

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

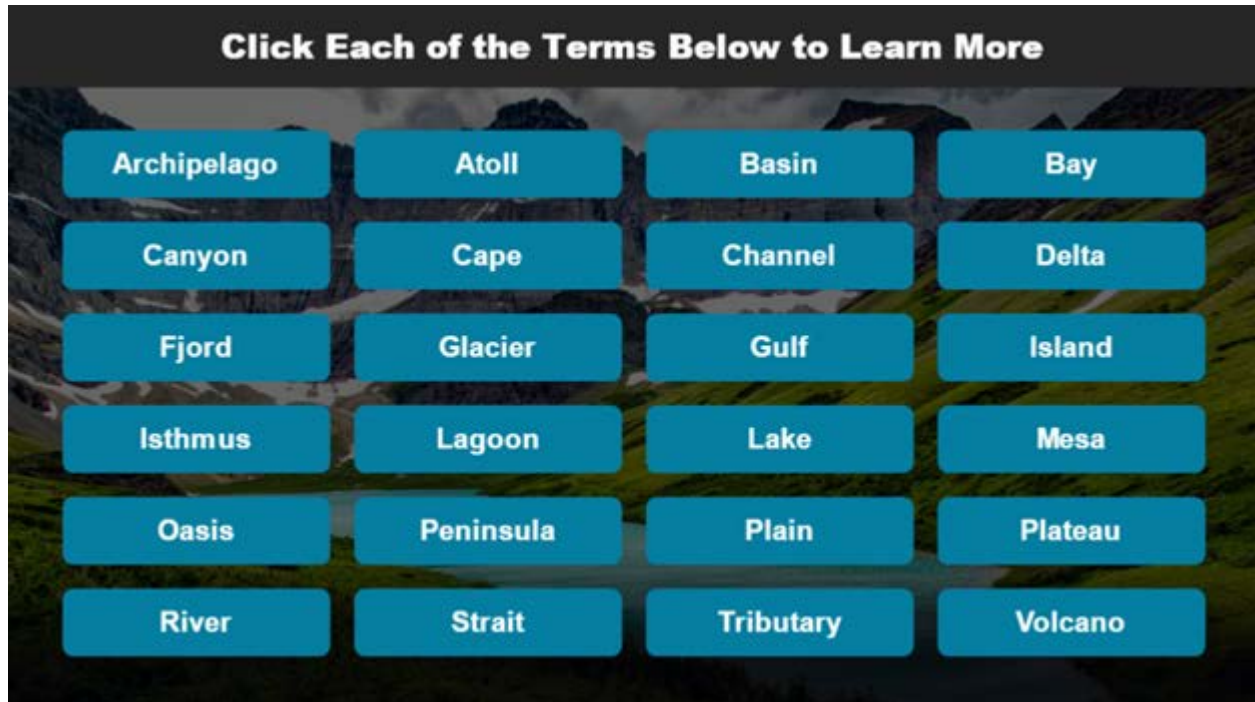
**Major Landforms and Water Features**



Click next to begin.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Menu**



Click each of the terms to view an image and the definition.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Archipelago**



An archipelago is a chain, or group, of islands.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

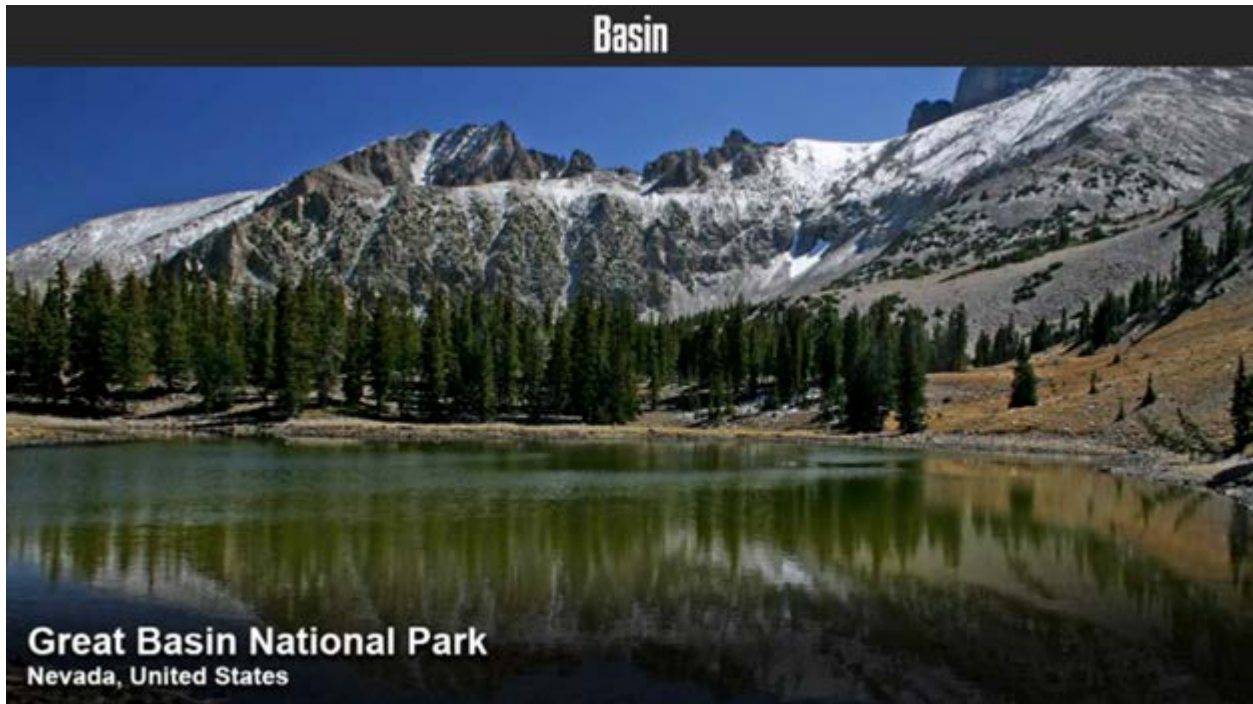
**Atoll**



An atoll is an island made of coral that partially or completely surrounds a lagoon.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Basin**



A basin is a large, low depression of land.



