



#8862

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE EARTH

Grade Levels: 4-9

21 minutes

CLEARVUE/EAV 1999

DESCRIPTION

Take a tour of earth's physical features and learn how they are formed. Highlights major types of landforms, including continents, islands, peninsulas, plains, and plateaus. Also reviews earth's water features, such as oceans, seas, gulfs, bays, lagoons, and others. Quickly defines each land- and water form.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography

- ◆ Standard: Knows the physical processes that shape patterns on Earth's surface
 - Benchmark: Understands how physical systems are dynamic and interactive (e.g., the relationships between changes in land forms and the effects of climate such as the erosion of hill slopes by precipitation, deposition of sediments by floods, and shaping of land surfaces by wind)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To name and describe the major water systems and bodies of water that can be found on earth.
2. To list and label the seven continents and four oceans.
3. To name and describe the different types of landforms that can be found on the earth's surface.
4. To demonstrate how continental plates shift and create physical features.
5. To identify some of earth's physical features in pictures or on video.
6. To describe the different natural forces that create, alter, and destroy earth's physical features.
7. To clarify how humans have transformed the landscape with the aid of technology.

VOCABULARY

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| 1. atmosphere | 6. canyon |
| 2. badlands | 7. cape |
| 3. bay | 8. caves |
| 4. beach | 9. cliffs |
| 5. bluffs | 10. climate |

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| 11. continental divide/Continental Divide | 28. landmasses |
| 12. continents | 29. mesas |
| 13. dams | 30. mountain ranges |
| 14. deltas | 31. oceans |
| 15. dunes | 32. peninsula |
| 16. erosion | 33. perspective |
| 17. fjords | 34. pinnacles |
| 18. flat plains | 35. plates |
| 19. geography | 36. ponds |
| 20. glaciers | 37. reservoirs |
| 21. gully | 38. river valleys |
| 22. harbor | 39. seas |
| 23. hills | 40. shoreline |
| 24. islands | 41. slopes |
| 25. lagoons | 42. valleys |
| 26. lakes | 43. waterfall |
| 27. landform | |

BEFORE SHOWING

Ask students to name some of the physical features of the earth and write their answers on the blackboard. Then prompt an informal discussion on how these features are created and destroyed. Ask students to name some examples of physical features that have been altered by humans or nature. Discuss the power of hurricanes, tornadoes, and volcanoes that can alter landscapes forever.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What is *geography*? Why is perspective important, especially in physical geography?
2. What is the *global perspective*? What are the largest features we can see from the global perspective? Have students name and point out the continents on a map or globe. What are *continents*?
3. What is a *continental divide*? What is an example of a continental divide?
4. What are *islands*? What are some of the better-known islands? What are *oceans*?
5. What is the contact between the landmasses and ocean systems called? What are the common shoreline shapes? What are some of the features of coastlines?
6. What is a *landform*? Can we see landforms from the global perspective?
7. What are *mountain ranges*? What are some of the major mountain ranges? As the students name the ranges, point them out on a topographic map. What are *hills*? What are some of the larger hilly areas of the world? What are *flat plains*? Where



are some flat plains on earth? Ask students which of these features is most familiar to them. Do you live near a mountain range? Do you live among many hills? Do you live on a flat plain?

8. What are *lakes*? When do lakes resemble oceans? What are *river valleys*?
9. What are *valleys*? What are the tops and sides of the valley called? What happens when the slopes of a valley are nearly vertical? What can almost always be found at the lowest part of a valley or canyon? What are *pinnacles*? What are *mesas*? What are *badlands*? What are *caves*? What are *dunes*? What are *ponds*? What is a *waterfall*?
10. What are some of the features a person can see from a ground perspective?
11. How can landform features be changed over time? What can result from the natural movement of the continental plates? What is *erosion*? How does wind affect landforms? How do glaciers create landforms?
12. How have humans altered the landscape? Discuss how humans have benefited and harmed the landscape.

Applications and Activities

1. Divide the students into groups. Then assign each group one of the landforms described in the video. Have them draw a picture of it, define it, and give some examples of where it can be found. For more advanced students, include a small research assignment where they must obtain one resource describing that landform and explaining where it can be found. Then they can present their findings to the class.
2. If possible, take your students to the school's computer lab. Conduct an activity where students either search for information on specific landforms or the whole class navigates one of the informational sites together.

SUMMARY

This video series is designed to teach and reinforce basic geography principles. It will provide your students with a unique look at the fascinating features on earth's surface and how they are formed.

Focusing on the importance of perspective in how landmasses and bodies of water are viewed, the program examines many of earth's features as seen from the far reaches of space and the nearby perspective of earth. Water features such as oceans, seas, harbors, lagoons, deltas, and beaches are discussed. Landforms such as mountain ranges, flat plains, pinnacles, dunes, and canyons are also examined. A narrator takes viewers on a tour of the earth's many different physical features and close-up images provide students with a clear picture of each landform and body of water.

The alteration of landforms, both by nature and by human activity, is also discussed. This program will give students new insight into their everyday surroundings and help them to understand how the earth grows and changes over time.



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Dynamic Earth: Changes in Its Surface #2558
- Globes #2197
- How Does the Land Wear Down? #3045
- Oceans: Charting the Depths #3495



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **A-TO-Z GEOGRAPHY**

<http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/worldbook/atozgeography/>

From the Discovery site, find information about regions, countries, lakes, rivers, and cities around the world. Play the Geo Game!

- **THIS DYNAMIC EARTH: THE STORY OF PLATE TECTONICS**

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/text/dynamic.html>

From the U.S. Geological Survey site, click on "Developing the theory," "Plate tectonics and people," and few other topics.