

Modeling Landforms

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to build and label a 3D model of at least 5 major landforms.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Play dough, clay, or salt dough (flour+salt+water mixture)
- a paper plate or tray as a base
- toothpicks and paper for labels
- blue paper or food coloring (optional, for water features)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Mix or prepare your dough/clay if making salt dough (2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water, mixed and kneaded).
2. On your paper plate/tray, sculpt at least 5 different landforms: for example, a mountain, a valley, a plateau, a peninsula, and an island.
3. Use blue paper strips or blue-tinted dough to add at least one water feature (river, lake, or ocean) connecting or surrounding your landforms.
4. Make small toothpick flags with paper labels naming each landform and water feature.
5. Take a photo or draw a labeled sketch of your finished model from above (a bird's-eye view).

QUESTIONS

1. **List the 5 landforms you built and give a one-sentence definition of each.**

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2. **How did you show the difference between a peninsula and an island in your model?**

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3. **Why might a mountain and a plateau look similar from far away, but be different landforms?**
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4. **Choose one landform in your model and explain how it might affect the people who live near it (travel, farming, weather).**
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