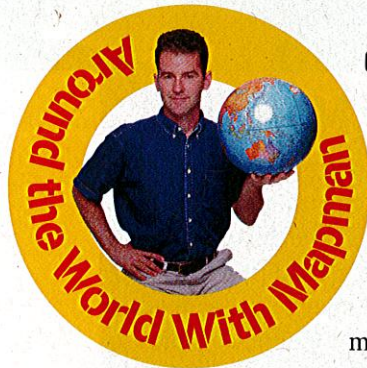


Land and Water,

Understanding the physical features around us



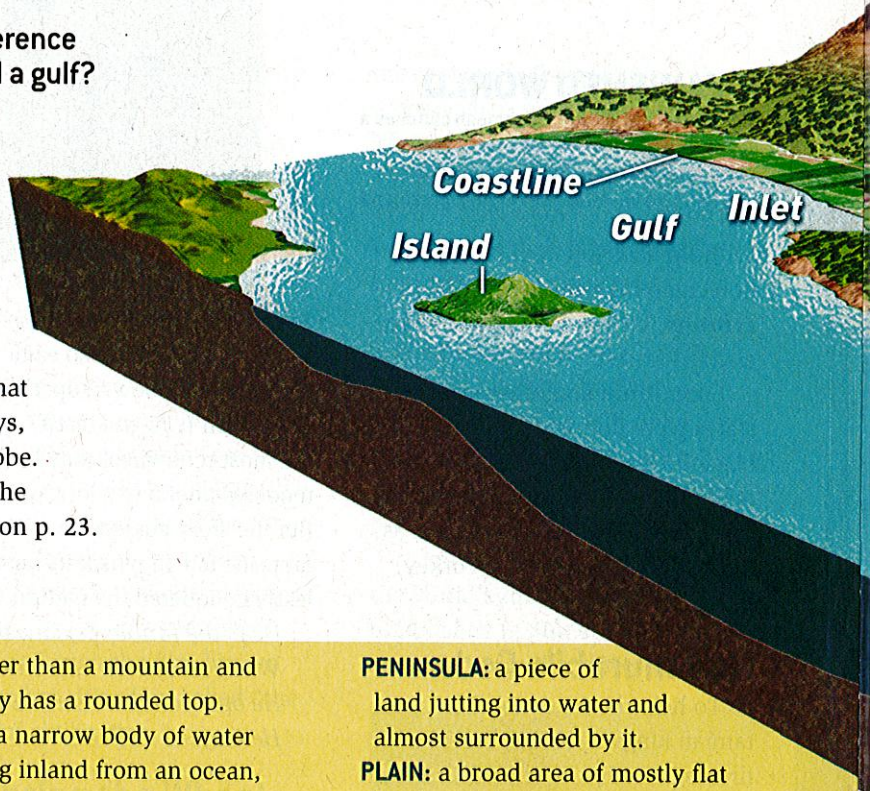
Can you tell the difference between a bay and a gulf?

A sound and a strait?

All four are examples of water forms in the natural world and are commonly found on maps. Are there any near where you live?

This illustration shows an imaginary place that includes most types of landforms and waterways, natural and human-made, found around the globe.

Compare the terms in the illustration with the definitions below. Then answer the questions on p. 23.



TERMS TO KNOW

ARCHIPELAGO: a group of islands scattered in an expanse of water.

BAY: a body of water partly enclosed by land, with access to the ocean. A bay is usually smaller than a gulf.

CANYON: a deep, narrow valley with steep sides and often with a stream flowing through it.

CAPE: a curved or pointed part of a coastline where the land juts out far into the water.

COASTLINE: the border between land and an ocean, a sea, or a lake.

DAM: a barrier built to hold back flowing water.

DELTA: a fan-shaped accumulation of soil and sand that collects at the mouths of some rivers.

DESERT: dry, barren land.

GULF: a part of the ocean that juts into the land. A gulf is usually larger than a bay.

HILL: a raised area of land that

is lower than a mountain and usually has a rounded top.

INLET: a narrow body of water leading inland from an ocean, lake, or river; or a narrow passage of water, as between two islands.

ISLAND: a body of land, smaller than a continent, that is entirely surrounded by water.

ISTHMUS: a narrow strip of land with water on both sides that connects two larger bodies of land.

LAKE: a body of water surrounded entirely by land. Its water is usually fresh (not salty).

MESA: a large, flat-topped hill common in the Southwest U.S.

MOUNTAIN: raised land, higher than a hill, usually with steep, rocky sides.

MOUNTAIN RANGE: a chain of connected mountains.

OCEAN: a large body of salt water separating continents.

PENINSULA: a piece of land jutting into water and almost surrounded by it.

PLAIN: a broad area of mostly flat land at a low elevation.

PLATEAU: a broad area of mostly flat land at a high elevation.

RESERVOIR: an artificial lake created to collect water.

RIVER: a large stream of water that flows through the land into a lake, a sea, or an ocean.

SOUND: a long arm of the ocean, jutting between two landmasses.

STRAIT: a narrow channel of water joining two larger bodies of water.

TRIBUTARY: a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river.

VALLEY: an area of low-lying land between mountains or hills.

VOLCANO: an opening in Earth's crust through which lava, steam, and rock fragments may erupt.

From A to V



QUESTIONS

1. A dry, barren expanse, Africa's Sahara is a _____.
2. Surrounded by water on three sides, Florida is which type of landform? _____
3. The fan-shaped area of soil and sand at the mouth of the Mississippi River is which type of landform? _____
4. A large, flat-topped hill in Arizona is likely to be called a _____.
5. Which body of water shown in this diagram was created during the construction of a dam? _____
6. The Dead Sea, which is surrounded by Israel and Jordan, is not actually a sea, but a saltwater _____.
7. Which type of landform is Indonesia, a country consisting of islands between the Indian and Pacific oceans? _____
8. The Arkansas River, which flows into the Mississippi, is an example of a _____.
9. The Bering _____ between Alaska and Russia is a narrow channel of water joining two larger bodies of water.
10. The _____ of Panama is a narrow strip of land, with an ocean on each side, that connects North America and South America.