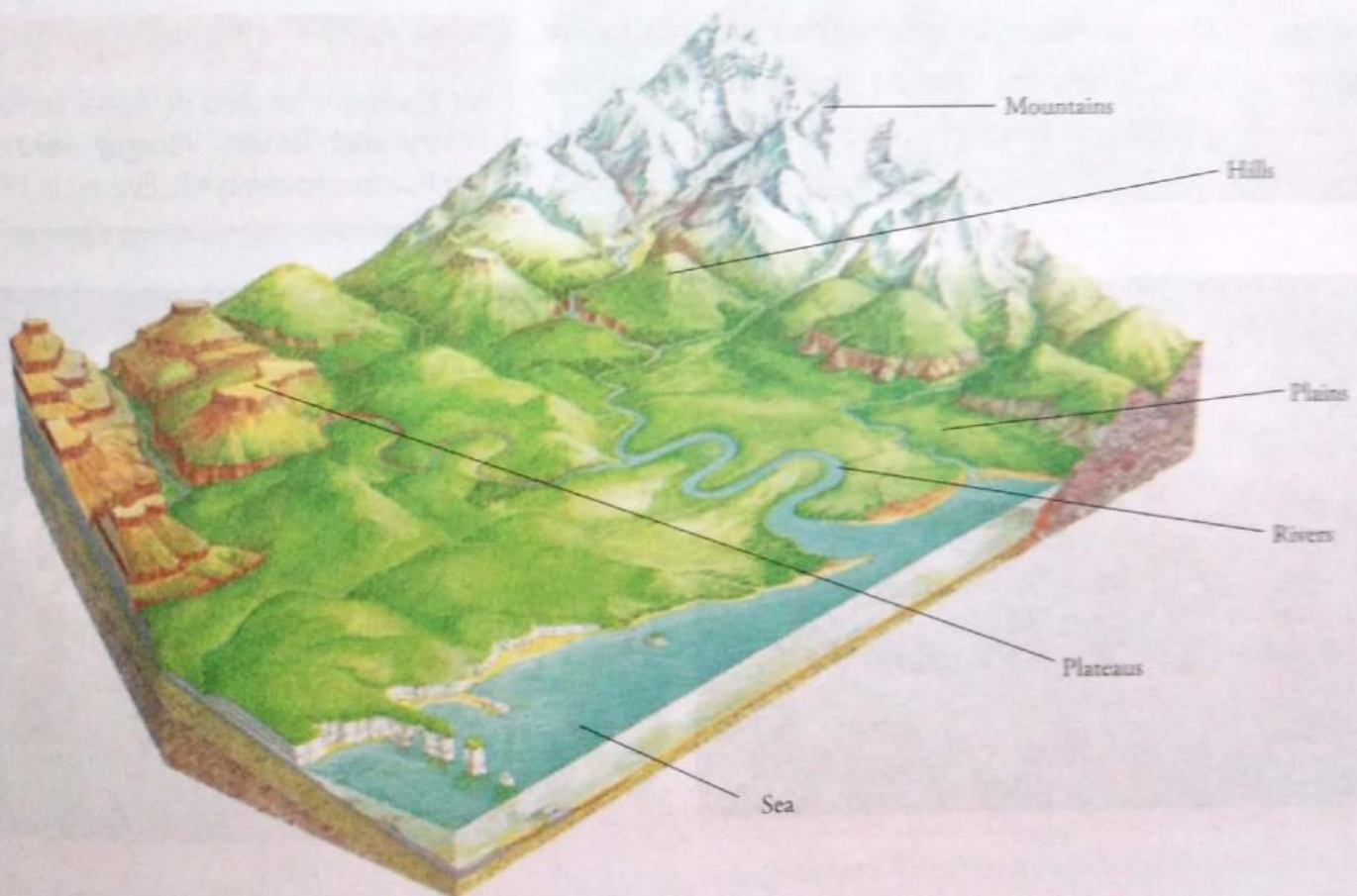


Key Concepts

- Major landforms:
 - Mountains
 - Plateaus
 - Plains
 - Deserts

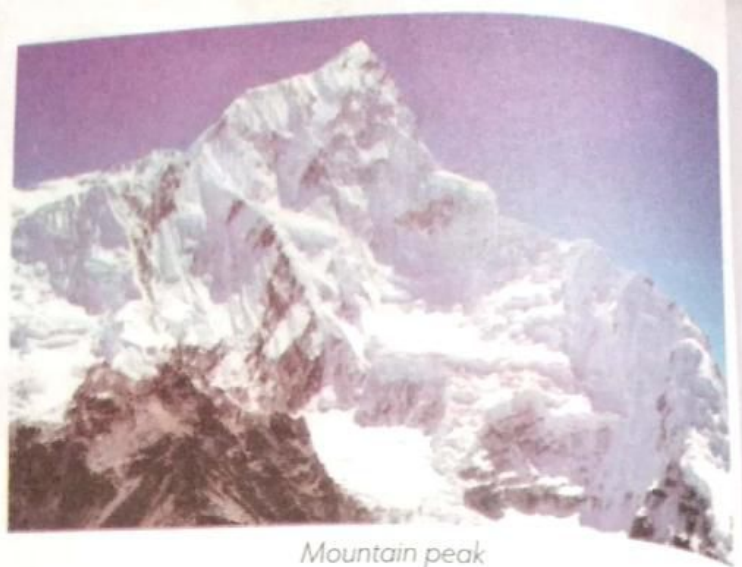
The surface of the Earth is not the same everywhere. Some parts are higher, some are rough and others flat. Depending upon elevation and slope, land has been divided into three major landforms—mountains, plateaus and plains.



Major landforms of the Earth

MOUNTAIN

A mountain is a huge mass of land which rises much above the general level of the surrounding