

G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Subject: S.St

(Geography)

Topic: Major Landforms of the Earth

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Grade VI

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Relief Features or Landforms:

The surface of the earth is not uniform and at some places it is several thousand metres above the mean sea level while at other places it is flat. So these variations on the land surface are called relief features or landforms.

The ground on which we are standing is slowly moving. The landforms on the earth's surface have been created and developed by two types of forces-

● **Tectonic force:**

It is responsible for the upliftment and subsidence on the earth's surface .

● **Gradational force :**

● **The gradational forces originate from outside the earth. It modifies the irregularities created by the internal forces.**

Erosion:

The wearing away of the surface of the earth is called erosion. It causes the lowering of the surface.

The three major types of landforms classified on the basis of their elevation, relief and scope are mountains, plateaus and plains.

Mountains:

A mountain is a landmass which rises more than 900 m above the mean sea level.

Different forms of mountains are discussed below.

- **Mountain range**

It is a system of mountains and hills having peaks and valleys, arranged in a line.

- **Mountain chain**

It has several parallel long and narrow ranges.

- **Mountain system**

It has several mountain ranges separated by valleys.

- **Cordillera**

It is generally a huge mountain belt stretching almost across the entire continent.

- **Fold mountains**

These are formed by horizontal compressional forces.

- **Block mountains**

These are formed by horizontal tensional forces which cause faults in the crust.

- **Volcanic mountains**

These are formed due to the deposition of lava.

Plateaus

A plateau is a highland with steep slopes and a large summit area.

On the basis of their origin and location, plateaus can be broadly classified into the following types;

- **Intermontane plateaus**

These are completely or partially enclosed by mountains.

- **Continental plateaus**

These rise abruptly from the bordering lowlands or from the sea.

- **Lava Plateaus**

These are formed by fissure flows.

Plains:

These are lowlands where the slope of the land is gradual.They are suitable for agriculture,settlement and transportation.