

Feature or Change?

Sort land and water descriptions by what they tell you.

WG.3.b "describing major physical and environmental features and how geography may change over time;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is a natural part of Earth's surface or water system. It can be described by its location, shape, or size.

A coral reef is a natural underwater feature made by living organisms.

GEOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A geographic change is a process or event that alters Earth's surface over time. It can reshape land, water, or coastlines.

Groundwater dissolving limestone can create caves over many years.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle FEATURE or CHANGE, then choose two items and explain what clues helped you sort them.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A broad, high area of mostly flat land | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. Ocean waves wearing away a rocky shoreline | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. A river dropping soil and sand where it enters a lake | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. A low, dry region that receives very little rain | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. A long, narrow ocean inlet between steep slopes | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. Movement in Earth's crust raising land higher | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. A wide, flat river valley that floods often | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. A triangular area of sediment built at a river mouth | <input type="button" value="FEATURE"/> | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |

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

Write one new example of a physical feature and one new example of a geographic change.

FEATURE _____

CHANGE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one physical feature you wrote. Describe one natural process that could change it over time, and explain the result in two sentences.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A broad, high area of mostly flat land	FEATURE	A plateau is a natural landform.
2	Ocean waves wearing away a rocky shoreline	CHANGE	Coastal erosion removes rock and changes the shoreline.
3	A river dropping soil and sand where it enters a lake	CHANGE	Deposition adds sediment and can build new landforms.
4	A low, dry region that receives very little rain	FEATURE	A desert is a major natural environmental region.
5	A long, narrow ocean inlet between steep slopes	FEATURE	A fjord is a natural coastal landform.
6	Movement in Earth's crust raising land higher	CHANGE	Tectonic uplift changes the elevation and shape of land.
7	A wide, flat river valley that floods often	FEATURE	A floodplain is a natural landform beside a river.
8	A triangular area of sediment built at a river mouth	FEATURE	A delta is a natural landform created by deposited sediment.

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:** Physical feature: A glacier is a large mass of ice that moves slowly over land.
- **CHANGE:** Geographic change: A volcanic eruption can create new rock and reshape nearby land.

Challenge: A glacier could change a mountain valley through erosion. As the ice moves, it can scrape rock away and make the valley wider and deeper.

Accept equivalent descriptions that clearly identify a natural feature or a process that changes geography. In Part 2, students should name a clue such as a landform description for FEATURE or an action over time for CHANGE.