

Our Story, Our World



Unit 1 Land and Community

Unit: 1

Lesson: 2

Earth's Physical Features



Essential Question:

What landforms and bodies of water are on Earth and near me?

Objective:

I can recognize and name different types of landforms and bodies of water on Earth and in my region.

Theme Vocabulary



Plateau



Canyon



Peninsula



Strait



Canal



Relief map

What Is Earth Made Of?

- The Earth consists of landforms and bodies of water.
- Landforms include various areas of land, ranging from large continents to small hills.
- Bodies of water are places where water gathers, from oceans to tiny streams.





Look at the picture. Where do the rivers begin? Where do they flow? How do you know?

The rivers flow from the mountains to the ocean. They start high in the mountains, and water flows downhill. Most rivers flow toward larger bodies of water.

Plateaus

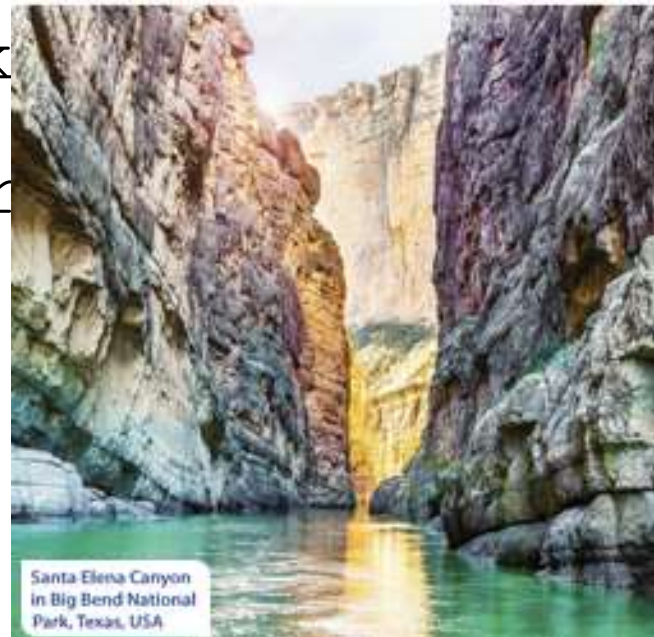
- Many continents have the same kinds of landforms.
- Mountains are tall and rise above the land around them.
- The Himalayas in Asia are the highest mountains on Earth.
- A plateau is a raised area of land that has a flat top and can be very big.



Adrar Plateau
in Mauritania

Canyons

- Valleys and canyons are lower areas of land.
- A canyon is a deep kind of valley, usually formed by rivers.
- As rivers flow, they take bits of rock from their beds, gradually making the bed deeper and creating a canyon over



