SCIENCE · LANDFORMS AND EROSION · GRADES 2–4

# Landforms

Label a mountain, valley, river, lake, island and plain on a picture, then draw the landform near you.

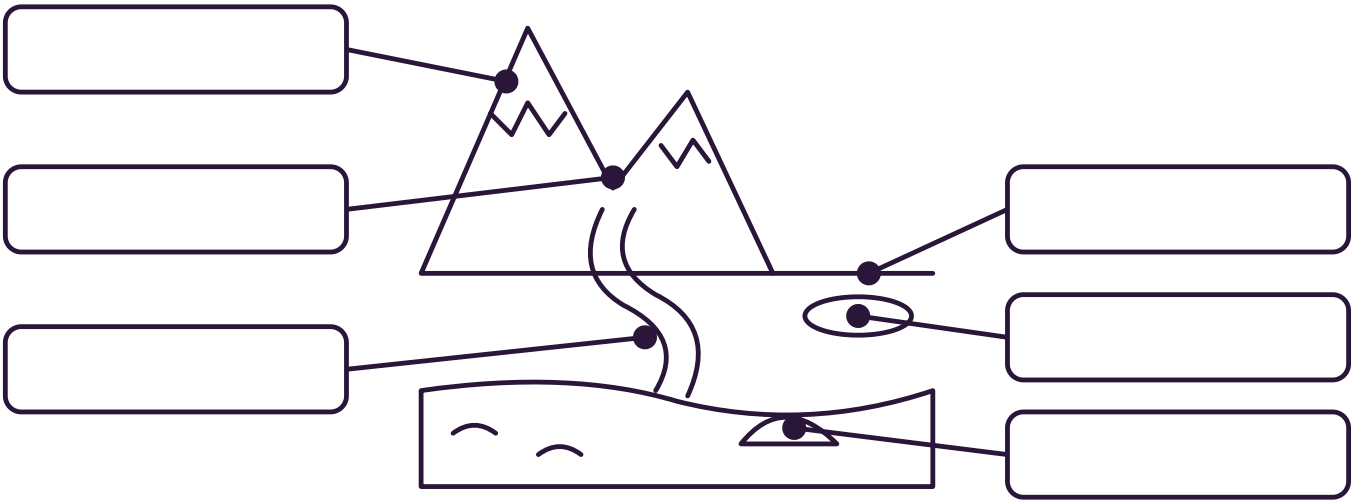


**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Word bank**

mountain | valley | river | lake | island | plain

**Write the name of each landform.**



**Draw a landform near where you live. Write its name.**



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# More Landform Words

Match peninsula, canyon, plateau, delta, glacier and dune to their meanings.

**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____



**Draw a line from each word to its meaning.**

| | |
|---|---|
| peninsula ● | ● land built from mud and sand where a river meets the sea |
| canyon ● | ● high land that is flat on top |
| plateau ● | ● a huge sheet of ice that moves very slowly |
| delta ● | ● a hill of sand piled up by the wind |
| glacier ● | ● land with water on three sides |
| dune ● | ● a deep valley with steep sides, carved by a river |

**Which of these landforms would you most like to visit? Why?**

_____

_____



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# Weathering or Erosion?

Sort ten changes into weathering (breaking rock) and erosion (moving it), then explain the difference.



**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Weathering** breaks rock into smaller pieces. **Erosion** carries the pieces away to a new place. Water, wind, ice and plants can do both.

**Write each change in the right column.**

- wind piles sand into dunes
- a river carries sand downstream
- waves wash beach sand away
- tree roots crack a sidewalk
- rain slowly wears away a stone statue
- blowing sand scratches a rock
- a rock cracks from hot days and cold nights
- a glacier drags rocks down a valley
- a landslide moves dirt down a hill
- water freezes in a crack and splits a rock

| Weathering (breaking) | Erosion (moving) |
|---|---|
| | |

**In your own words, how are weathering and erosion different?**

_____

_____



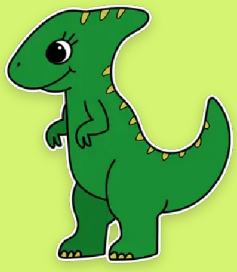
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# Erosion Experiment

Pour water on bare soil and on soil with plants, compare how much washes away and explain how plants help.

**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____



**You need:** 2 trays or boxes, soil, a patch of grass (or a thick layer of leaves), a cup with holes poked in the bottom and water. **Do it:** fill both trays with soil and put the grass on one. Tilt both trays the same way. Pour one cup of water over each.

