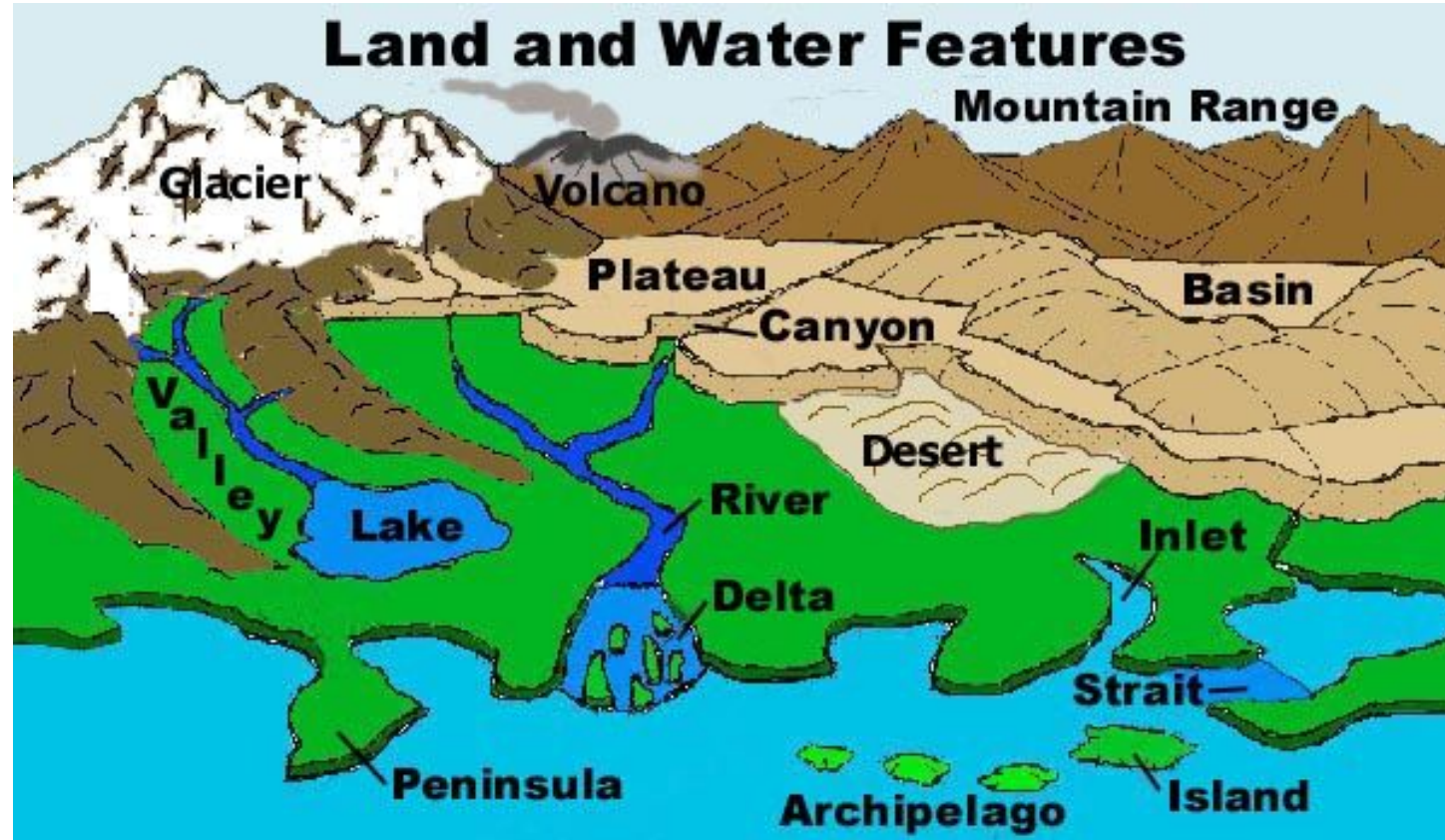


# Physical Features of Our World



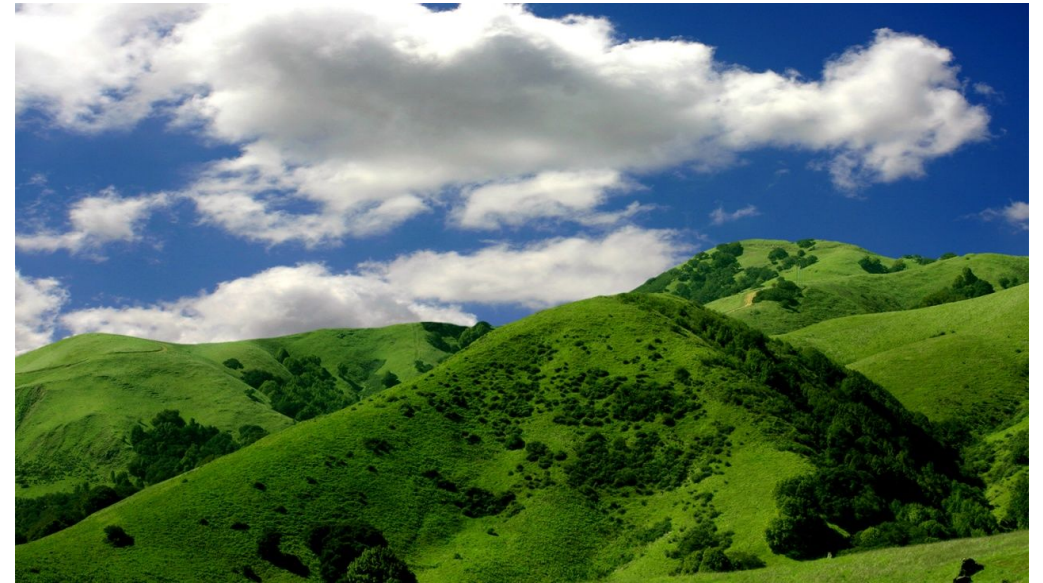
# Mountains

area of land with steep sides that rise sharply from surrounding land



# Hills

gently raised areas of land



# Mountains/Hills

## ADVANTAGES

- protection from invasion
- access to natural resources
- rivers (fresh water) often start in mountains

## DISADVANTAGES

- lack of 'farmable' land
- isolation (difficult trade, travel, cultural diffusion)
- difficult construction of homes, roads, etc.



# Oceans

very large bodies of salt water that cover almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of earth's surface



# Seas

large bodies of salt water; often located where the ocean and land meet



