

Landforms: What are we looking at?

Adapted from *Sandscapes to Landscapes* by Jeannine Kuropatkin, Rhodes JHS, Mesa, AZ

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Description:

Understanding that the physical shapes of the land have names, and characteristics, is an important prerequisite for students to understand how to describe their environment. With a working vocabulary for describing landforms and bodies of water, students will better be able to evaluate the physical features of their environment.

Grade Level:

Grade 3

Duration:

2 or 3 50-minute periods

Subject:

Physical Geography

Goal:

Students will learn vocabulary definitions of selected physical geography landforms and bodies of water, sketching simple examples of each.

Students will identify on a map examples of “real life” examples of each landform or body of water.

Standards:

National Geography Standards - Essential Element One: The World in Spatial Terms
Standard 1: The geographically informed person knows and understands how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.

Arizona Geography Standards: Foundations

3SS-F2: Identify natural and human characteristics of places and how people interact with and modify their environment, with emphasis on:

PO1 Natural characteristics of places including landforms, bodies of water, natural resources and weather

Pre-requisite: Students should have basic map reading skills.

Materials:

- *All About ... Canadian Geographical Regions*
- Handout: Vocabulary Sheet
- Pencils and colored pencils
- Paper to draw on
- Physical Map of Canada

- Canada Map Book 1 Grades 2-3, Pg 28, 29, 30 By George Quinn, ISBN 0-919972-68-3
- Canada Map Book 1 Grades 3-4, Pg 24, 25, 26 By George Quinn ISBN 0-919972-69-1

Procedures:

Students will be given vocabulary worksheets, colored pencils, and a Physical Geography Landscape map (placemat style if possible) of Canada.

Read selected portions of *All About ... Canadian Geographical Regions* or equivalent showing the students pictures of Canadian landforms and bodies of water.

Project the simplified pictures of landforms and bodies of water from the Canada Map Book series, and show examples of landforms and bodies of water and demonstrate how they are inter-related.

Continuing group instruction, students will read the definition of each vocabulary word, then sketch and color a simple outline drawing that appropriately illustrates the landform or body of water. Students may reference the teacher's example from the provided overhead projection, or use their landscape map.

Using the Physical Map of Canada, students will then look for "real life" examples of each landform/body of water, listing them on the appropriate categories on their worksheet.

Students will share their choice of examples and tell why they think this example meets the specific criteria of the landform/body of water.