

Landforms



Mountains

- Mountains are landforms that are taller than the land around them. Mountains can be found all around the world. The closest mountains to North Carolina are the Appalachian Mountains located in the western part of our state.



Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are openings in Earth's surface. Some look like mountains. Others are flat and low. When a volcano erupts, it sends hot lava, rocks, gas, and ash into the air.



Valleys

- Valleys are low lands found between mountains or hills. Valleys are usually formed by water or ice erosion.



Canyons

- A canyon is a type of valley with steep sides. A canyon can be found between two cliffs. Rivers make canyons through erosion. The rivers cut through the soil and carry it away. The most famous canyon in the USA is the Grand Canyon.



Caves

- A cave is a large, hollow space in the ground. Caves are dark and damp on the inside. Stalactites hang from the ceiling of caves and Stalagmites rise from the ground.



Islands

- Islands are pieces of land surrounded by water on all sides.



Plains

- Plains are large areas of flat lands without trees. Plains are typically found in the middle of continents.



Hills

- A hill is a landform that rises above the surrounding ground. A hill is smaller than a mountain.



Plateaus

- A *plateau* is a flat, elevated landform that rises sharply above the surrounding area on at least one side. *Plateaus* occur on every continent and take up a third of the Earth's land.



Oceans

- Oceans are large bodies of saltwater. There are five oceans on Earth. The Pacific ocean, the Atlantic ocean, the Indian ocean, the Arctic ocean, and the Southern ocean. The oceans all connect to one another and cover much of our planet.



Rivers

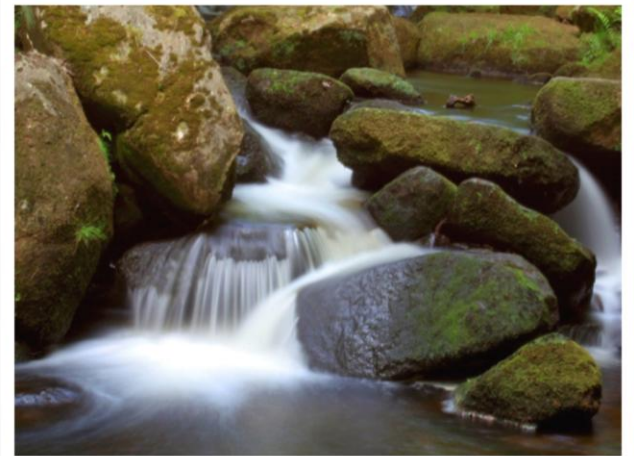


- Rivers are bodies of water. They twist and turn as they move along, ending at either an ocean, lake, or another river. The beginning of a river is called a source. The end of a river is called a mouth. The sides of the river (that touch land) are called its banks. When a river turns, it's called a bend.



Streams

- A stream is like a river, but smaller. Water from streams trickle towards larger rivers.



Lakes

- Lakes are bodies of water surrounded by land. Lakes are deep and are mainly full of freshwater. Formed by glaciers, lakes typically have a muddy, weedy, or sandy bottom.



Ponds

- Ponds are small and shallow. They are surrounded by land. The formation of ponds occurs when a hollow (hole) in the ground is filled with water. Ponds can be naturally occurring or formed by people or animals. Unlike lakes, ponds are not deep. Therefore, the temperature typically stays the same throughout the pond.



Glaciers

- Glaciers are giant blocks of ice. They take thousands of years to form. They are located in polar or mountainous regions and can be found on every continent but Australia.

