

A GLOSSARY OF GEOGRAPHICAL TERMINOLOGY

Name: _____

Before you begin coloring the actual plates you may wish to warm up with this introduction to geographical terminology. If you don't have the 21 colors needed to color A-U, feel free to repeat as many of them as needed.

Begin by coloring the word "archipelago," labeled "A," and use the same color on the part of the illustration below that has the same label.

Note that each caption ends with a well-known example of the word under discussion. These examples are set in italics. Also set in italics are other geographical terms that are related, in some way, to the word which is being defined.

- = blank

ARCHIPELAGO^A

ATOLL^B

BAY^C

CANYON^D

CAPE^E

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE^F

DELTA^G

ESTUARY^H

FJORD^I

HEADWATERS^J

GLACIER^K

GULF^L

ISLAND^M

ISTHMUS^N

LAGOON^O

MESA^P

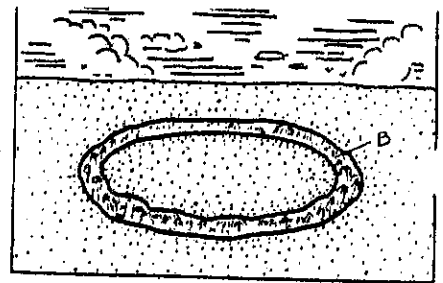
OCEAN CURRENTS^Q

PENINSULA^R

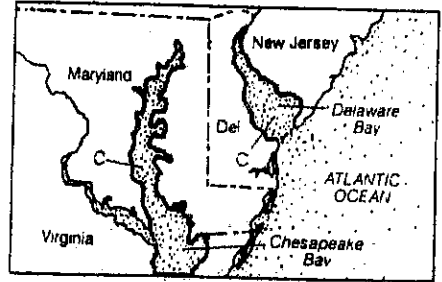
PLATEAU^S

REEF^T

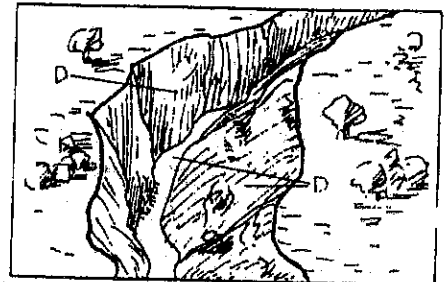
STRAIT^U



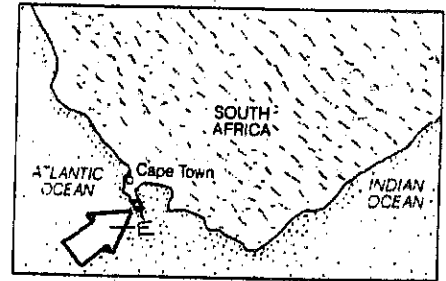
A circular coral island that encloses a lagoon. Atolls are usually formed on top of submerged volcanoes. *Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands of the Pacific Ocean, a US atomic test site.*



A body of water that penetrates a coastline. It is generally wider in the middle. It is usually smaller than a gulf, but larger than a cove. *Delaware and Chesapeake Bays.*

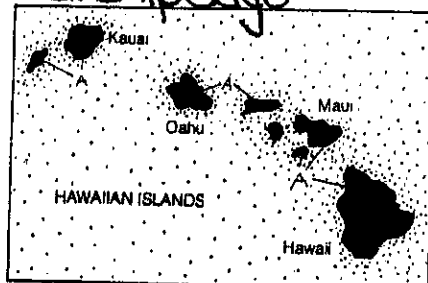


A deep, narrow depression in the earth's surface, often having a river running through it. Canyons are also known as gorges. *Ravines are not quite as deep. The Grand Canyon in northwest Arizona.*



A point of land extending into the sea. It is usually smaller than a peninsula. A mountainous cape is called a promontory or a headland. *The Cape of Good Hope off the South African coast.*

archipelago

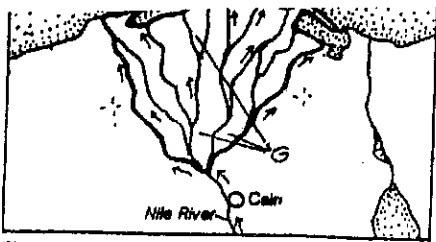


Either a group of islands or a body of water that has many islands in it. *The Hawaiian Islands; the Aegean Sea off the coast of Greece.*

