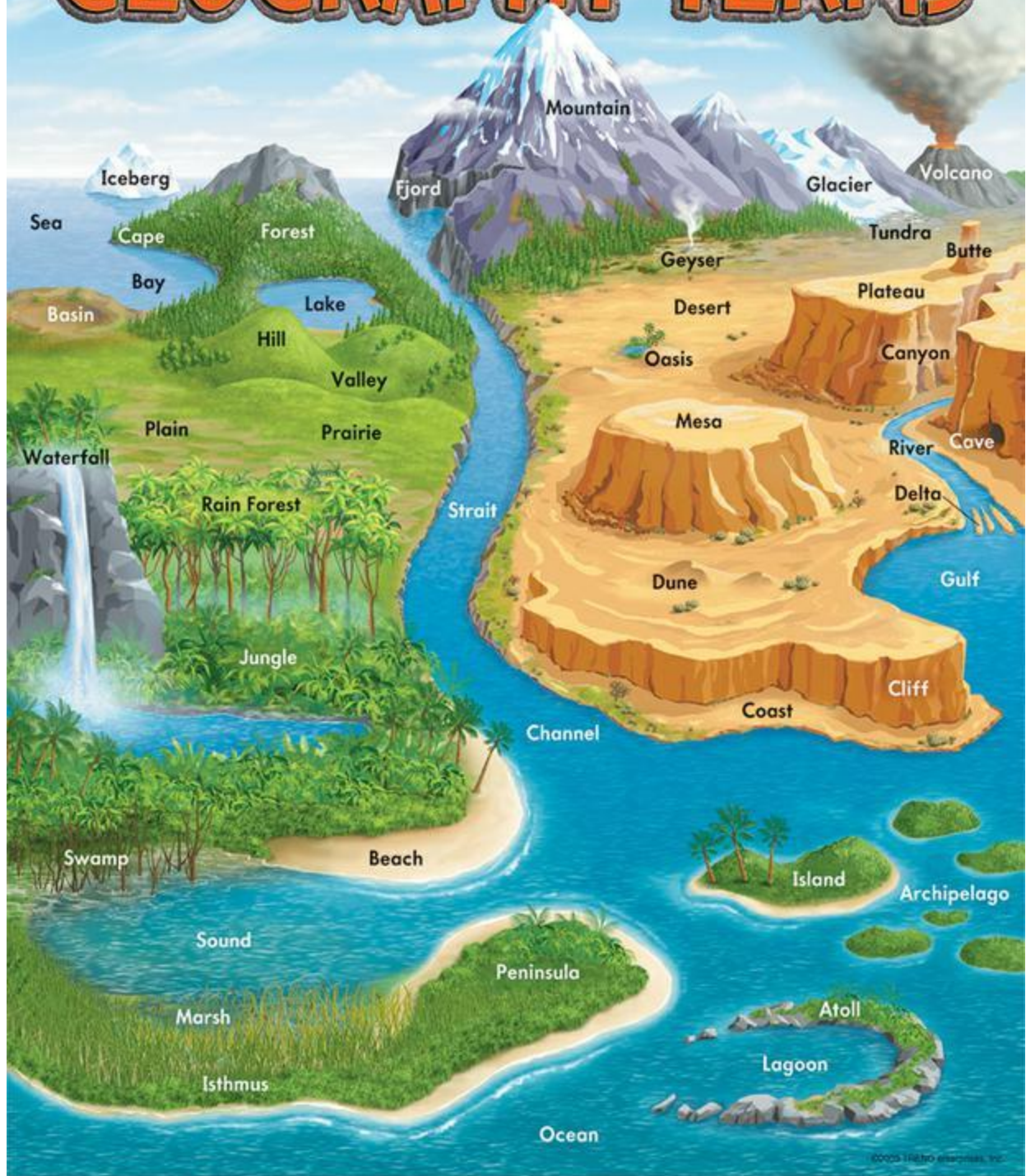


# GEOGRAPHY TERMS



# GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

**Archipelago** – a group or chain of islands

**Area** – the amount of surface a certain geographic feature covers

**Bay** – a small body of water extending into land, usually smaller than a gulf

**Border/Boundary** – a line where one place or thing starts and another ends

**Cape** – a point of land extending into water, usually smaller than a peninsula

**Capital** – the location of the seat of government

**Cardinal directions** – the four major directions: north, south, east, and west

**Circle** – an imaginary line of latitude either north (Arctic) or south (Antarctic) of the equator

**City** – a community with many people

**Coast** – the land along the edge of an ocean or sea

**Compass / Compass rose** – instrument or map drawing that is used to show direction

**Contiguous** – the group of forty-eight states that are linked together

**Country** – a group of people with their own government and land

**Degree** – a point of measurement for lines of latitude and longitude

**Delta** – a low, fan-shaped area of soil (termed alluvial) at a river's mouth

**Desert** – land area with little or no precipitation and few plants

**Distance** – the space between two points on the Earth's surface

**Elevation** – height of land above sea level

**Equator** – an imaginary line (of latitude) that divides the Earth into two equal parts

**Gulf** – a part of an ocean or sea that extends into land

**Hemisphere** – one of the four half circles of the Earth: Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western

**Intermediate Directions** – the four directions that lie between the major or cardinal directions: northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest

**International Date Line** – a line of longitude 180 degrees east and west of the Prime Meridian along which the date changes by one day

**Island** – an area of land completely surrounded by water

**Isthmus** – a narrow strip of land between two bodies of water that connects two larger areas of land

**Key / Legend** – part of a map that explains what the symbols mean

**Lake** – body of water completely surrounded by land