

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Geographic Features and Landforms Terms and Definitions

- **bay:** an inlet of the sea or another body of water, typically smaller than a gulf
- **gulf:** a part of a sea or an ocean that extends into the land
- **harbor:** a part of a body of water that is protected and deep enough for ships to anchor in
- **isthmus:** a thin strip of land that connects two larger land masses
- **lake:** a large inland body of standing water
- **ocean:** the large body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth's surface
- **river:** a natural stream of running water, usually large
- **river mouth:** the place where a river enters a larger body of water
- **river source:** the place where a river begins
- **sound:** a long, wide inlet of the ocean, usually parallel to the coast
- **strait:** a narrow passageway that connects two large bodies of water
- **tributary:** a stream that feeds into a body of water
- **waterfall:** a steep descent of water in a stream or river
- **archipelago:** a group of islands or an area of sea with many islands
- **beach:** the shore of a body of water covered by sand, gravel, or larger rock fragments
- **butte:** an isolated hill or mountain with steep sides, usually the top is smaller than that of a mesa
- **canyon:** a narrow, deep valley with steep sides, often with a stream flowing through it
- **delta:** a deposit of sand, silt, clay, and/or gravel at the mouth of a river or inlet
- **hill:** a natural elevation of land lower than a mountain, usually rounded on top
- **island:** a piece of land that is surrounded by water and smaller than a continent
- **peninsula:** a piece of land that is nearly surrounded by water
- **plain:** a large area of level or rolling, treeless land
- **plateau:** a large area of land that is higher than the land around it with a relatively level surface
- **sandbar:** a ridge of sand that has been built up by currents, especially in a river or in coastal waters
- **alluvial fan:** a fan-shaped deposit of sand, silt, or clay where a fast-flowing stream reaches flatter land or where a stream enters a valley, plain, or another larger stream
- **basin:** a depression in the surface of land or in the ocean floor
- **cape:** a point of land that juts into the water
- **flood plain:** level land that may be covered by floodwaters
- **mesa:** a relatively flat-topped natural land elevation, usually larger than a butte but smaller than a plateau
- **moraine:** an accumulation of earth and stones deposited by a glacier
- **river valley:** the area drained by a river and its tributaries
- **divide:** a ridge between drainage areas; water on one side flows in one direction, while water on the other side flows in the other direction
- **mountain:** a landmass that rises high above the surrounding land, higher than a hill
- **volcano:** a vent in Earth's crust that hot or molten rock and steam flow from; also a hill or mountain formed from the material it ejects
- **glacier:** a large body of slowly moving ice