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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Bay**



A bay is a large body of water connected to an ocean or sea, but partially enclosed by a section of land.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Canyon**



A canyon is a gorge or ravine that sits between cliffs. Typically, canyons are created by rivers as they flow through an area and etch out the landform.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Cape**



A cape is a point of land that extends out into the water. Usually, capes sit high above the water and have a steep drop.



**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

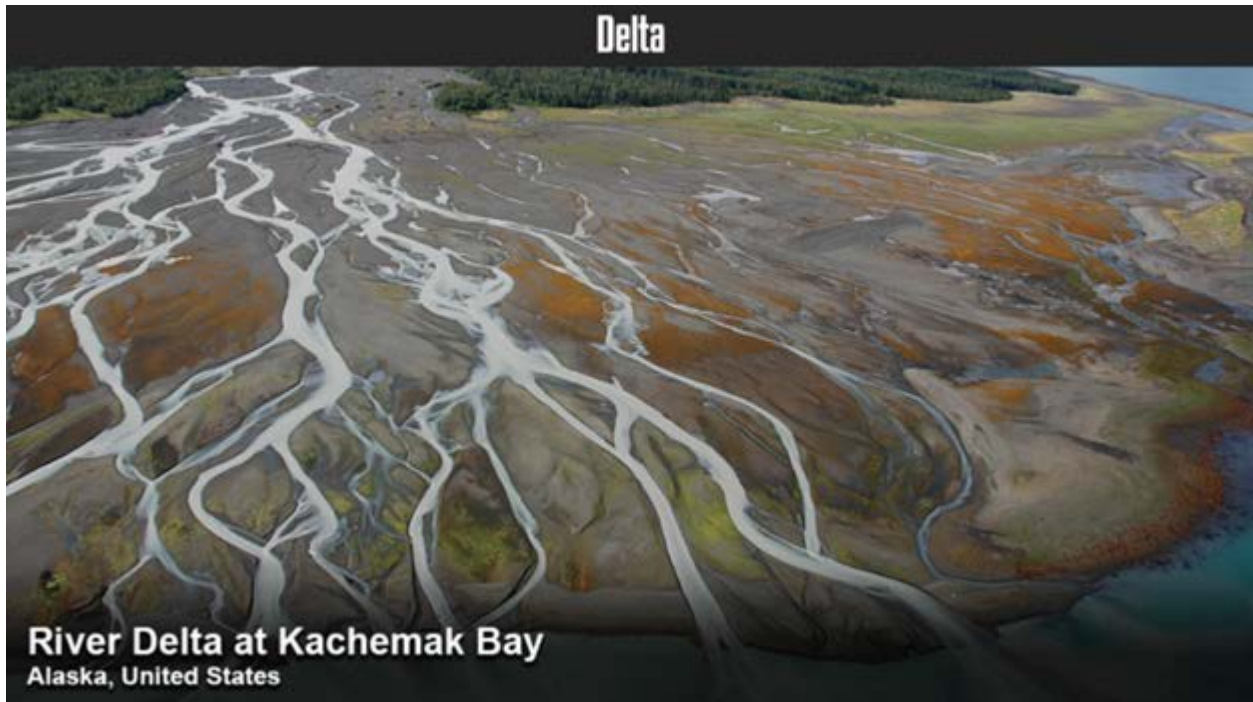
**Channel**



A channel is a body of water that connects two larger bodies of water. A channel is wider than a strait.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Delta**



A delta is a landform that is created at the mouth of a river when sediment is carried and deposited. Deltas are typically fan-shaped.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Fjord**



A fjord is a long, narrow inlet with steep sides. Fjords are created when glaciers carve out valleys, which are then filled with water from glacial melting.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Glacier**



A glacier is a large body of ice that forms from accumulated snow. Most glaciers grow and shrink, depending on the season.



**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Gulf**



A gulf is a large area of an ocean or a sea that is partially enclosed by land. A gulf is typically larger than a bay.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Island**



An island is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Isthmus**



An isthmus is a narrow strip of land that connects two other pieces of land. An isthmus is usually surrounded by water on two sides.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Lagoon**



A lagoon is a shallow body of water separated from an ocean or sea by coral reefs or a barrier island.



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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Lake**



A lake is a body of water surrounded by land on all sides. Lakes are usually freshwater, but saltwater lakes also exist. Lakes are usually fed or drained by a river or stream.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Mesa**



A mesa is an elevated area of land with a flat top. Mesas are often found in arid and semiarid regions.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Oasis**



An oasis is a fertile area found in a desert. The water in an oasis comes from natural springs located underground.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Peninsula**



A peninsula is a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides.



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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Plain**



A plain is a large, flat area of land.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Plateau**



A plateau is a high plain with relatively flat terrain. Often, a plateau has one or more steep sides.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**River**



A river is a waterway that flows toward a larger body of water. Rivers range in size, from the large ones that cross entire continents, to small streams and brooks.

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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Strait**



A strait is a narrow channel of water that connects to larger bodies of water.



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**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Tributary**



A tributary is a stream or river that flows into a larger river or body of water.

**Module: Physical Geography**  
**Topic Content: Major Landforms and Water Features**

**Volcano**



A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface where magma, ash, rock, and gas escape from below.