

Geography Definitions/Sentences

1. BEACH 1. The shore of a body of water, especially when sandy or pebbly. 2. The sand or pebbles on a shore. The zone above the water line at a shore of a body of water, marked by an accumulation of sand, stone, or gravel that has been deposited by the tide or waves.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND PARKING AT THE BEACH.

2. CANAL 1. An artificial waterway or artificially improved river used for travel, shipping, or irrigation.
PANAMA IS FAMOUS FOR IT'S CANAL.

3. COAST Land next to the sea; the seashore.
THE CALIFORNIA COAST SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO IS VERY SCENIC.

4. COMPASS A device used to determine geographic direction, usually consisting of a magnetic needle or needles horizontally mounted or suspended and free to pivot until aligned with the earth's magnetic field.
THE COMPASS INDICATED THAT WE WERE WALKING SOUTH.

5. COMPASS ROSE An icon of a compass that appears on every map indicates which direction is north, south, etc.
THE COMPASS ROSE IS ON EVERY MAP.

6. CORE (earth) The central portion of the earth below the mantle, beginning at a depth of about 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) and probably consisting of iron and nickel. It is made up of a liquid outer core and a solid inner core.
THE EARTH'S CORE IS EXTREMELY HOT, APPROXIMATELY 9,000 DEGREES.

6. CLIFF A high, steep, or overhanging face of rock.
THE CLIFF WAS 500 FEET HIGH.

7. CRUST 1. The exterior layer of the earth. 2. The outermost solid layer of a planet or moon.
HOW DEEP IS THE EARTH'S CRUST?

9. CYCLE An interval of time during which a characteristic, often regularly repeated event or sequence of events occurs.
YOUR HOMEWORK IS TO READ THE ARTICLE ON THE WATER CYCLE.

10. DAM 1. A barrier constructed across a waterway to control the flow or raise the level of water. 2. A body of water controlled by such a barrier.
THE DAM WAS BUILT IN 1955.

11. DEGREE A unit of latitude or longitude, equal to 1/360 of a great circle.
THE BOAT WAS LOCATED 40 DEGREES SOUTH OF THE ISLAND.

12. DESERT 1. A barren or desolate area. 2. A dry, often sandy region of little rainfall, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation. 3. A region of permanent cold that is largely or entirely devoid of life. 4. A wild, uncultivated, and uninhabited region.
THE DESERT WAS EXTREMELY HOT THAT DAY.

13. EARTHQUAKE A sudden movement of the earth's crust caused by the release of stress accumulated along geologic faults or by volcanic activity. Also called seism, temblor.
DID YOU FEEL THE EARTHQUAKE?

14. EAST The cardinal point on the mariner's compass 90° clockwise from due north and directly opposite west.
GO STRAIGHT ONE MILE, THEN TURN EAST.

15. EQUATOR The imaginary great circle around the earth's surface, equal distant from the poles and perpendicular to the earth's axis of rotation. It divides the earth into the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.
HURRICANES TEND TO ORIGINATE NEAR THE EQUATOR.

16. FAULT A fracture in the continuity of a rock formation caused by a shifting or dislodging of the earth's crust, in which adjacent surfaces are displaced relative to one another and parallel to the plane of fracture.

MANY EARTHQUAKE FAULTS ARE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

17. FLOOD An overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry.
THE FLOOD DESTROYED MANY HOUSES.

18. GEOGRAPHY 1.The study of the earth and its features and of the distribution of life on the earth, including human life and the effects of human activity. 2.The physical characteristics, especially the surface features, of an area.

WHERE IS YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK?

19. GEYSER A natural hot spring that intermittently ejects a column of water and steam into the air.

THE GEYSER SHOULD ERUPT IN A FEW MINUTES.

20. HEMISPHERE Either the northern or southern half of the earth as divided by the equator or the eastern or western half as divided by a meridian.