areas. Its uppermost point is called the peak. Mount Everest is the highest peak above the sea level in the world. Mountains are generally arranged in a chain called a range. The Himalayas are the world's highest mountain range.



Mountain peak

VALLEY

A valley is the low land found between two mountains, for example, Kashmir Valley. Rivers rising from the mountains flow through these valleys. So they are also known as river valleys.

Stop to Answer

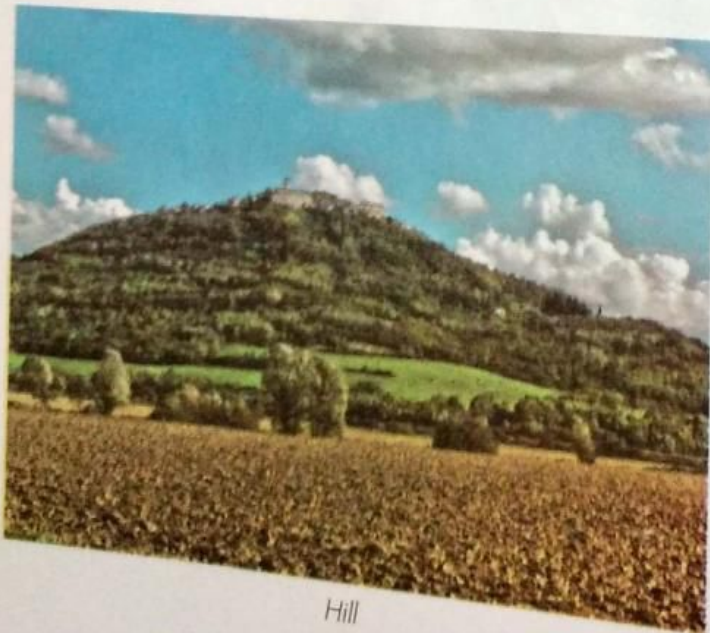
- Name three hill stations in India?

