Geography of New York

New York’s Land
New York has many different landforms, such as mountains, hills, and plains. Some of these landforms were created by the movement of glaciers thousands of years ago. Mountains are found in the Adirondack Upland in the northeastern part of the state. The Erie-Ontario Lowland along the Great Lakes has excellent soil for farming. The largest land region in New York is the Appalachian Plateau. The flat land in the southeastern part of the state makes up the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

New York’s Waters
New York’s location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes, along with its many lakes and rivers, make the state good for travel and trade. Early settlers built towns near important waterways, such as the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. Part of the state’s northern border is made up of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. New York City includes the islands of Manhattan, Staten Island, and part of Long Island.

What New York regions are mentioned in the summary? Highlight the name of each region.

Why might early settlers have built towns along waterways? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

SKILL  Reading Maps
Which river flows into New York City? Circle the name of the river.

Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word or term.

- landform noun, a natural feature of Earth’s surface
- glacier noun, a huge, slow-moving sheet of ice
- plateau noun, an area that rises above the nearby land
- coastal plain noun, flat, level land along a coast