**I predict the most soil will wash off the tray with** _____

| Tray | How much soil washed away? (a lot, some, a little) | What the water looked like |
|---|---|---|
| **Bare soil** | | |
| **Soil with grass** | | |

**Draw both trays after the water.**

**How do plants help stop erosion?**

_____

_____



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# Fast or Slow Changes?

Sort eight changes to Earth's surface into fast and slow, then draw one.

**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____



**Write each change to Earth's surface in the right column.**

a river carving a canyon | a glacier carving a valley | a landslide | a volcano erupting | a flood | mountains wearing down | waves shaping a rocky cliff | an earthquake

| Fast (minutes, hours or days) | Slow (hundreds of years or more) |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Draw one fast change and one slow change.**



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# Answer Key: Landforms

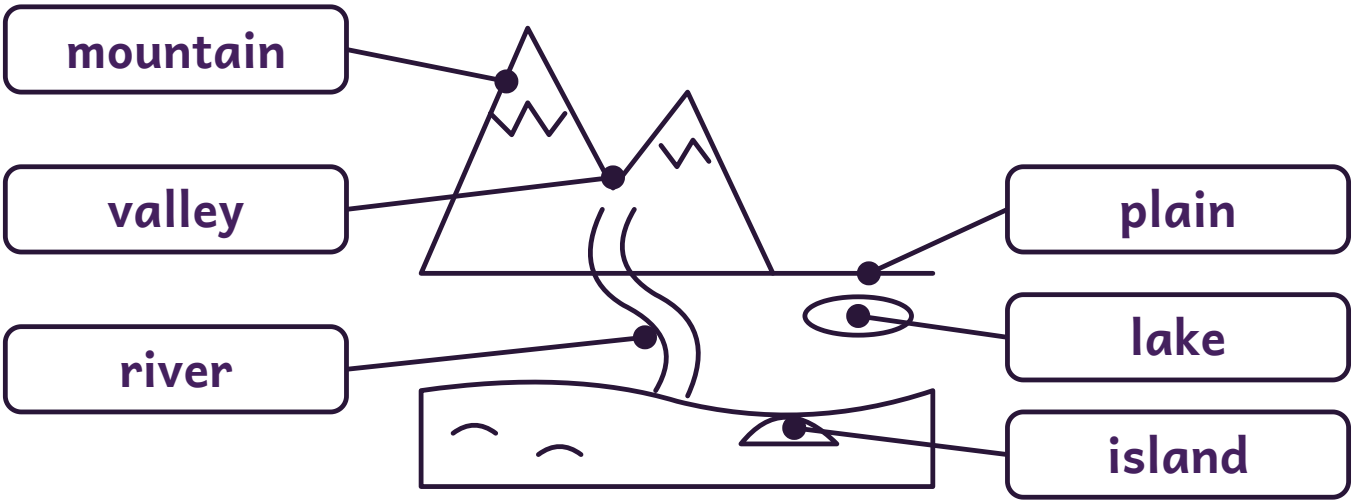
Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