HILL

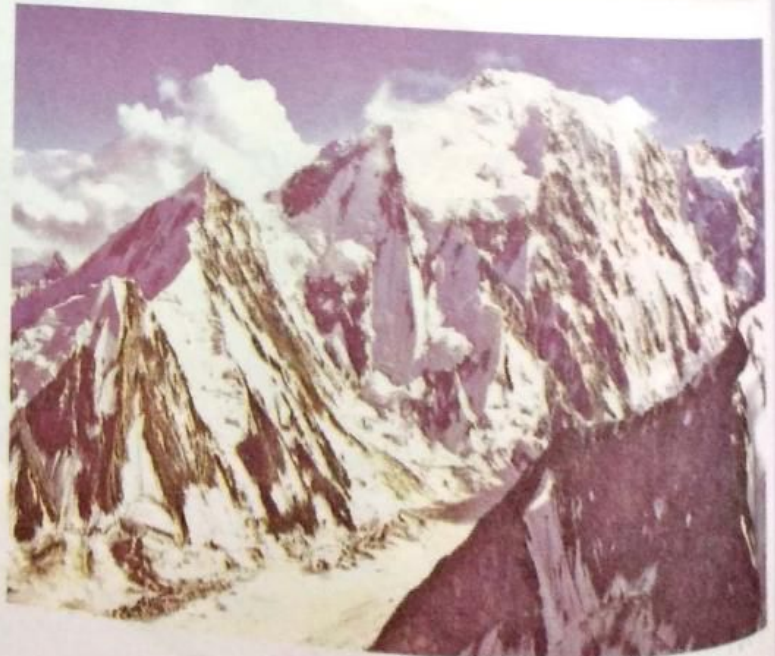
Landforms that are lesser in height than mountains are known as hills. They rise almost uniformly from the surrounding land, for example, Garo and Khasi hills of Meghalaya.

Good to know!

Mt. Everest is located in Nepal. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first humans to climb Mt. Everest in 1953.



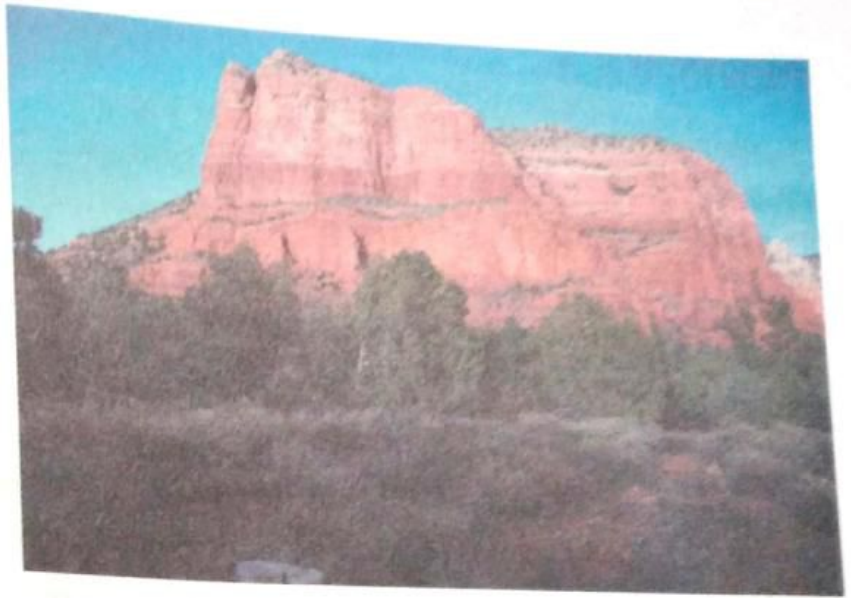
Hill



Valley

PLATEAU

Plateaus are highlands with a broad and flat surface on the top. They are sometimes referred to as tablelands. They rise abruptly above the surrounding plains. A plateau may have steep slopes on one or more sides. The Plateau of Tibet to the north of the Himalayas is the highest plateau in the world.



Plateau

PLAINS

Low lying flat surfaces with very gentle slopes are called plains. Most of the plains are formed by the deposits of silt and sediments brought by the rivers. They are fertile places, for example, the Northern Plains of India are formed by the River Ganga and its tributaries.

