

TOPOGRAPHY

I. Definitions

- A. Geography:** study of people living on the surface of the earth.
- B. Geology:** the scientific study of the earth.
- C. Geomorphology:** the study of landforms.
- D. Topography:** the study of surface features.

II. Processes

- A. Topography is created and changed over time by geologic and atmospheric processes working on rock material.**
- B. Tectonic Forces** (internal/building)
 - 1. Folding
 - 2. Faulting
 - 3. Volcanism
- C. Gradational Forces** (external/wear away).
 - 1. Mechanical and chemical weathering
 - 2. Mass wasting (gravity influenced)
 - 3. Agents of erosion
(*Erode or Take + Transport or Move + Deposit or Build*)
 - a) Running water
 - b) Moving ice
 - c) Wind
 - d) Wave action
 - e) Longshore currents
- D. Natural Processes** (either tectonic or gradational).
 - 1. Mass movements
 - 2. Earthquakes
 - 3. Volcanic eruptions
 - 4. Subsidence

III. Topographic Regions

A. Terrain - natural landscape.

1. Mountains
2. Plains
3. Hills
4. Plateaus
5. Coastlines

B. Characteristics.

1. Elevation
2. Relief
3. Slope angle
4. Valley shapes
5. Vertical zonation of climate

IV. Human Interaction

A. Each major topographic region represents certain advantages and disadvantages to human land use and settlement.

B. Human use of topographic regions varies with climate and technology.

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