

## Earth and Its Changes

### Earth Features and Landforms

landform	A physical feature of the land
continent	A large land mass surrounded by oceans or other land
continental shelf	the edge of a continent that connects shore to sea
continental slope	a steep drop into the ocean
ocean ridges	under ocean mountain ranges
	What's Below Earth's Surface?
crust	solid rock that makes up Earth's outermost layer
mantle	layer of rock below the crust
outer core	liquid layer below the mantle; made of melted iron
inner core	solid material at Earth's center. It is the hottest part of Earth
plates	sections of Earth's crust and upper mantle

### Moving Crust

mountain	a tall landform that rises to a peak
fold	a bend in the rock layers that happens when plates push together at the edges - one way mountains form
plains	the flattest landforms, without hills or mountains
plateau	a high landform with a flat top
earthquake	a sudden shaking of Earth's crust
fault	a long narrow crack in Earth's crust
seismic waves	vibrations caused by earthquakes
seismograph	an instrument that detects and records earthquakes
tsunami	giant ocean waves, often caused by earthquakes
volcano	a mountain that builds up around an opening in Earth's crust
magma	melted rock inside a volcano
lava	magma that reaches Earth's surface
plates	large sections of Earth's crust and mantle

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### Landforms shaped by water or wind

rivers	a large natural body of water that flows into the sea or lake
streams	smaller narrow rivers
channel	a body of water that connects two larger bodies of water
canyon	a deep valley with very steep sides - often carved from the Earth by a river.
cliff	a steep face of rock and soil
delta	a triangular shaped area of low, watery land formed at the mouth of a river, from the silt, sand and small rocks that flow downstream
dune	a hill or a ridge made of sand, that is constantly changing
tributary	a stream or river that flows into a larger river

### Weathering and Erosion

weathering	the slow process that breaks rock down into smaller pieces
physical weathering	rocks change size or shape from water, wind or other natural causes moving over them
chemical weathering	changes the minerals that make up rocks (caused by oxygen, acids, and carbon dioxide)
erosion	weathering and removal of rock or soil
deposition	dropping off of weathered rock

### Other landforms to know

glaciers	thick sheets of moving ice that change that shape of land
glacial debris	small rocks or large boulders left behind by a glacier