# Oceans/Seas

## ADVANTAGES

- natural barrier from invasion
- highway of trade
- rich source of food and resources

## DISADVANTAGES

- extreme weather (hurricanes, tsunamis, monsoons)
- lack of fresh water
- harder to defend coastline

# Islands

pieces of land, surrounded by water on all sides



# Island

## ADVANTAGES

- isolation (good defense for intercepting others)
- can be a natural barrier
- rich in resources

## DISADVANTAGES

- isolation is poor for trade and dangerous for travel
- natural disasters



# Straits

narrow stretches of water connecting two larger bodies of water.





# STRAITS

## ADVANTAGES

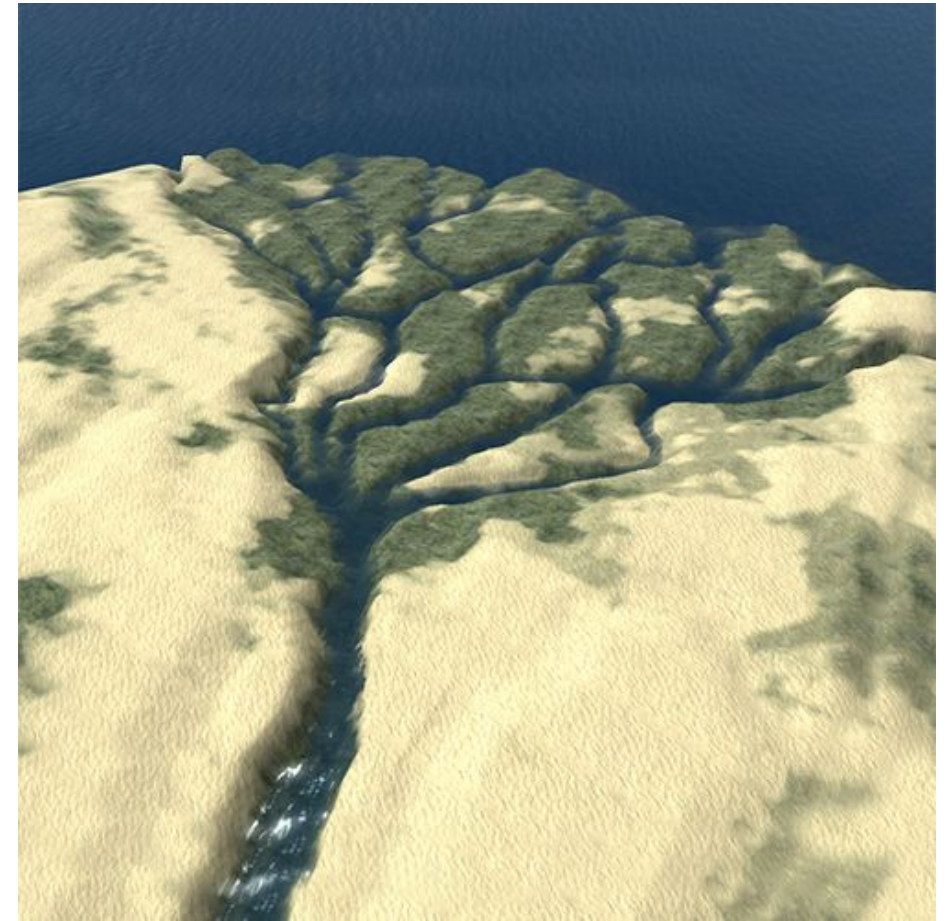
- control of trade
- military access
- access to the Mediterranean Sea