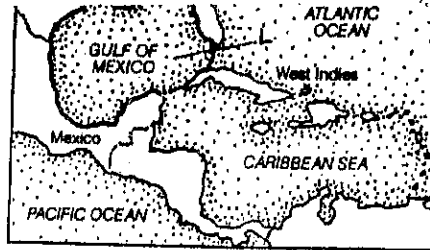


The highest point of a continent, from which the direction of river flow is determined. *The Great Divide is the name given to the crest of the Rocky Mountains, which sends rivers east and west.*

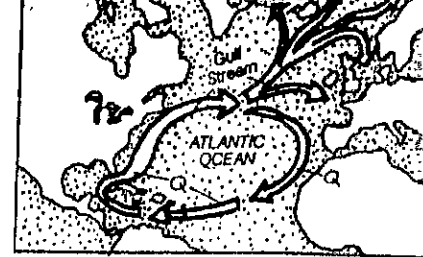
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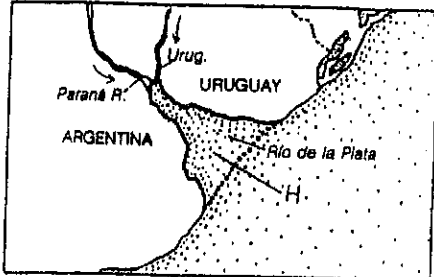
The triangular-shaped land found at the mouth of some large rivers. So much soil is transported by the river that the coastal waters cannot wash it all away. *The Nile Delta on the Mediterranean Sea.*



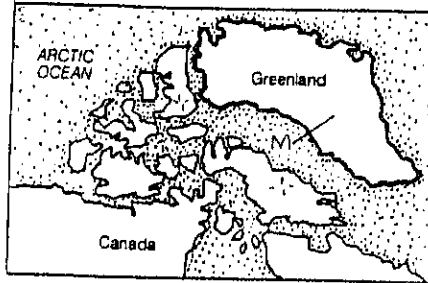
A part of an ocean or sea that is partially enclosed by a curving coastline. A more fully enclosed body of salt water could be called a sea. *The Gulf of Mexico.*



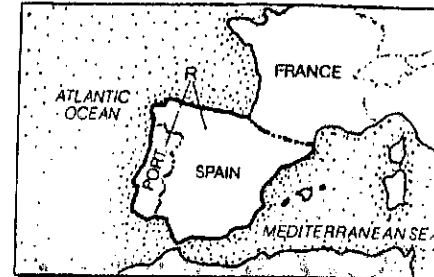
Ocean streams that are propelled by prevailing winds and earth rotation. They flow clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counterclockwise below the equator. *The Atlantic's Gulf Stream.*



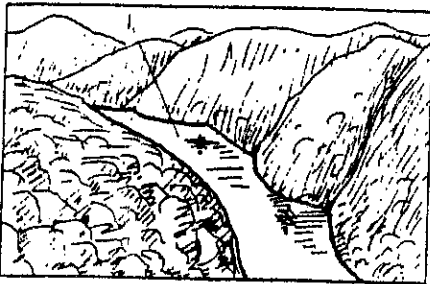
An ocean inlet that merges with the mouth of a river. The estuary's salinity varies according to river flow and ocean tides. *The Río de la Plata, separating Argentina from Uruguay.*



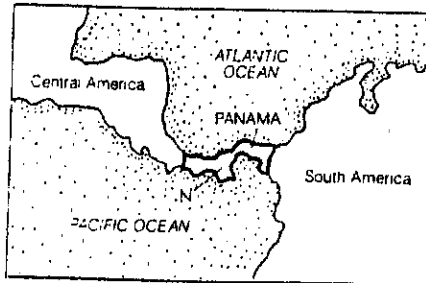
A body of land completely surrounded by water. It is smaller than a continent but larger than a cay, a key, or certainly a large rock. *Greenland is the world's largest island.*



