

Landforms Around Us

Grade 3 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students identify and compare mountains, valleys, plains, and plateaus using simple geographic descriptions. • Standards: D2.Geo.2.3-5

Read each description carefully and identify which landform is being described. Choose from these four landforms: mountain, valley, plain, or plateau.

1. This landform is flat land that stretches for many miles. What landform is it?
2. This landform is very tall and has steep sides that rise high into the sky. What landform is it?
3. This landform is the low area of land between two hills or mountains. What landform is it?
4. This landform is a large area of flat land that sits high above the land around it. What landform is it?
5. Which landform would be the easiest place to build a farm because it is flat and close to sea level?
6. A river flows downhill through the low land between two tall landforms. The river is flowing through a _____.
7. How is a plateau different from a plain? Write one key difference.
8. Maria hiked to the top of a landform that was 8,000 feet tall with rocky, steep sides. Then she hiked down into the low area between it and another tall landform. Name both landforms Maria visited in order.
9. Which two landforms are both flat on top but are found at different heights above sea level?
10. A town is built on flat land that is 5,000 feet above sea level with steep cliffs on all sides. Farmers grow crops on this flat land. What landform is the town built on, and why is it different from a plain?

Answer Key — Landforms Around Us

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. plain
2. mountain
3. valley
4. plateau
5. plain
6. valley
7. A plateau is a flat area of land that is raised high above the surrounding land, while a plain is a flat area of land that is not raised. *(Both are flat, but a plateau sits higher than the land around it.)*
8. mountain, valley
9. plain and plateau
10. plateau; it is high above the surrounding land and has steep sides, while a plain is low and flat