any ground whose
surface forms an angle
with the plane of the
horizon

Snowline

the altitudinal border
above which a mountain
is always covered in
snow

Soil

the upper stratum of the earth;
the compound substance that
furnishes nutriment to plants or
which is particularly adapted
to support and nourish them

Sound

a narrow passage of water; a strait between the mainland and an isle; a strait connecting two seas or connecting a sea or lake with the ocean

Spit

a small point of land
running into the sea; a
long narrow shoal
extending from the shore
into the sea

Steppe

a prairie; a grassy plain
characterized by a lack
of trees and a shortage
of rain

Strait

a narrow pass or passage,
either in a mountain or in
the ocean, between
continents or other
portions of land

Stream

a current of water like a
river, brook, or rivulet; a
current of water in the
ocean

Summit

the highest point of a
mountain

Swamp

spongy land; low ground
filled with water; soft,
wet ground

Tableland

a large, flat section of
land higher than the
surrounding area

Terrace

a raised bank of earth
with sloping sides

Tide

the cyclical rise and fall of sea water, resulting from the gravitational attraction force between the earth and the moon

Timber

wood that is proper for
building or for tools,
utensils, furniture, ships,
and the like

Timberline

the altitudinal border
above which trees do
not grow

Topography

the detailed description
of a particular place,
city, town, manor, parish,
or tract of land

Tributary

smaller streams or rivers
flowing into a larger
body of water

Tundra

a vast treeless plain in
the arctic region in
which the ground is
perpetually frozen

Tunnel

a large subterraneous
arch through a hill

Upstream

against the current

Vale

a tract of low ground or
of land between hills; a
valley

Valley

a hollow or low tract of
land between hills or
mountains

Vegetation

the process of growing plants
by means of nourishment
derived from the earth or from
water and air and received
through roots and leaves;
vegetables or plants in general

Volcano

an opening in the surface of the earth or in a mountain from which smoke, flames, stones, lava, or other substances are ejected

Waterfall

a fall or perpendicular
descent of the water of
a river or stream; a
cascade; a cataract

Watershed

an area that drains into a
river; the divide that
leads streams of water in
two opposite directions

Waves

a moving swell or
volume of water; usually,
a swell raised and driven
by wind

Wharf

a perpendicular bank. mound,
timber, or stone and earth, raised on
the shore of a harbor or extending
some distance into the water, for
the convenience of lading and
unlading ships and other vessels

Whirlpool

an eddy of water; a
vortex or gulf where the
water moves round in a
circle

Woods

a large, thick collection
of trees; a forest