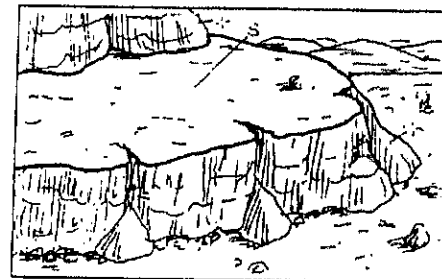
A mass of land almost entirely surrounded by water. It is usually connected to the mainland by a narrow neck. *The Iberian Peninsula in Europe, home to Spain and Portugal.*



A narrow, winding ocean inlet that penetrates a coastal mountain range. The steep cliffs that line its route make a fjord (fiord) one of nature's grandest sights. *Norway's Sogne Fjord is the world's longest.*



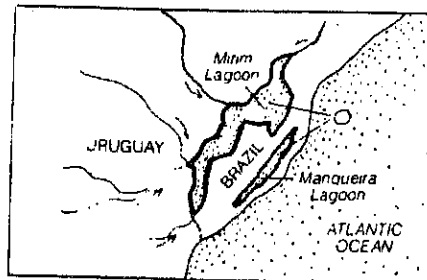
A narrow strip of land, with water on both sides, that connects two larger land masses. *The Isthmus of Panama connects Central America and South America.*



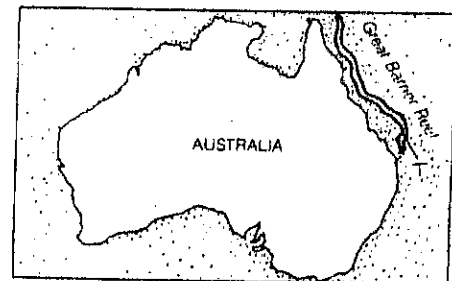
A broad expanse of generally high and flat land, also called a *tableland*. Plateaus can rise up from a lower area, or can be level regions within a mountain range. *Most of Spain is the Meseta Plateau.*



Upper river springs, streams, and tributaries. Headwaters can refer to *continental divides* or *watersheds*. *Watershed* also describes a region drained by a river. *The Alps have been called the headwaters of Europe.*



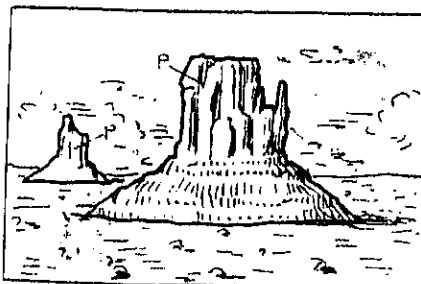
A small body of water separated from the larger sea by a barrier of sand or coral reefs. It can either be adjacent to a coastline or surrounded by an atoll. *Mirm Lagoon off the coast of Brazil.*



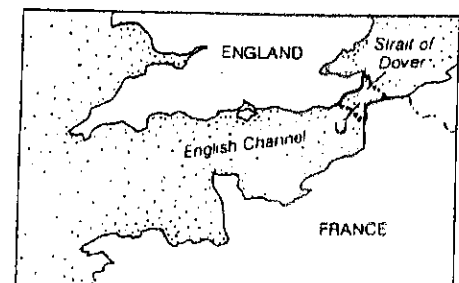
A narrow, low ridge of rock, or more commonly of coral, that is connected to a coast (*fringing reef*) or lies off a coast (*barrier reef*). *The Great Barrier Reef, off the northeast coast of Australia.*



A river of ice, moving slowly down a mountain slope or outward from its central mass. It stops where the leading edge melts faster than the forward rate of movement. *Valnajökull in Iceland is Europe's largest.*



A tall, flat-topped mountain with steep vertical sides. Erosion-resistant mesas are left standing after all else has gone. *Buttes* are small mesas. *Monument Valley in Utah has 1,000 ft. (305 m) mesas.*



A narrow passage of water connecting two larger bodies of water. A *channel* is wider than a *strait*. If it is shallow, it is called a *sound*. *The English Channel becomes narrower at the Strait of Dover.*