## DISADVANTAGES

- could be more prone to attack because others want control

# Rivers

a moving body of fresh water that usually has its source in an area of high ground. The end of a river is called a mouth. At some mouths, deposits of fertile soil build up, creating a delta.



# RIVERS

## ADVANTAGES

- access to fresh water
- trade and travel easily
- rich in natural resources and wildlife

## DISADVANTAGES

- open to invasion
- flooding



# Lakes

a large body of water surrounded by land





# LAKES

## ADVANTAGES

-access to fresh water, wildlife and natural resources

## DISADVANTAGES

-trade limited because it's enclosed unless lake is very large (i.e. Great Lakes) or a chain of lakes.

-usually lower in elevation than surrounding land makes them vulnerable to attack.

# Peninsulas

land that is surrounded by water on 3 sides



# PENINSULA

## ADVANTAGES

- easy travel and trade by water
- access to food (fishing)

## DISADVANTAGES

- easy access for invasion/hard to defend all of the coastline
- no fresh water



# Plains

areas of flat grassland, generally at a low elevation





# PLAINS

## ADVANTAGES

- flat, farmable land
- construction of roads and settlements

## DISADVANTAGES

- no natural barriers to prevent invasion
- prone to severe weather

# Plateaus

areas of flat or slightly hilly terrain at a high elevation



# PLATEAUS

## ADVANTAGES

-natural barrier (protection)

## DISADVANTAGES

-lack of water and resources

-bad climate

-hard to get up and down to  
build



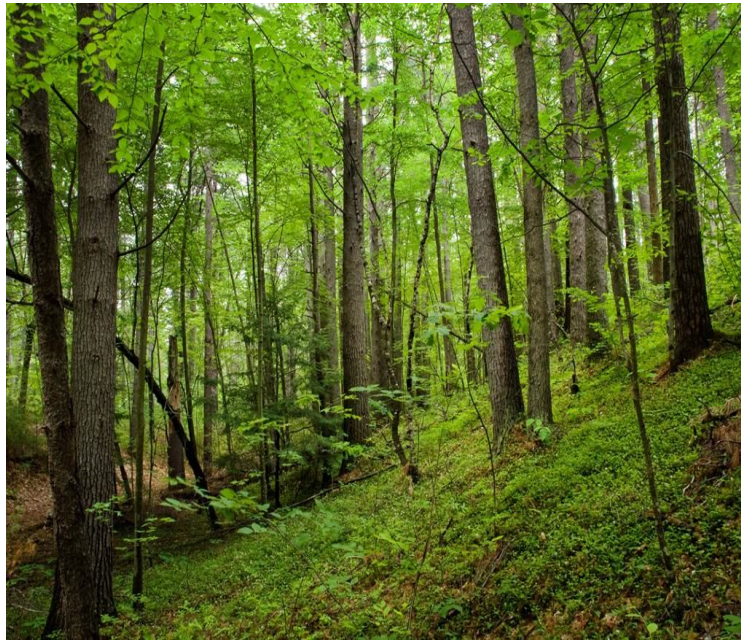
# Forests

large areas of land covered with trees, plants and undergrowth

Tropical Rainforest



Deciduous (loose leaves)



Coniferous (pine tree)





# FORESTS

## ADVANTAGES

- access to natural resources and water
- natural barrier against invasion

## DISADVANTAGES

- isolation from trade, travel and cultural diffusion
- difficult farming
- rainforest can have excessive water

# Wetlands

lands saturated with water; contains many swamps and marshes



# WETLANDS

## ADVANTAGES

- natural barrier (protection)
- fresh water

## DISADVANTAGES

- poor land for creating settlements, farming and building on.



# Deserts

areas of land with sparse vegetation, limited rainfall and extreme climate  
(very hot or very cold)





# Deserts

## ADVANTAGES

- natural barrier

## DISADVANTAGES

- lack of arable farmland
- challenging climate
- difficult travel
- isolation from trade, travel and cultural diffusion
- limited resources

Climate: usual weather conditions in an area over a long period of time.

Weather: current day to day conditions (rainy, sunny, cold, hot, mild, foggy, sleet, snow, etc.)

