

Landforms and Waterways Explained

GEOGRAPHY



Overview

Students create an educational video explaining how a specific landform or waterway is formed, combining geography with earth science.

Steps for Teachers

1. Review different landforms (mountains, valleys, canyons, etc.) and waterways (rivers, lakes, deltas)
2. Students select a landform or waterway to research
3. Students research how their feature is formed over time
4. Students write a script explaining the formation process
5. Students create visuals showing the feature at different stages
6. Students record their explanation with before/during/after perspectives
7. Build a class landform glossary with all videos

Example

A student explains how a river delta forms. Character stands near a river mouth: 'I'm at the Mississippi River Delta! A delta forms when a river meets the ocean or a lake. Watch what happens: the river carries tiny pieces of rock and soil called sediment. When the river slows down at the ocean, it drops all that sediment. Over thousands of years, the sediment piles up and creates new land! See how it spreads out like a fan? That's why it's called a delta—it looks like the Greek letter Δ!'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Scientific Accuracy	Formation process explained correctly with proper terms	Generally accurate explanation	Significant errors in formation process
Process Explanation	Clear step-by-step explanation of formation	Explains main stages of formation	Confusing or incomplete process explanation
Time Scale Understanding	Conveys that formation takes geological time	Mentions time but may not emphasize scale	Doesn't address time involved
Real-World Examples	Uses specific, real examples effectively	Includes some real examples	Generic explanation without examples