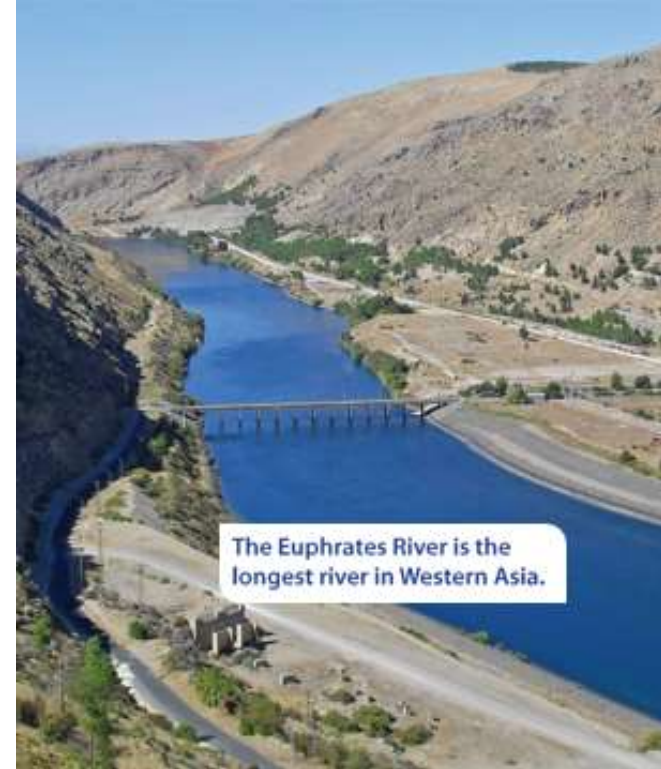
Peninsulas

- A peninsula is a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides.
- Peninsulas exist on every continent and can vary in size.
- Some peninsulas are so small they only have space for a single lighthouse.



Bodies of Water

- Bodies of water are everywhere, around all continents.
- **Oceans** are big and salty. There are five: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic Southern Ocean
- **Lakes** are bodies of fresh water completely enclosed by land.
- **Rivers** start high and flow down to lower areas. Rivers end up in lakes, reservoirs, or oceans.



Bodies of Water

- A **strait** is a naturally made, narrow body of water between two areas of land. It connects two larger bodies of water.
- Which larger bodies of water does the Taiwan Strait connect?

Highlight the labels.



Bodies of Water

- A **canal** is a man-made waterway.
- It links two larger bodies of water.
- Example: China's Grand Canal connects the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers, stretching 1,800 kilometers.



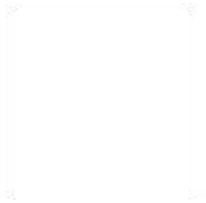
How is a strait different from a canal?

- A strait is made naturally.
- A canal is made by humans.



Mission Links: Find Evidence

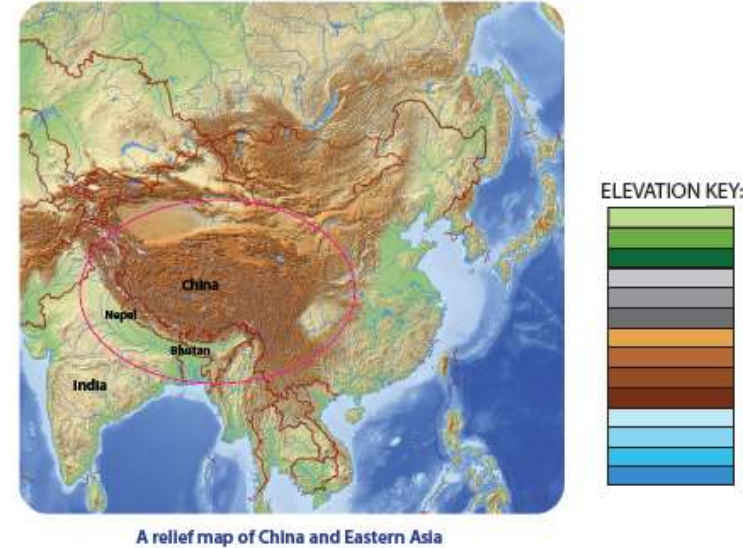
- Find and underline the descriptions of bodies of water.
- Which body of water should people visit in your country?
- Explain why to a friend.



