

MAJOR LANDFORMS OF THE EARTH



IDEA

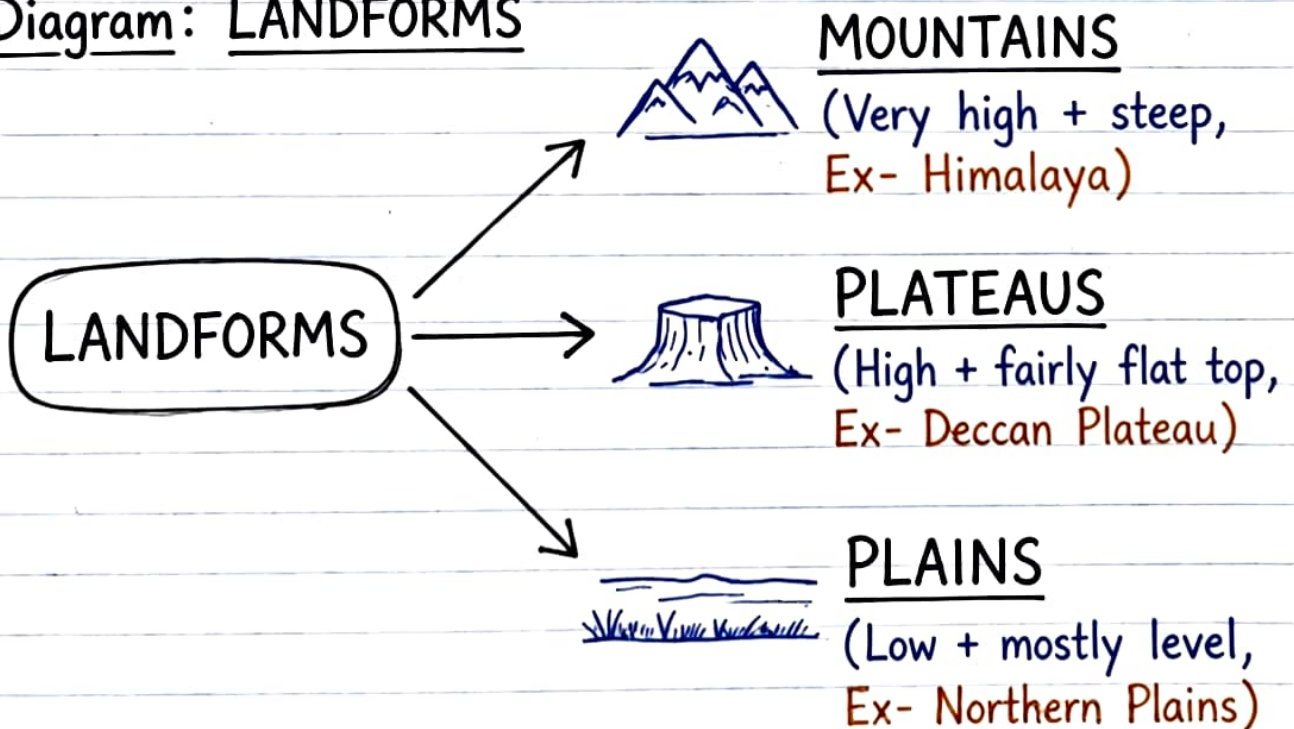
Earth's surface is not flat. It has high mountains, broad plateaus, low plains, valleys and many other natural shapes.

These natural features are called **LANDFORMS**.

LANDFORM definition:

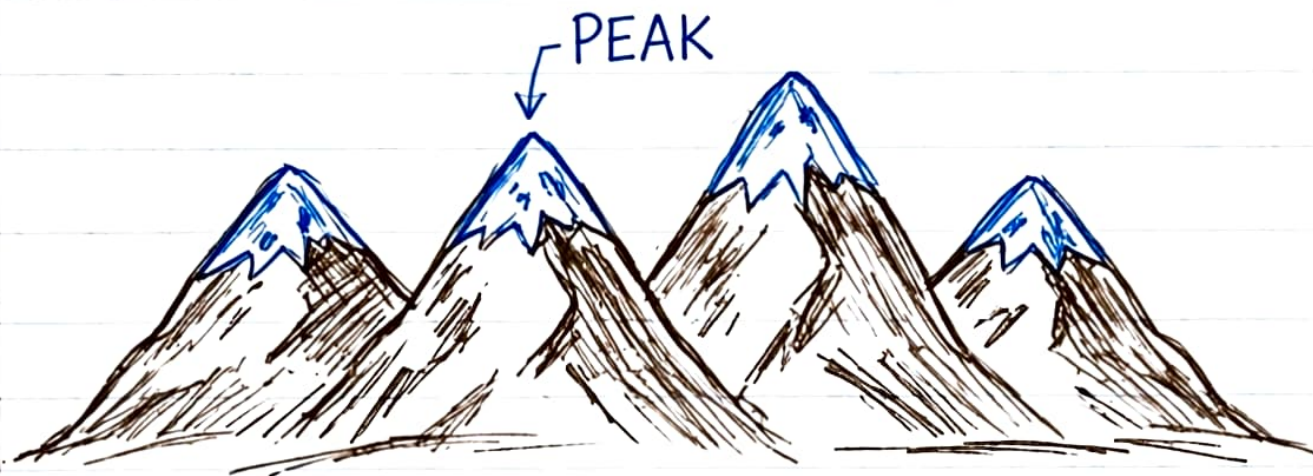
A landform is a natural feature or shape of the Earth's surface. Landforms are created and changed by forces inside the, by external agents such as running water, wind, glaciers and sea waves.

