

TOPOGRAPHY

Geology is the scientific study of the earth; origin, structure, processes.

Geomorphology is the study of landforms; origins, characteristics, evolution, processes.

Topography is the study of surface features; formation and change over time. It is a result of tectonic and gradational forces and influenced by surface rock material and climate.

Topography changes over time as a result of surface and interior processes.

I. Tectonic Forces (internal/building)

- A. Folding
- B. Faulting
- C. Volcanism

II. Gradational Forces (external/wear away)

- A. Mechanical and chemical weathering
- B. Mass wasting
- C. Agents of erosion

III. Natural Processes (either tectonic or gradational)

- A. Mass movement
- B. Earthquakes
- C. Volcanic eruption
- D. Flooding
- E. Subsidence

TOPOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Each major topographic region represents certain advantages and disadvantages for human settlement. These vary with climate.

- I. Mountains**
- II. Plains**
- III. Hills**
- IV. Plateaus**
- V. Coastlines**