CANADA IS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

21. HILL 1. A well-defined natural elevation smaller than a mountain. 2. A small heap, pile, or mound.

I LOVE TO DRIVE IN THE HILLS!

22. HURRICANE 1. A severe tropical cyclone originating in the equatorial regions of the Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea or eastern regions of the Pacific Ocean, traveling north, northwest, or northeast from its point of origin, and usually involving heavy rains. 2. A wind with a speed greater than 74 miles (119 kilometers) per hour, according to the Beaufort scale.

HURRICANES TEND TO ORIGINATE NEAR THE EQUATOR.

23. ISLAND A landmass, especially one smaller than a continent, entirely surrounded by water.

THE BOAT WAS LOCATED 40 DEGREES SOUTH OF THE ISLAND.

24. LAKE A large inland body of fresh water or salt water.
THERE IS NO BOATING ALLOWED IN THE LAKE.

25. LAND The solid ground of the earth.
THE LAND PARALLEL TO THE RIVER IS VERY MUDDY.

26. MESA A broad, flat-topped elevation with one or more cliff like sides, common in the southwest United States.
THE INDIANS WERE LIVING ON THE MESA.

27. MOUNTAIN A natural elevation of the earth's surface having considerable mass, generally steep sides, and a height greater than that of a hill.
THERE ARE MANY BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS IN SWITZERLAND.

28. NORTH The direction along a meridian 90° counterclockwise from east; the direction to the left of sunrise.
THE CANAL WAS BUILT NORTH OF THE CITY.

29. OCEAN 1. The entire body of salt water that covers more than 70 percent of the earth's surface. 2. Any of the principal divisions of the ocean, including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Antarctic oceans.
THE BOAT TOSSED AND TURNED IN THE OCEAN.

30. PEAK (mountain) 1. A tapering, projecting point; a pointed extremity: *the peak of a cap; the peak of a roof*. 2. The pointed summit of a mountain.
YOU CAN SEE THE PENINSULA FROM THE PEAK (mountain).

31. PENINSULA A piece of land that projects into a body of water and is connected with the mainland by an isthmus.
YOU CAN SEE THE PENINSULA FROM THE PEAK (mountain).

32. PETRIFICATION A process of fossilization in which dissolved minerals replace organic matter.
IN NORTHERN ARIZONA YOU CAN FIND PETRIFIED WOOD.

33. RAIN Water condensed from atmospheric vapor and falling in drops.
IT RAINED FOR 10 DAYS.

34. RIVER A large natural stream of water emptying into an ocean, lake, or other body of water and usually fed along its course by converging tributaries.

THE LAND PARALLEL TO THE RIVER IS VERY MUDDY.

35. ROCK Relatively hard, naturally formed mineral or petrified matter; stone.

THAT AREA HAS A LOT OF LARGE ROCKS.

36. SOUTH The cardinal point on the mariner's compass 180° clockwise from due north and directly opposite north. 2. An area or region lying in the south.

THE CALIFORNIA COAST SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO IS VERY SCENIC.

37. TORNADO A rotating column of air ranging in width from a few yards to more than a mile and whirling at destructively high speeds, usually accompanied by a funnel-shaped downward extension of a cumulonimbus cloud.

TORNADOES TEND TO OCCUR IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

38. VALLEY An elongated lowland between ranges of mountains, or other uplands, often having a stream running along the bottom.

IF YOU LOOK WEST, YOU WILL SEE A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY.

39. VOLCANO An opening in the earth's crust through which molten lava, ash, and gases are ejected.

HAWAII HAS SEVERAL VOLCANOS.

40. WEST The cardinal point on the mariner's compass 270° clockwise from due north and directly opposite east.

IF YOU LOOK WEST, YOU WILL SEE A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY.

41. WIND Moving air, especially a natural and perceptible movement of air parallel to or along the ground.

THE HEAVY WIND CAUSED MANY TREES TO FALL DOWN.