

The Earth's surface is made up of different kinds of natural features, like mountains, valleys, hills, plains, and rivers. These natural features are called **landforms**.

Major Landforms of Earth

Landforms are formed ----

1. by forces that act on the surface of the Earth, like water, wind and ice.
2. by forces born deep inside the Earth.

Landforms are two types **major landforms** and **minor landforms**.

Examples of major landforms: 1. Mountains and hills 2. Plateaus 3. Plains.

Mountains, Hills and Valleys

Mountains are landforms that rise high above the surrounding land. They generally have very steep slopes, and end in sharply pointed tops called **peaks**.

A chain of mountains is called a **mountain range**. Examples: The Himalayas, the Alps, the Andes and the Rockies.

Hill is a landform which rises higher than the surrounding land, but is smaller than a mountain.

Valley: The lowland between two mountains and hills is called valley.

Plateau: A plateau is a large flat-topped landform that rises sharply above the surrounding land. It is also known as a tableland.

Examples: The Tibetan Plateau, the Deccan Plateau, the Colorado Plateau.

Plains: Plains are vast areas of flat low-lying land. Some plains may be gently sloping.

Examples: The Indo-Gangetic Plain in North India, the plains of Huang He and Sichuan in China.

Plains are the most crowded places on the Earth because the rich soil of the plains is good for growing crops. Also, since they are flat, it is easy to build cities, roads and railways on plains.

Millions of years ago, there was just one single landmass called Pangaea. Over time this landmass broke up and the pieces drifted apart forming the continents of today.

The longest mountain chains in the world are found on the ocean floor. Called the Oceanic Ridges, these massive ranges stretch around the globe for over 65,000 kilometres.

ASSIGNMENT

Name the following:

- 1.Landforms that rise high above the surrounding land, with steep slopes, and a pointed tip:-----
- 2.The lowland between two mountains:-----
- 3.The highest plateau in the world:-----

Answer the following:

- 1.What are landforms? Name the major landforms.
- 2.What are mountains? How are they different from hills and valleys?
- 3.What are plateaus? How are they formed?
- 4.How are plains formed? Why do more people live in the plains than on the mountains?

Remember to fill up the Contents page of your notebook every day.