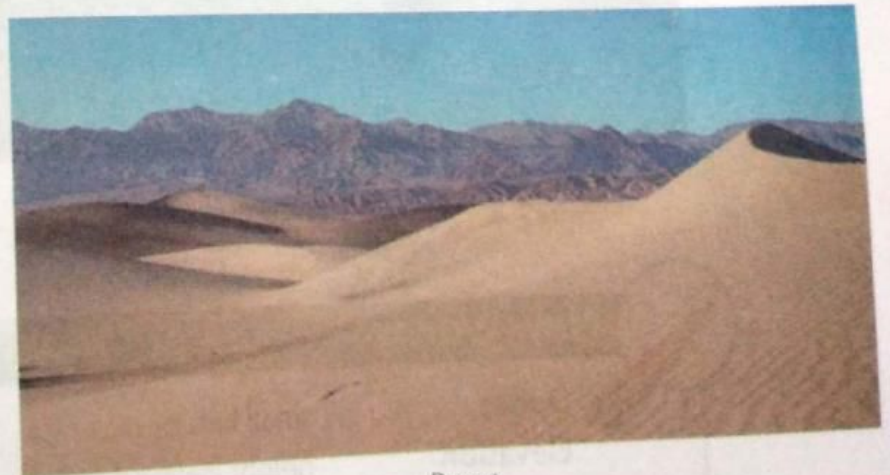


Plains

DESERT

A desert is a dry land covered with sand and rocks or stones, which receives less rainfall. The Thar Desert is found in the north-western part of India.

Deserts are usually very hot and dry and have hills of sand called sand dunes. There are cold deserts too. Ladakh is a cold desert.



Desert

Good to know!

The largest desert, Sahara in North Africa, is a hot and sandy desert. The Atacama in South America is the driest desert, where some places have not had rain for 400 years.

PENINSULA

A peninsula is a landmass surrounded by water on three sides and one side is connected to a landmass. The southern part of India is a peninsula, surrounded by the Arabian Sea in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Indian Ocean in the south.

Good to know!

The Great Northern Plains of India or Indo-Gangetic Plains is the best area for growing crops in India. It is also one of the most densely populated regions of the country.

ISLAND

An island is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. India has two groups of islands—the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal. Lakshadweep is a group of islands that are located in the Arabian Sea.

Good to know!

Greenland, a part of the continent of Europe, is the largest island in the world.



An island



New Words

- Dunes** : small hills or mounds
- Elevation** : height beyond a certain level
- Sediments** : matter that settles at the bottom of a water body
- Slope** : a surface of which one end or side is at a higher level than another
- Steep** : very sharp (used for bends and slopes)
- Tributaries** : small streams or rivers connected to the main river

Recap

- Landforms and water bodies constitute the physical features of the Earth.
- Mountains and hills are both landforms which rise above the surrounding land but mountains are higher than hills.
- A plateau is also known as tableland.
- A plain is a vast area of flat land characterised by human settlement and vegetation cover.
- A piece of land surrounded by water on three sides is called peninsula.

EXERCISE

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. A mountain range is
 - a. a chain of mountains.
 - b. a narrow point of the mountains.
 - c. the highest point of the mountains.
2. A valley is a
 - a. low land found in between two plateaus.
 - b. low land.
 - c. low land found in between two mountains.
3. An example of cold desert is
 - a. Sahara
 - b. Gobi
 - c. Ladakh
4. A part of the sea which is bounded by land on three sides is called a
 - a. bay
 - b. island
 - c. peninsula
5. The hills of Meghalaya are
 - a. Garo hills and Khasi hills
 - b. Nilgiri hills
 - c. Aravalli hills

B. Write true or false.

1. The tip of a mountain is called the peak.
2. Ladakh is a hot desert.
3. The southern part of India is a peninsula.

4. A desert is a wet land covered with sand and rocks or stone.
5. Mountains are generally arranged in a chain called range.

