

here are a lot of geographic terms to know when studying this field, below are some basic geography terms with their definitions and an example to help you remember.

Antipodes - Two points that are on the exact opposite sides of the earth, for example, the North and South Poles.

Archipelago - A group or chain of islands, for example, the Malay Archipelago.

Atoll - A ring of coral that makes an island, for example, Lighthouse Reef near Belize.

Basin - A section of land eroded by water, causing it to be lower than the surrounding land.

Bay - A small body of water enclosed partially by land, for example, Hudson Bay in Canada.

Butte - A hill with a flat top and steep sides, for example, Merrick's Butte in Arizona.

Canal - A waterway made by man for irrigation or easier transportation, for example, the Suez Canal.

Canyon - A valley that is deep and has steep sides, for example, the Grand Canyon.

Cape - A section of land that juts out into the water, for example, Cape Cod.

Cave - A large open area in the ground or in the side of a mountain or hill, for example, Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

Channel - A narrow stretch of water between to larger bodies of water, for example, the English Channel.

Cliff - A steep rock face often found by the ocean, for example, the White Cliffs of Dover.

Continent - A large land mass, for example, Africa.

Cove - A small bay that is sheltered and shaped like a horseshoe, for example, Coron Island Cove in the Philippines.

Delta - The area at the mouth of a river formed with deposits brought down the river, for example, the Ganges Delta in India.

Desert - An area with little rainfall and sparse vegetation, for example, the Sahara Desert.

Dune - A hill made of sand, for example, the White Sands in New Mexico.

Estuary - The area where the fresh water from a river meets the salt water from an ocean, for example, the Amazon Estuary.

Fjord - A long narrow inlet between steep cliffs, for example, the Lysefjord in Norway.

Geyser - A hot spring that occasionally sends up a column of water and steam, for example, Old Faithful in Yellowstone Park.

Glacier - A large mass of ice that moves slowly, for example, the Easton Glacier on Mount Baker.

Gulf - An area of ocean partially surrounded by land, for example, the Gulf of Alaska.

Hill - A raised mound of land, for example, the Chocolate Hills in the Philippines.

Ice shelf - A platform of ice floating near the coast, for example, the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

Island - A piece of land totally surrounded by water, for example, Crete in Greece.

Isthmus - A narrow strip of land that connects two larger land masses, for example, the Isthmus of Panama.

Lagoon - A body of water that is not very deep with a sandbank or strip of land separating it from the ocean, for example, the Blue Lagoon in Iceland.

Lake - A large body of water totally surrounded by land, for example, Lake Titicaca in the Andes.

Marsh - A wetland near lakes and streams, for example, the Macoun Marsh in Ontario, Canada.

Mesa - A large landform that is flat on top and has steep sides, for example, Tatum Mountain in New Mexico.

Mountain - A very tall landform, for example, Mt. Everest in the Himalayas.

Oasis - An area in a desert that has water and vegetation, for example, the Siwa Oasis in Egypt.

Ocean - A very large body of salt water, for example, the Atlantic Ocean.

Peninsula - An area of land surrounded on three sides with water, for example, Italy.

Plain - Flat areas of land, for example, the Great Plains in North America.

Plateau - A tableland that is fairly flat, for example, the Tibetan Plateau.

Pond - A small body of water surrounded by land, for example, Walden Pond in Massachusetts.

Prairie - A large flat area with grasses and few trees, for example, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in the United States.

Range - A series of mountains, for example, the Appalachian Mountain Range.

Reef - A growth of coral under the sea and near the surface, for example, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

River - A large body of water that flows, for example, the Nile River.

Sea - A large body of salt water, for example, the Black Sea in Europe.

Strait - A narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water, for example, the Strait of Gibraltar.

Swamp - A freshwater wetland with muddy land, for example, the Amazon River floodplain.

Tributary - A river that flows into a larger river, for example, the Missouri River is a tributary of the Mississippi River.

Tundra - A flat, treeless area where the soil is permanently frozen, for example, the Greenland Tundra.

Valley - The low area between mountains, for example, the Rio Grande Valley.

Volcano - A mountain with a vent where lava, steam, and ash comes out, sometimes violently, for example, St. Helen's.

Waterfall - Water falling from a height, usually off a cliff or side of a mountain, for example, Niagara Falls.

