

Landforms

Oceans & Coast

Archipelago – A group of islands.

Atoll – Ring-shaped coral reef, with a central lagoon and perhaps islands around the rim.

Barrier island – A coastal dune landform that forms by wave and tidal action.

Bay – A recessed, coastal body of water connected to an ocean or lake.

Beach – Area of loose particles at the edge of a body of water.

Blowhole – Hole at the top of a sea-cave, where waves force water or spray out of the hole.

Channel – A body of water confined to a relatively narrow but long region.

Cape – A large headland extending into a body of water, usually the sea.

Cliff – A vertical, or near vertical, rock face of substantial height.

Coast – Area where land meets the sea or ocean.

Continental shelf – A portion of a continent submerged under shallow water.

Coral reef – Outcrop of rock in the sea formed by the growth of stony coral skeletons.

Cove – A small sheltered bay or coastal inlet.

Delta – Silt deposited at the mouth of a river.

Estuary – A partially enclosed body of water with a river flow; freshwater meets saltwater.

Fjord – A long, narrow ocean inlet with steep sides or cliffs, created by glaciers.

Gulf – A large inlet from the ocean.

Island – Any piece of land surrounded by water.

Lagoon – A shallow body of water.

Peninsula – A piece of land bordered by water on three sides but connected to mainland.

Salt marsh – Coastal upland regularly flooded by the tides.

Strait – A narrow waterway that connects two larger bodies of water.

Tide pool – A rocky pool separated from the sea at low tide, filled with seawater.

Sea cave – a cave formed by wave erosion.

Spit – A coastal sand bar or beach formed by moving sand and waves.