

Illustrated Physical Features Guide

Term	Draw it	Definition
Basin		Land drained by a river or a river system
Bay		A curved area along a coast or shore where the water juts into the land. It is usually smaller than a gulf and usually has a smaller opening
Canyon		A valley with very steep sides and a flat bottom usually cut into the rock by a river
Cape		A point of land that extends into a sea or an ocean
Coast		The land beside a sea or ocean
Delta		An area of land shaped like a triangle where a river deposits mud, sand, or pebbles as it enters the sea
Dune		A hill of sand formed by blowing winds
Gulf		A large area of sea that is partly surrounded by land
Hill		A part of the earth's surface that rises gently above the level of the surrounding land.
Isthmus		A narrow strip of land that connects two larger bodies of land
Lake		A body of water surrounded by land. The water in lakes is usually fresh

Mesa		A hill or mountain feature with a flat top and steep sides
Mountain		A part of the land that rises abruptly to at least 1,000 feet above the surrounding land
Mouth, River		The place where a river flows into a larger body of water
Oasis		A place in a desert where there is a source of water that can support some plant life
Ocean		A large body of salt water that separates continents
Peninsula		A piece of land that juts into a body of water and is surrounded by water on three sides.
Plain		Nearly flat region of land
Plateau		A large, mostly level area of land that stands higher than the surrounding area
River		A large stream that flows from a source to a larger body of water
Source, River		The beginning of a river
Strait		A narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water
Tributary		A stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river
Valley		A U-shaped lowland between hills or mountains.

