

Landforms

A landscape photograph featuring a herd of bison in a grassy field in the foreground, with a range of rugged, snow-capped mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The mountains are dark grey and blue, with patches of white snow. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds. The bison are dark brown and are scattered across the field, some standing and some lying down. The field is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass.

by Maria Meyer

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What are landforms?

Landforms are forms of land that come in different shapes and sizes. Wind, water, and ice are a few things that change the earth to make landforms.

Some landforms are made when the ground is pushed up. Some landforms are made when the ground is worn down.





You may know what a hill or a mountain is, but have you **ever** heard of a plateau or a plain?

Maybe you have **questions** about landforms. Read on to find answers!



What is a hill?

A hill is a landform that is higher than the land around it. Some hills can be rocky. Others can be smooth. Most hills are rounded at the top. Some hills can be shaped like cones.

Hills can be formed in different ways. Some hills are made by huge sheets of ice and snow that are moving slowly over land. These sheets of ice and snow are called glaciers. Piles of dirt and rocks get left behind. These piles **become** hills.



What is a mountain?

A mountain is higher than the land around it. The top of a mountain is called its peak.

Young mountains have sharp, pointy peaks. Do you think it is a mystery that some mountains have sharp peaks and others don't? Well, the peaks have not been worn down yet. The peaks of older mountains are rounder. Their peaks have worn down over time and are more of a dome shape.





How are hills and mountains different?

A mountain is much higher than a hill. A mountain peak is more pointed. Hill peaks are much more rounded.

What is a valley?

A valley is a dip in the land between mountains or hills. Big, steep mountains have deep valleys.

Some valleys are formed by huge sheets of ice and snow. These glaciers move slowly, carving out the land as they flow.



Some valleys are formed by rivers. Rivers wear down rock as they flow over the land. This carves out a valley.





What is a canyon?

A canyon is a deep valley with steep sides. Some canyons are thin. Some canyons are wide.

Canyons form when mountains erode. Rivers flow by mountain sides and break down dirt and rock from the mountain sides.

This is the Grand Canyon. It formed long ago as the Colorado River flowed over the land. The river wore down rock. It made a path through the rock.



What is a plain?

A plain is a large area of flat land.

Some plains were formed when dirt and rock washed down from hills and mountains. Rivers spread dirt and sand over land to form plains.





The Great Plains are in the United States. These plains go across ten states. This land is mostly flat and has grasslands.

What is a plateau?

A plateau is flat land like a plain. Unlike a plain, a plateau is higher than the land around it.

Some plateaus may have been mountains long ago. Erosion broke rock down over time to form these plateaus.

This plateau has mountains on one side of it and the sea on another side.





This plateau formed between different sheets of ice that traveled over the land long ago. Grasslands can be found **today** around this plateau.

Other Landforms

There are lots of other landforms that make up Earth's landscape.

Dunes, arches, spits, and caves are just a few landforms you might like to read more about.



Target Words:

closed syllables

landforms (p. 1)

different (p. 2)

rocky (p. 4)

valley (p. 8)

rivers (p. 9)

canyon (p. 10)

grasslands (p. 13)

open syllables

maybe (p. 3)

over (p. 5)

behind (p. 5)

between (p. 8)

Super Words:

ever (p. 3)

questions (p. 3)

become (p. 5)

today (p. 15)

Unit Words:

mountain (p. 3)

canyon (p. 10)

erosion (p. 14)

Story Words:

plateau (p. 3)

glaciers (p. 5)

area (p. 12)

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UNIT 6.26

Closed and Open Syllables



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