Landforms of the Earth

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

Landforms of the Earth



The surface of the Earth is not flat like a table. It has high places, low places, flat places and places surrounded by water. These natural shapes are called landforms.

A **mountain** is a very high landform with steep sides and a peak at the top. The Rocky Mountains stretch through Canada and the United States. A **hill** is like a mountain, but smaller and rounder.

Between mountains or hills, you can often find a **valley**. A valley is a low area of land. Many valleys have rivers running through them.

A **plain** is a large area of flat land. Plains are good for farming because the land is flat and the soil is often rich. A **plateau** is also flat, but it is raised high above the land around it, like a giant table.

Some landforms are shaped by water. An **island** is land with water all around it. A **peninsula** is land with water on three sides, connected to a larger piece of land on the fourth side.

Landforms change very slowly over time. Wind, rain, rivers and ice wear them down and carve new shapes. The landforms we see today took thousands or even millions of years to form.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a landform?

(a) A natural shape on the Earth's surface
(b) A kind of map
(c) A building

2. Which landform is a low area between hills or mountains?

(a) A plateau
(b) A peninsula
(c) A valley

3. How is a plateau different from a plain?

(a) A plateau is raised high above the land around it.
(b) A plateau is under water.
(c) A plateau has a pointed peak.

4. A peninsula has water on how many sides?

(a) Three
(b) Four
(c) One

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How are a mountain and a hill alike and different?**

2. **Why are plains good for farming?**

3. **What changes landforms over time?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. What is a landform?

- (a) **A natural shape on the Earth's surface**
- (b) A kind of map
- (c) A building

2. Which landform is a low area between hills or mountains?

- (a) A plateau
- (b) A peninsula
- (c) **A valley**

3. How is a plateau different from a plain?

- (a) **A plateau is raised high above the land around it.**
- (b) A plateau is under water.
- (c) A plateau has a pointed peak.

4. A peninsula has water on how many sides?

- (a) **Three**
- (b) Four
- (c) One

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How are a mountain and a hill alike and different?**
   Both are high landforms, but a hill is smaller and rounder than a mountain.
2. **Why are plains good for farming?**
   The land is flat and the soil is often rich.
3. **What changes landforms over time?**
   Wind, rain, rivers and ice slowly wear them down and carve new shapes.