



# WATER vs LAND

Earth's surface is made of land and water arranged in different types of natural features. The features vary greatly in their size and shape. They form when water, air, ice, and land interact through a process called **erosion**.

As water moves across the land, from small streams to ocean waves, it picks up bits of the land, which is reshaped. While erosion can be a slow process, it is powerful and can form amazing structures like the Grand Canyon!

There are other processes that affect Earth's surface. Humans, plants, and other animals can change the shape of the land. Energy from the center of the Earth causes its surface to move around, forming deep trenches, tall mountain ranges, or even volcanoes!

Some landforms look like water bodies but they form in different ways. Below are descriptions of parts of water bodies and landforms that look like each other.

## Bodies of Water

**Bays** are enclosed by land on one half.

vs

**Lakes** are surrounded by land.

vs

**Straits** are narrow divisions between pieces of land.

vs

A **gulf** is large and mostly surrounded by land.

vs

**Lake systems** are collections of lakes

vs

## Landforms

**Capes** stick out slightly from the surrounding land.

**Islands** are surrounded by water.

An **isthmus** is a bridge of land with water on both sides.

**Peninsulas** are narrow and surrounded by water on three sides

**Archipelagos** are collections of islands.

**Instructions:** Print this worksheet double-sided. Cut out the shapes. Arrange the pieces so they fit together like a puzzle with green and blue parts and tape them together. Use the descriptions above to identify each landform on the front and back of each card.



