

## GEOGRAPHY DEFINITIONS

1. archipelago - a group of closely scattered islands
2. canyon - deep, narrow valley with high, steep walls
3. delta - a triangular section of land built up at a river's mouth
4. glacier - large body of ice that moves across the earth's surface
5. ocean - large continuous body of salt water
6. sea - body of salt water that is smaller than an ocean
7. strait - a long, narrow body of water with land on both sides that connects two larger bodies of water
8. cape - point of land projecting into a body of water
9. desert - dry areas of land, desolate, waterless, and with little or no vegetation
10. gulf - an area of a sea or ocean partially enclosed by land, larger than a bay
11. peninsula - piece of land that is surrounded by water on three or more sides
12. swamp - lowland region saturated by water
13. bay - body of water partially enclosed by land with a wide outlet to the ocean
14. cave - underground hollow often having an opening in the side of a hill or cliff
15. hill - part of land that rises noticeably above the rest of the land, lower than a mountain
16. lake - body of water completely surrounded by land
17. plain - flat or gently rolling land
18. source - where a river begins
19. mouth - where a river meets an ocean, sea, or other body of water
20. tributary - a smaller stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river
21. tundra - vast, treeless plains with permafrost and small, low plants
22. plateau - flat land mass higher than the surrounding land, with at least one steep side (larger than a mesa or butte)
23. valley - low land between mountains or hills
24. island - a piece of land surrounded by water
25. mesa - flat-topped, elevated landform (smaller than a plateau, larger than a butte)
26. canal - an artificial waterway used for irrigation or travel

27. volcano - mountain formed when lava rises through the earth's crust
28. continent - one of the seven large land masses on the earth
29. river - a stream of water of considerable volume
30. isthmus - narrow piece of land that connects two larger land masses and separates two bodies of water
31. oasis - a place in a desert where there is water
32. butte - hill that rises abruptly from surrounding land with sloping sides and a flat top (smaller than a plateau or mesa)
33. mountain - land that rises above surrounding land with steep slopes and a peak or summit (higher than a hill)
34. harbor - a sheltered body of water where ships can anchor safely
35. beach - sandy, pebbly, or rocky shore of a body of water
36. atoll - a ring-shaped island formed by coral buildup
37. jungle - densely overgrown land with tropical vegetation
38. badlands - area of barren land with roughly eroded peaks and ridges
39. lagoon - a shallow pool of water at the center of an atoll
40. dune - in deserts and on beaches, windblown sands that have formed hills
41. cliff - high, steep or overhanging rock face
42. channel - deeper part of a river or harbor
43. fjord - long, steep-sided glacial valley now filled by seawater
44. iceberg - large chunks of ice that break off glaciers
45. marsh - an area of low-lying, wet land
46. forest - dense growth of trees and other plants covering large area
47. prairie - an inland grassland area
48. waterfall - a steep fall of water from a height
49. mountain range - a row of connected mountains
50. geyser - a natural hot spring that emits a column of water and steam into the air