Diagram: LANDFORMS



* Forces: Internal — tectonic movements.
External — water, wind, glaciers, sea waves.

MOUNTAINS



High Altitude

MOUNTAINS — Mountains are very high natural elevations of the Earth's surface, generally having steep slopes and a narrow summit or ridge.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- They rise considerably above the surrounding land.
- Their slopes are generally steep; valleys may occur between mountain ranges.
- Many mountains occur in long chains called mountain ranges.
- Very high mountains may have snow and glaciers near their upper parts.

PLATEAUS

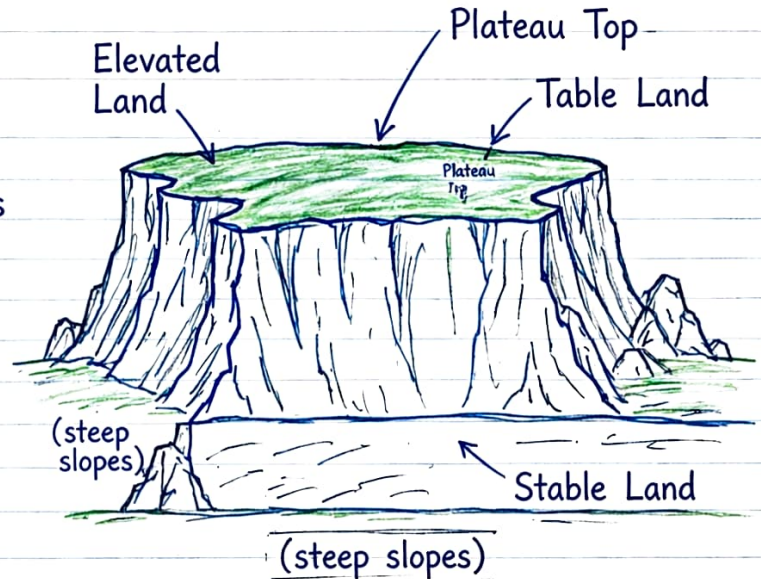
PLATEAUS - A plateau is an elevated area of relatively flat land. It may have steep sides and can be surrounded by lower land.

IMPORTANT FEATURES:

- A plateau is higher land than the surrounding land, but its upper surface is comparatively flat.
- Plateaus are sometimes called tablelands because their tops may look like a table.
- Rivers crossing plateaus can cut deep valleys and create waterfalls.
- Many plateaus are rich in minerals, so mining can be important there.

Example - Deccan Plateau.

Plateau Diagram



MEMORY LINE

- Intermontane plateaus lie between mountain ranges.
- Piedmont plateaus occur at the foothills of mountains.
- Continental plateaus cover broad parts of continents.

☁ Plateaus are rich in minerals and energy resources.

☁ Indian Deccan Plateau is rich in Black soil which is good in cotton cultivation.



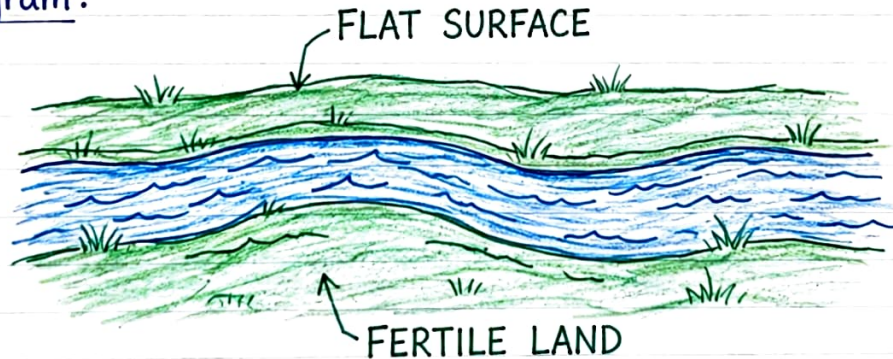
PLAIN S

Plains – Plains are broad areas of relatively flat or gently sloping land. Many plains are formed by the deposition of sediments carried by rivers.

