

Landform or Change

Tell a natural feature from a change in geography.

WG.7.b "describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is a natural land or water form that can be located on Earth's surface.

A glacier-covered valley is a physical feature.

GEOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A geographic change is an event or process that makes an area's land, water, climate, or living systems different over time.

Volcanic ash creates new land after an eruption.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle FEATURE or CHANGE.

1. A chain of mountains

FEATURE

CHANGE

2. A coastline moves inland as sea level rises

FEATURE

CHANGE

3. A desert

FEATURE

CHANGE

4. A wetland is drained for farmland

FEATURE

CHANGE

5. A broad plain

FEATURE

CHANGE

6. A coral reef

FEATURE

CHANGE

7. A river changes course after a flood

FEATURE

CHANGE

8. A volcano

FEATURE

CHANGE

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 2: Choose two numbered items, one FEATURE and one CHANGE, and explain in one sentence each why each belongs. Part 3: Write one new example of a FEATURE and one new example of a CHANGE.

FEATURE _____

CHANGE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one physical feature you wrote. Describe one process that could change it over time in one complete sentence. Then apply the idea to this regional case: Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania has ice fields near its summit. In 2012, researchers observed that ice loss had opened a gap all the way through its northern ice field, dividing it into two (NASA). Describe the physical feature and explain how the observed loss of ice changed it. Use separate paper if needed.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A chain of mountains	FEATURE	Mountains are natural landforms.
2	A coastline moves inland as sea level rises	CHANGE	Rising sea level changes the location of the coastline over time.
3	A desert	FEATURE	A desert is a natural physical region.
4	A wetland is drained for farmland	CHANGE	Draining the wetland changes the environment and land use.
5	A broad plain	FEATURE	A plain is a natural landform.
6	A coral reef	FEATURE	A coral reef is a natural feature in the ocean.
7	A river changes course after a flood	CHANGE	The river's path changes over time.
8	A volcano	FEATURE	A volcano is a natural landform.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FEATURE:** A natural harbor.
- **CHANGE:** A forest is cleared to build a city.

Challenge: Waves can wear away a natural harbor over time. Regional response: The northern ice field is ice near the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Loss of ice opened a gap that split the field into two parts, changing its shape and extent.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a **FEATURE** as a natural land or water form and a **CHANGE** as something that alters an area over time. Student-created examples may vary if they fit the category accurately. Require the regional explanation as well as the original response. Regional source: NASA Earth Observatory, Kilimanjaro's Shrinking Ice Fields (2012).