

LANDFORM CHARACTERISTICS



MOUNTAINS

PLAINS

HILLS

1. Area of high elevation usually >2,000 ft above sea level

1. Area of either high or low elevation usually <2,000 ft above sea level

1. Area of either high or low elevation

2. Area of high relief; at least a 2000 ft difference between local highest and lowest points

2. Area of low relief (under 500 ft)

2. Area of low relief (under 2000 ft)

3. Steep, long slopes. Small summit areas - peaks. Massive rugged appearance.

3. Level to rolling land. Thick soil.

3. Gentle to steep slopes. Rounded surface features with flat summits.

4. Narrow valleys; fast flowing streams.

4. Wide valleys; slow flowing streams.

4. Valleys and streams vary.

5. Pronounced vertical zonation of climate and vegetation.

5. Uniform climate and vegetation conditions.

5. Little or no vertical zonation of climate and vegetation.

LANDFORMS and LAND USE

1. Acts as a barrier, therefore fosters isolation.

1. Acts as a unifier, therefore fosters interaction.

1. Acts as a barrier, therefore fosters isolation.

2. Leads to development of separate and unique cultural groups and political units.

2. Leads to assimilation; unified political units.

2. Leads to development of separate and unique cultural groups/political units. More contact is possible.

3. Transportation and communication very difficult and very expensive.

3. Transportation and communication easy, quick, less expensive.

3. Transportation and communication difficult and expensive.

4. Population density: regionally low; locally high.

4. Population density: usually high but lower in major agricultural areas where the highest densities are in urban places.

4. Population density: regionally moderate; locally high.

5. Major economic uses:
a) intensive agriculture
b) grazing (transhumance)
c) hunting/trapping
d) forestry/gathering
e) mining
f) recreation
g) hydroelectricity

5. Major economic uses:
a) agriculture (depending on climate)
b) sites for industries, residencies, transportation routes
c) some mining
d) some forestry

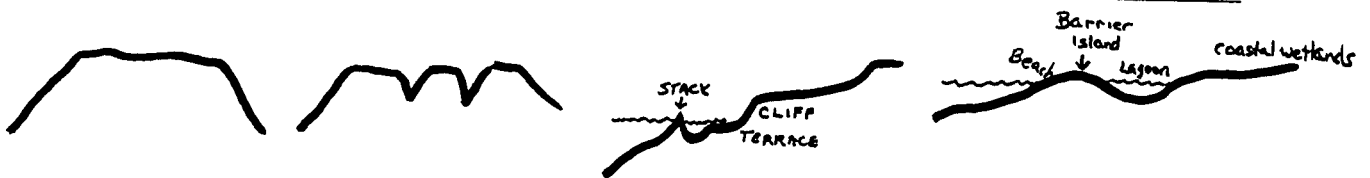
5. Major economic uses:
a) agriculture on gentle slopes
b) tree crops, grazing
c) hunting/trapping
d) forestry/gathering
e) mining
f) recreation
g) hydroelectricity

6. Hazards:
a) isolation
b) mass movements
c) winds and storms
d) flash floods
e) earthquakes/volcanism
f) snow, extreme cold and deficiency of oxygen at higher elevations.

6. Hazards:
a) openness
b) weather systems
c) poor drainage
d) flooding

6. Hazards:
a) isolation
b) mass movements
c) erosion
d) flooding

LANDFORM CHARACTERISTICS



PLATEAUS (tableland	dissected)	COASTLINES (with sea cliffs	with barrier islands)
1. Areas of high elevation with lowest points several thousand feet above sea level.		1. Areas of low elevation with highest points close to sea level.	
2. Area of low relief. <i>Tablelands, mesas and buttes</i> usually overlook plains and are separated by steep slopes. <i>Intermontane</i> basins are high elevation flat areas surrounded by high mountains.	2. Area of high relief.	2. Area of high relief.	2. Area of low relief.
3. Relatively flat surface .	3. Deep canyons cut into surface.	3. Steep slope; rugged appearance. Cliffs, terraces, stacks. Embayments are found in all coastlines.	3. Flat to rolling terrain. Beaches, dunes, barrier islands, spits.
4. Most streams are found in canyons.		4. Drowned valleys; fjords	4. Coastal wetlands, lagoons, deltas.
5. Uniform climate and vegetation conditions; climate on the cool side.		5. Uniform climate conditions moderated by water. Vegetation influenced by distance from water. Marsh and/or mangrove at the interface. Important ecological area.	

LANDFORMS and LAND USE

1. Local unifier, regional barrier. Therefore there is local interaction, but regional isolation.	1. Acts as a barrier. Therefore isolates people from water.	1. Local unifier. Therefore there is interaction.
2. Local assimilation; regionally separate and unique cultural and political groups.	2. Leads to inland orientation.	2. Leads to development and orientation toward the sea.
3. Transportation and communication locally easy, regionally difficult	3. Transportation and easy inland, difficult seaward Access to interior is important. Embayed coasts provide harbors; can lead to port development. Historically, straight coasts were by-passed.	3. Transportation and communication usually easy except in marshy or sandy environments.
4. Population density: varies with latitude and elevation.	4. Population density: low to moderate	4. Population density: usually high; dependent on width, latitude.
5. Major economic uses: a) intensive agriculture b) grazing c) hunting/trapping d) forestry e) mining f) recreation g) hydroelectricity in canyons	5. Major economic uses: a) harbors, ports b) recreation	5. Major economic uses: a) harbors, ports b) recreation c) mining, esp. sands d) formerly, waste disposal sites
6. Hazards: a) isolation b) mass movements c) winds and storms d) drought e) extreme cold and deficiency of oxygen at higher elevations	6. Hazards: a) rocky shore b) winds, storms c) waves; storm surges d) erosion e) fog	6. Hazards: a) openness b) winds, storms c) waves; storm surges d) erosion e) fog f) sand bars, shallows, marshes