Landforms

(Found on pages R42 and R43)
What is a landform?

A landform is a feature on the surface of the land giving each part of the country its special character.
plateau

a large area of flat land higher than the surrounding land
mountain

A steeply raised mass of land, much higher than the surrounding country.
MOUNTAIN
valley

Low land between hills or mountains
VALLEY
delta

A triangular area of land formed by deposits at the mouth of a river
lake

A body of water surrounded by land
plain

A large flat area of flat or nearly flat land.
PLAINS
mesa

A wide flat-topped mountain with steep sides, found mostly in dry areas
MESA
Strait

A narrow channel of water connecting two larger bodies of water
Isthmus

A narrow strip of land connecting two larger bodies of land
isthmus
gulf

A large body of seawater partly surrounded by land
gulf
tributary

A river or stream that flows into a larger river
Tributary
river

A large stream that runs into a lake, ocean, or another river
river
coast

The land next to the ocean
bay

Part of a lake or ocean extending into the land
basin

A round area of land surrounded by higher land
glacier

A glacier is an ice mass that moves slowly down a mountain or over land.
desert

A dry area where few plants grow
wetland

A low area saturated with water
IMPORTANT LANDFORMS

In the United States
Colorado Plateau
The Great Plains
Rocky Mountains
The Great Plains
Coastal Plain
Appalachian Mountains