C. Fill in the blanks.

1. is the highest peak in the world.
2. Plateaus are highlands with a and surface on the top.
3. Low lying flat surfaces are called
4. In deserts, the hills of sand are called
5. is a cold desert.

D. Match the words of column A to the words of column B.

Column A	Column B
1. mountains	a. Khasi
2. valley	b. Plateau of Tibet
3. hill	c. Indo-Gangetic
4. plateau	d. Kashmir Valley
5. plains	e. Thar
6. desert	f. Himalayas

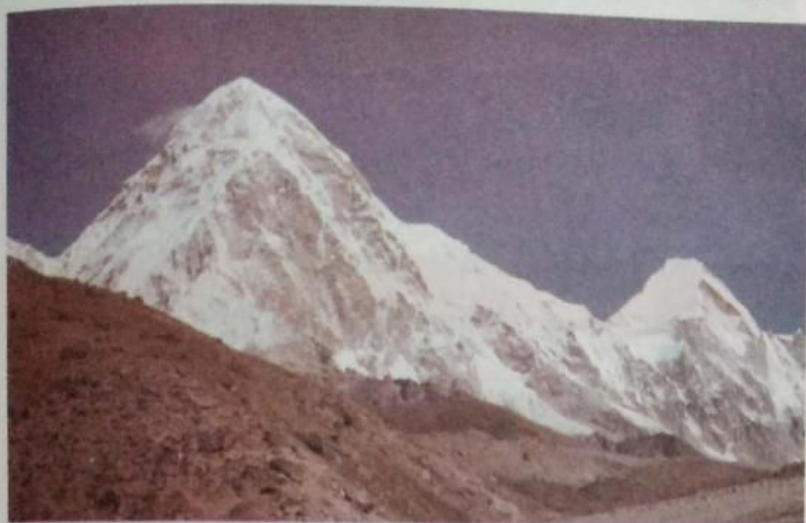
E. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the difference between a mountain peak and a mountain range?
2. Why are plateaus called tablelands?
3. Describe a desert. Give one example.
4. Describe a plain.
5. Give one example of cold desert.
6. List the differences between a peninsula and an island.
7. How do plains develop?
8. Why the southern part of India called a peninsula?

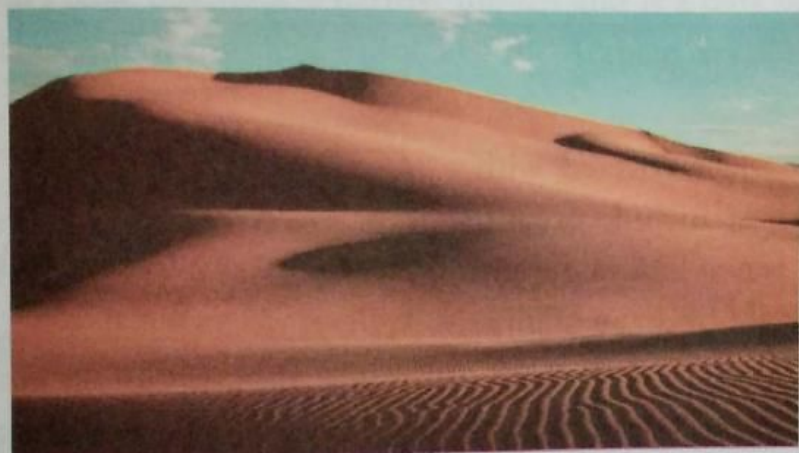
F. Picture study

Identify and write the names of the landforms given in the pictures.

1.



2.



G. Project work

1. Make a model of mountains and a valley using clay, cotton, crepe paper and twigs. You can add rocks and houses if you wish. You can also make a model of a plateau.
2. Imagine what it is like to live in plains and deserts. From an encyclopaedia find out more about plains and deserts. Make two groups A and B. Now Group A can explain what it is like to live in the plains and Group B can talk about what it is like to live in a desert.
3. Collect pictures of interesting landforms from around the world and paste them in your scrapbook.