

Name _____

Date _____



Landforms & Bodies of Water

"From High to Low"

Geophysicist: "So you wanna be a geophysicist, huh?"

Intern: "Yeah!"

Geophysicist: "You're gonna need to learn your landforms and your bodies of water."

Intern: "Well, I know I'm just an intern, but I'm ready to learn!"

Geophysicist: Let's go!

There are landforms that go from high to low,
Around those is where bodies of water flow.
Through valleys, down mountains and over plains,
Learn your landforms, here, let me explain. x2

Listen here, if you're trying to get a lay of the land,
There's a few terms you'll need to understand. "OK."
And there's a whole lot, there's no time to chill,
"What's that land sticking up over there?" — That's a hill.
"I knew that." — Right, and its top is round,
It's not that tall, you might have some fun going down.
But not on a mountain,
That's land that's way taller than its surroundings.
"And its sides are steep."
And when you climb to the top you reach the peak,
And when they connect it's a range.
"But what's that piece of land sticking up looking strange?"
Oh, you didn't know? That's a plateau,
It's big and high, but its top is flat, though.
"And what's that below?" — Down there is a valley,

That's the low land — "Like Death Valley out in Cali?" — Yep.

A deep valley is called a canyon and

They're formed when water erodes the land.

Erosion, when water carries rock away,

Little by little and day after day.

It could be an ocean or a river, no doubt,

Rivers start at the source and they end at the mouth.

"Now how about those big chunks of ice that stay frozen?"

Those are glaciers, and they also cause erosion.

Plus, when they melt they can form a lake,

Water that's surrounded by land and some are "Great."

Next, have you heard of an island?

"Yeah, that's land with water on all sides, man."

Right, and the thing about those,

Is they can be formed by volcanoes.

Openings in the Earth and they're usually raised,

But watch out! That's where gas and hot lava escape!

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Back on land, we're on the plains,

Broad flat areas — "Great for growing grains."

That's true, and when the plain is grassy,

You can call that a prairie if you want to get classy.

"OK, but what's that water with land on three sides?"

That's a bay, and let me say, they're great for boat rides! — "Right!"

And while I'm here convincing ya,

The opposite of a bay would be a peninsula.

That's land surrounded on three sides by water,

“Oh, I know an example, the state of Florida.”

Yup, but we’ve still got a lot on the plate — “What?”

That narrow body of water over there is a strait — “OK.”

It connects two bodies that are larger,

“Oh, do you mean like the Strait of Gibraltar?”

Yup, and here’s something you will probably see the most,

Any land that meets the ocean — “Is the coast.”

Right, but there are still many more terms to learn,

“I’ll tell you what I see, sir, it’s my turn.”

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