Clay Landform Lab

Use model features to classify Earth's landforms.

E.3.7B.2 "Develop and use models to describe the characteristics of Earth's continental landforms and classify landforms as volcanoes, mountains, valleys, canyons, plains, and islands."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the six landform names, and underline the shape clues for models A through F so you can classify each model.

Six Shapes in Clay

1. Landforms are shapes of Earth's land. A mountain rises high above nearby land. A valley is low land between hills or mountains. A canyon is a deep, narrow valley with steep sides. A plain is a wide area of mostly flat land. An island has water all around it. A volcano has an opening where melted rock can reach the surface.

2. Our class makes six clay models to show these shapes. Model A has a wide, almost flat surface with no steep sides. Model B rises sharply above the land beside it, but it has no opening at the top. Model C has a hole at the top. Red clay runs down its side to show melted rock that reached the surface.

3. Model D is a broad area of low land between two tall ridges. Model E is also low between high land, but it is much deeper and narrower, with steep sides. A thin blue line shows a river at its bottom. Model F sits in a tray of water. No part of its land touches the edge of the tray.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which landforms do models A and B show? Give one shape clue for each.

2. Which landform does model C show? What feature does it have that model B does not?

3. Which landforms do models D and E show? Explain the difference in their shapes.

4. Which landform does model F show? What clue in the model tells you?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Draw your own place with three different landforms from the reading, and label each one. Add a living thing or something people made, then write two sentences explaining how the shapes show which landforms you drew.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · E.3.7B.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the six landform names, and underline the shape clues for models A through F so you can classify each model. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which landforms do models A and B show? Give one shape clue for each.	**A is a plain because it is wide and almost flat. B is a mountain because it rises sharply above nearby land.**
2	Which landform does model C show? What feature does it have that model B does not?	**C is a volcano. It has an opening at the top, unlike B.**
3	Which landforms do models D and E show? Explain the difference in their shapes.	**D is a valley, a broad low area between ridges. E is a canyon because it is deeper and narrower, with steep sides.**
4	Which landform does model F show? What clue in the model tells you?	**F is an island because water surrounds its land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sketch: A wide, flat plain with a farm, a tall mountain beside it, and a deep, narrow canyon with a river at its bottom. Sentences: My plain is wide and flat, and my mountain rises high above it. My canyon is deep and narrow, with steep sides.

Accept drawings with any three correctly labeled landforms, a living thing or human-made feature, and two sentences that describe accurate shape clues for all three. For model E, accept that a canyon is a type of valley if the student also notes its deep, narrow shape and steep sides.