

Geography & landscape

Here's your list of 40 geography and landscape keywords, each paired with a concise definition:

Physical Geography

1. **Plate tectonics** – The theory explaining the movement of Earth's tectonic plates, causing earthquakes, volcanic activity, and mountain-building.
 2. **Erosion** – The process of wearing away and transporting soil, rock, or sediment by wind, water, ice, or gravity. ([The erosion of time: with time, rock or anything really erodes, it becomes worn away.](#))
 3. **Weathering** – The breakdown of rocks and minerals at Earth's surface through physical, chemical, or biological processes. ([Weathering is a kind of erosion, due to weather.](#))
 4. **Glacier** – A large, slow-moving river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow over many years. ([Glacier: a river of ice, which slowly flows down a mountain or valley. With global warming, glaciers are melting everywhere.](#))
 5. **Volcano** – A vent ([a gap, hole, chimney](#)) in Earth's crust through which molten ([melted](#)) rock, ash, and gases erupt.
 6. **Earthquake** – A sudden shaking of the ground caused by the movement of tectonic plates or volcanic activity.
 7. **Tsunami** – A series of ocean waves caused by underwater earthquakes, landslides, or volcanic eruptions.
 8. **River delta** – A landform where a river splits into multiple distributaries as it enters a body of water, depositing sediment.
 9. **Watershed** – An area of land that drains rainfall and snowmelt into a specific river, lake, or other body of water.
 10. **Topography** – The physical features of a landscape, including its elevation, relief, and landforms.
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Landforms

11. **Mountain range** – A series of connected mountains, often formed by tectonic activity.
12. **Valley** – A low area between hills or mountains, often with a river or stream running through it.
13. **Canyon** – A deep, narrow valley with steep sides, often carved by a river over millions of years.
14. **Plains** – Flat or gently rolling expanses of land, typically covered in grass or low vegetation.
15. **Peninsula** – A piece of land surrounded by water on three sides.
16. **Isthmus** – A narrow strip of land connecting two larger landmasses, with water on either side.

17. **Archipelago** – A group of islands clustered together in a body of water.
18. **Fjord** – A narrow, steep-sided inlet of the sea, formed by glacial erosion.
19. **Dune** – A mound or ridge of sand formed by wind, typically found in deserts or along coasts.
20. **Mesa** – A flat-topped mountain or hill with steep sides, common in arid regions.

Climate & Biomes

21. **Tundra** – A cold, treeless biome with permanently frozen subsoil, found in Arctic and alpine regions.
22. **Desert** – A dry biome with very little precipitation, often characterized by sand dunes or rocky terrain.
23. **Rainforest** – A dense forest with high annual rainfall, home to diverse plant and animal species.
24. **Grassland** – A biome dominated by grasses, with few trees, often used for agriculture or grazing.
25. **Taiga** – A cold forest biome dominated by coniferous trees, found in northern latitudes.
26. **Monsoon** – A seasonal wind system that brings heavy rainfall to certain regions, especially in South and Southeast Asia.
27. **Climate change** – Long-term shifts in temperature, precipitation, and weather patterns, often caused by human activity.
28. **Microclimate** – A localized climate that differs from the surrounding area, often due to topography or vegetation.
29. **Alpine** – Relating to high mountain regions, often above the tree line.
30. **Savanna** – A grassland biome with scattered trees, found in tropical and subtropical regions.

Human & Cultural Geography

31. **Urbanization** – The process of population shift from rural to urban areas, leading to the growth of cities.
32. **Deforestation** – The clearing or removal of forests, often for agriculture, logging, or urban development.
33. **Agriculture** – The practice of cultivating land, raising crops, and rearing livestock for food and resources.
34. **Cartography** – The science and art of creating maps to represent geographical features.
35. **Geopolitics** – The study of how geography, economics, and demographics influence international politics and power.

Landscape Features

36. **Karst** – A landscape shaped by the dissolution of soluble rocks like limestone, often featuring caves and sinkholes.
37. **Atoll** – A ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets surrounding a lagoon.
38. **Lagoon** – A shallow body of water separated from the sea by a barrier island or coral reef.

39. **Badlands** – A rugged, eroded landscape with steep slopes, deep gullies, and minimal vegetation.
40. **Terrace** – A flat, stepped area on a hillside, often created for agriculture or erosion control.

The first video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mto0ih2pvC8&t=320s>) discusses the formation of the Himalayas, which resulted from the “Indian sub-continent” crashing into the rest of Asia, and lifting the previous sea up into mountains.

Fossils > are remaining dead plants and animals which turn into stone over time

Fossil fuels include oil, gas and coal, which are made up of decayed animals and vegetation. Burning these releases CO₂ and creates climate change/global warming.

Ecosystem: the ecological system

Tropical rain forest > very dense forest like in the Amazon

Monsoon rains. The Himalayas separate the wet climate of northern India from the Gobi desert. They create a rain shadow.

The same is true about the Andes in Latin America. They stop wet air from crossing into Chile.

The second video on the Himalayas (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYg-luBRI8g>)

They form a barrier.

Their name means “Abode of Snow” (an abode is a shelter, a home, a place to rest and live).

They are sublime (heavenly, wonderful, impressive – it is a word you can use about nature). You look out and feel as if you can see the end of the Earth.

The scale and toughness of being there almost “beggars the imagination” (it is beyond imagination, you cannot imagine it).

The mountains shadow a mosaic of habitats.

The people who live there are very welcoming, and they have a common bond (a common link, connection, relationship) with the mountains.

They provide the water supply to 40% of the planet.

With rising temperatures, the glaciers are melting faster than they are being replenished (re-stocked, re-supplied).