

Summary: Earth's Land and Water

Looking at Landforms

Earth has many landforms, such as mountains, forests, and deserts. Erosion helps change the shape of landforms. Landforms are one part of geography. Landforms affect where people build communities.

Most mountains have steep slopes and rough and uneven land. It is hard to grow food on mountains. Not many people live on mountains. Farmers usually live on flat land. Some people live in forests. They cut the trees down and use the land for farming. They also use the wood for building things. A few people live in deserts. Deserts are dry and have few trees and little water.

Salt Water, Fresh Water

People build communities near water. Earth has two kinds of water: fresh and salt. People drink the fresh water from rivers and lakes. People use the salt water in oceans for travel and fishing. Water erosion and deposition from oceans and rivers can change the land. Water deposition can also change the location of a body of water. Islands and peninsulas are some of Earth's landforms that are in or near water.

Weather and Climate

Weather is what the air is like at a certain place and time. Climate is the weather of a place over a long time. Climate affects how people live. People choose shelter, food, and clothing to fit the climate where they live. Climates can be hot or cold, dry or wet. They may have seasons. Water and landforms affect climate. Oceans cool nearby land in the summer. High mountains are cooler than valleys. Climate also affects how plants and animals grow and where they live.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

landform *noun*, a shape or feature on Earth's surface

erosion *noun*, the way wind and water wear away the land, bit by bit

deposition *noun*, a process in which dirt, broken up by water erosion, is carried away from one place along a river and left in a new place

climate *noun*, the weather of a place over a long time



After You Read

REVIEW Why might people live in forests?

Circle two sentences that tell the answer.

REVIEW How can water change the land?

Highlight the sentence answers the question.

REVIEW How is climate different from weather? Draw a box around two sentences that tell how climate and weather are different.