**Word bank**

mountain · valley · river · lake · island · plain

**Write the name of each landform.**




**Draw a landform near where you live. Write its name.**



Art © Kevin Coulston

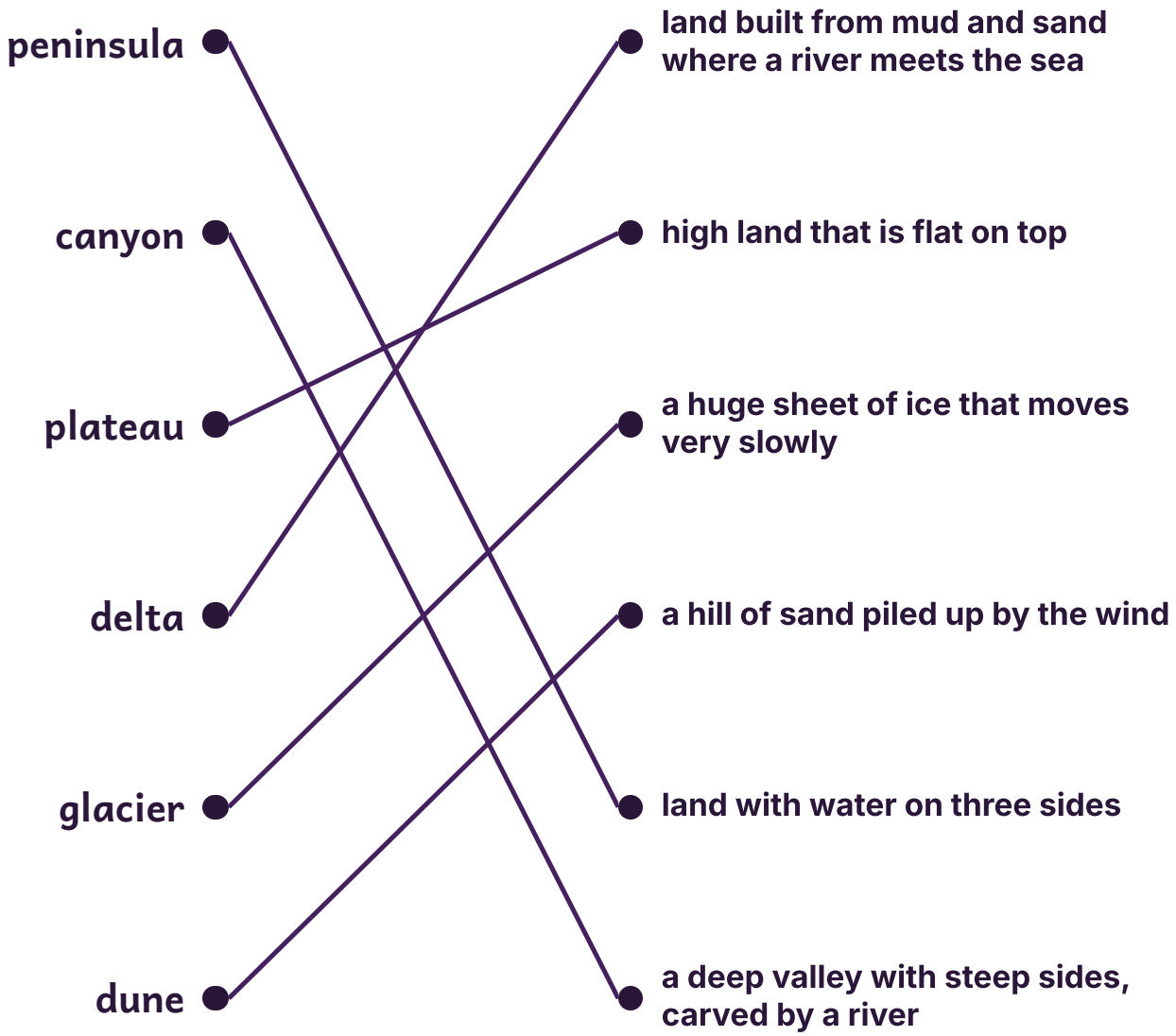
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# Answer Key: More Landform Words

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



**Draw a line from each word to its meaning.**




**Which of these landforms would you most like to visit? Why?**



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# Answer Key: Weathering or Erosion?



Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.

**Weathering** breaks rock into smaller pieces. **Erosion** carries the pieces away to a new place. Water, wind, ice and plants can do both.

**Write each change in the right column.**

- wind piles sand into dunes
- a river carries sand downstream
- waves wash beach sand away
- tree roots crack a sidewalk
- rain slowly wears away a stone statue
- blowing sand scratches a rock
- a rock cracks from hot days and cold nights
- a glacier drags rocks down a valley
- a landslide moves dirt down a hill
- water freezes in a crack and splits a rock

| Weathering (breaking) | Erosion (moving) |
|---|---|
| water freezes in a crack and splits a rock | a river carries sand downstream |
| tree roots crack a sidewalk | wind piles sand into dunes |
| rain slowly wears away a stone statue | a glacier drags rocks down a valley |
| blowing sand scratches a rock | waves wash beach sand away |
| a rock cracks from hot days and cold nights | a landslide moves dirt down a hill |

**In your own words, how are weathering and erosion different?**



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# Answer Key: Fast or Slow Changes?

Answers for grown-ups. Some questions have more than one good answer.



**Write each change to Earth's surface in the right column.**

a river carving a canyon | a glacier carving a valley | a landslide | a volcano erupting | a flood | mountains wearing down | waves shaping a rocky cliff | an earthquake

| Fast (minutes, hours or days) | Slow (hundreds of years or more) |
|---|---|
| an earthquake | a river carving a canyon |
| a landslide | mountains wearing down |
| a volcano erupting | a glacier carving a valley |
| a flood | waves shaping a rocky cliff |

**Draw one fast change and one slow change.**



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