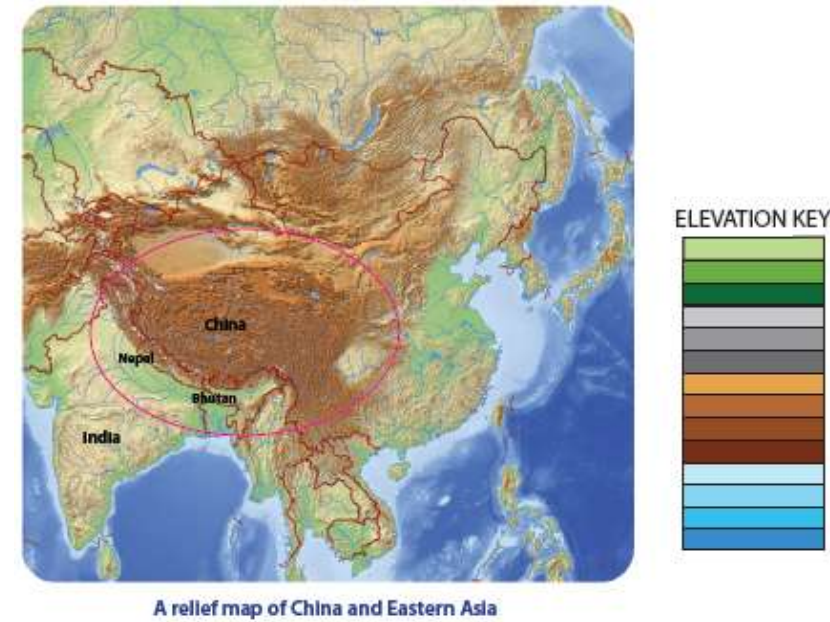
Skills Practice: Reading a Relief Map

A relief map is a type of physical map that uses shading and colors to represent landforms and bodies of water.

- On a relief map, shading and coloring show different land and water features:
- Mountains are shown with dark brown and a rough texture.
- Plains appear as smooth and green, representing lower land.
- The deepest parts of the ocean are pictured in dark blue.



Find and circle the highest land in China and the oval in the west of China that looks flat. Do these two areas have the same elevation? How do you know?



No, the oval area that looks flat is higher. I know because it is colored a light brown. If they were the same elevation, it would be dark brown.

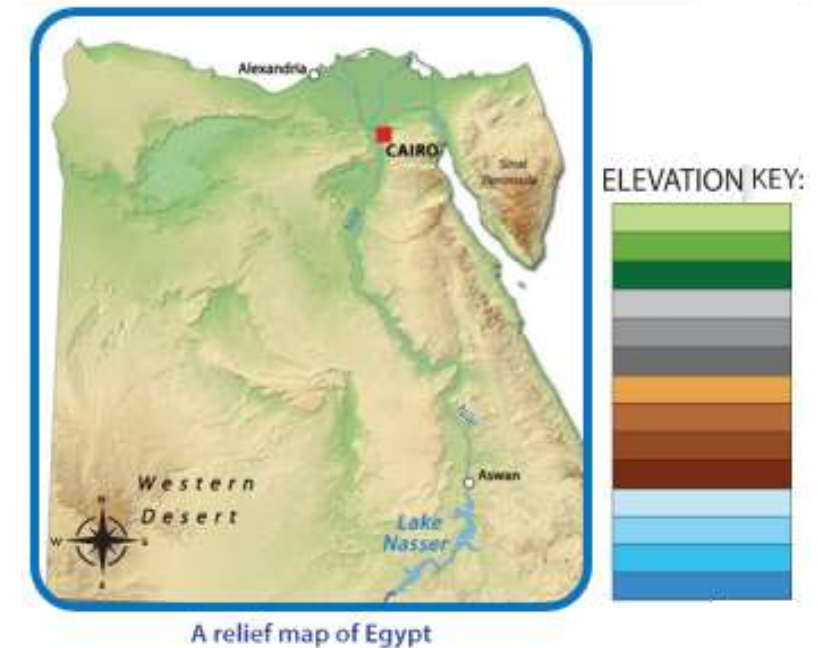
Try it !

Look at the colors on this map of Egypt. See the areas that look rough, like mountains. See the smooth green areas that look like flat lands. Remember that darker colors show higher elevations.

- Which labeled landform has the highest land?

How do you know?

The Sinai Peninsula; Its mountains are colored a darker brown than the Western Desert.



- Find the Nile River. Trace the Nile River with your finger. Which city has the lowest elevation, Aswan or Alexandria? How do you know?

Alexandria; it is colored a deeper green than Aswan.



Unlock the Mission Links

Which landforms and bodies of water would you add to a map for visitors to your country? Why? Talk it over with a classmate.

