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This product was designed to give my students practice comprehending nonfiction text through “close readings.” I absolutely love integrating social studies and science topics with my reading and writing instruction, so these reading passages are a huge help in my classroom.

This is not a “how to” guide for close reading. Instead, this product contains five topics that can be used for close reading practice. There are three different reading passages for each topic, so you will have similar content for students on, above, and below grade level.

Each passage comes with three sets of close reading directions and questions. Students will be asked to highlight and make notes in the text and will be asked questions that become more challenging with each read. I have included answer keys for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> set of questions only, since answers will vary greatly for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of questions.

On the last page of the file, there is a link that will allow you to save this product in Google Docs. I’ve reworked the file so that students will be able to type in the answer spaces in Google Classroom!

# Landforms

Earth is full of beautiful and interesting things to see. There are vast and sweeping oceans, towering and icy mountains, and even rolling and green hills. Depending on where you are in the world, you may see different landscapes out your window on the way to school. These different surfaces and areas are called landforms.

There are many types of landforms, each with their own unique characteristics. Landforms can be formed quickly over millions of years. Almost all landforms are created by natural forces like wind, water, ice, or magma. Other landforms are made when tectonic plates in the crust of Earth smash into one another. No matter how a landform is created, it always changes, even if the changes are happening too slowly for our eyes to see.

One type of landform is mountains. Mountains can be formed by volcanic activity or by the collision of tectonic plates. Groupings of mountains, called ranges, are formed on the boundaries of two or more plates. There are mountain ranges throughout the world. The Alps are in Europe and the Himalayas, home of the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, is in Asia. The Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, and Sierra Nevada Mountains are in America.

The most common landform is plains. These flat and expansive areas make up more than half the planet's surface. Plains are crucial to farming. In America, the center of the country is called the Great Plains, and is responsible for the production of most of the country's food.

Other landforms like hills and plateaus are also found throughout the world. Plateaus are high areas of land that rise steeply from the lower land around them. In contrast, hills have sloping sides and rise up less steeply. Plateaus make up nearly one-third of the Earth's surface.

Together, all landforms make up the Earth's surface and give us something beautiful to look at and to use.



A desert is another example of a landform.

# Landforms

When you look out the window of your classroom, you may see different things than another student who lives across the country. Some parts of the world are flat, while other parts have tall mountains. Landforms is the term for the different shapes on the surface of the planet.

Landforms vary throughout the world. However, all landforms are created by natural forces. Every landform was created by either wind, water, ice glaciers, magma, or the movement of huge plates deep inside the Earth. Landforms are always changing, even though we can't always notice it.

One type of landform is mountains. These towering landforms usually have a peak, and they are steeper than the other landforms. Mountains are much taller than smaller landforms like hills. A group of mountains is called a range, and it can be caused by volcanic activity or by plates inside Earth moving together. There are mountains like the Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Another type of landform is the opposite of a mountain. Plains are large areas of land that are flat. There are no elevation changes in the plains, and even hills are few and far between. Plains are likely caused by millions of years of erosion breaking down hills into flat spaces. In America, there is a huge area called the Great Plains in the middle of the country. These areas are excellent for farming, and make about half of the Earth's surface!

There are also types of landforms that are unique like plateaus and common like hills. A plateau is a landform that rises up sharply from the other land around it. This landform makes up about one-third of the Earth's surface. Hills are also taller than the land around them, but hills have sloping sides and do not rise as sharply as a plateau.

Whether if you live near mountains or in the plains, landforms give us something beautiful to look at when you glance out your window.



A desert is another example of a landform.

# Landforms

When you look outside your window, what do you see? Do you see green hills? Do you see rocky mountains? Do you see flat farm fields? The Earth's surface looks different from place to place. The different shapes on the surface of Earth are called landforms.

Landforms are everywhere. All landforms were made by nature. Some landforms were made by wind, water, or ice. Some landforms were made by volcanoes exploding. Some landforms were created by huge pieces of rocks running into each other underground. Landforms are always changing, even if we don't notice it.

One type of landform is a mountain. This landform is steep and tall. Mountains are made when rocks in the Earth's crust collide with against each other. The collision can cause a group of mountains. Mountain ranges, or groups of mountains, are throughout Earth. For example, you can find the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains.

Another type of landform is called a plain. You know when land is considered a plain because it is very flat. Plains are necessary for farmers to plant and grow crops. Plains make up half of the surface of the Earth. In America, the center of the country is a big plain. The area is called the Great Plains.

Other types of landforms are called hills and plateaus. A plateau is taller than the land around it. The plateau rises up sharply from the lower land. Plateaus make up almost one-third of the surface of Earth. Hills are also higher than the land around them. However, hills have sloping sides and not steep ones.

Landforms make the Earth more interesting to look at. Landforms also make farming and exploring easier. You can find landforms everywhere in the world.



A desert is another example of a landform.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

# Landforms

1st  
Read

- Read the entire passage.
- Write any interesting observations or notes in the left margin.
- Write any questions you have about the text in the right margin.
- Answer the questions below. When you answer a question, be sure to write the question number beside the text evidence you used to answer the question.

1. How are landforms made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How are mountains formed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What makes up half of the Earth's surface? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How are hills and plateaus alike and different? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

# Landforms

2nd  
Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Highlight one key word or phrase in each paragraph.
- Circle any words that you do not know (how to read or the meaning).
- Answer the questions below.

1. What nonfiction text feature did the author use, and how did it help you understand the text?

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2. Name a key word you highlighted. Why did you select that word?

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3. What is the main purpose of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph?

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

# Landforms

3rd  
Read

- Reread the entire passage.
- Write a small C beside ideas you could make a connection with.
- Write a + where you were able to add new information to your existing knowledge.
- Answer the last question in paragraph form.

What two landforms are most common? Support your thoughts with text evidence.

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