Examples: River → Transports sediment → Deposition → Fertile alluvial soil → Agriculture.

Northern Plains

Diagram:

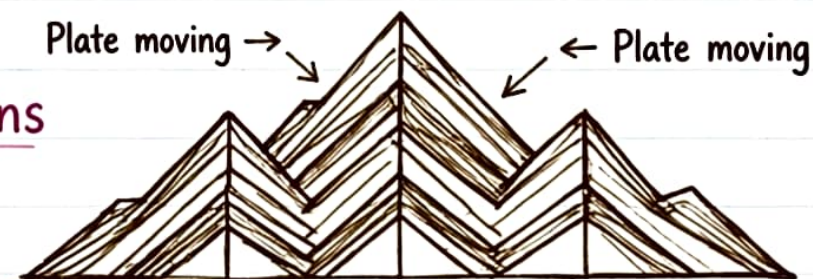


* Flat green land with blue river flowing through
– fertile and suitable for farming *

HOW DO MOUNTAINS FORM --

- Some mountains form when tectonic plates move towards each other and rocks are folded or uplifted.

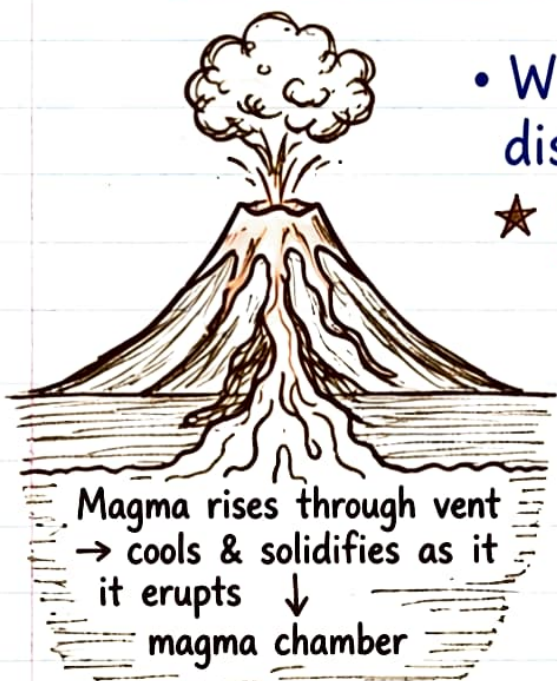
★ Folded mountains



Folded mountains → layers folded upwards

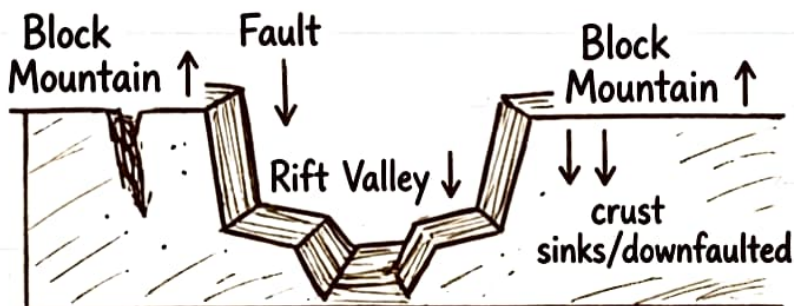
- Others form when magma rises and solidifies.

★ Volcanic mountains



- When blocks of Earth's crust are displaced along faults.

★ Block mountains & Rift Valley



Faults cause blocks to drop → forming rift valley, while adjacent blocks uplift → block mountains

MEMORY LINE:

- Convergent Plates → FOLD → FOLDED MOUNTAINS (wave/fold symbol)
- Divergent Plates → BLOCK MOUNTAINS (block/fault symbol)

Tip: Convergent = push together • Divergent = pull apart

1. INTERNAL FORCES

- PLATE MOVEMENTS



2. RUNNING WATER

- Erodes, Transports, Deposits sediments

WHO SHAPES LANDFORMS

4. SEA WAVES

- Erode coasts and deposit sediments along shores

5. WIND

- Carries and deposits fine particles in dry regions

3. GLACIERS

- Moving ice carve valleys