

Geography Word List

lagoon: pool of water surrounded by reefs or sandbars

tributary: small stream or river that flows into a larger river

delta: triangle shaped area at a rivers mouth, formed of mud and sand deposited by water

longitude: East-west direction on the globe that is measured with verticals or meridians

equator: 0 degree latitude

topographic: A type of map that shows the relief of the land

contour lines: Lines that connect points of equal elevation on a map

epicenter: the point where the actual rock break occurs during an earthquake

harbor: an area of water where ships can dock safely near land

plain: flat land

ocean: a body of salt water, larger than a sea

volcano: an opening in the Earth through which lava, rock, and gases are forced out

valley: low land between hills or mountains

reef: a ridge of sand, rock or coral that lies at or near the surface of a sea or ocean

rapids: a fast moving part of a river

swamp: an area of low, wet lands with trees

floodplain: flat land that is near the edges of a river and is formed by the silt

cape: a point of land that extends into water

sea: a body of salt water, smaller than an ocean

lake: a body of water with land on all sides

range: a chain of mountains

canyon: a deep, narrow valley with steep sides

mesa: a flat-topped mountain with steep sides

waterfall: a steep drop from a high place to a lower place in a stream or river

cave: a hollow passage into or under the earth

wetlands: areas of land saturated with water

foothills: a hilly area at the base of a mountain

gap: a low passage through hills or mountains

inlet: a narrow passage of water between two bodies of land

marsh: a lowland with moist soil and tall grasses

peak: the pointed summit of a mountain

tributary: a steam of river that empties into a larger river