GEOGRAPHY FROM A TO Z

A PICTURE GLOSSARY

By Jack Knowlton  Pictures by Harriett Barton
Archipelago—a group of islands clustered together in an open expanse of sea or ocean. The Philippine Islands are a large archipelago.

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Atoll—small tropical islands and reefs that encircle shallow pools of seawater called lagoons. Atolls and reefs are built of coral, the rocklike, compacted skeletons of billions upon billions of tiny sea animals called polyps.
Badland—rocky wasteland that has been carved by erosion into intricate and fantastic shapes. **Erosion** is the process by which water, wind, and ice slowly change the shape, size, and look of every feature on Earth by wearing it away.

Bay—a small area of sea or lake partly enclosed by dry land. Coves and inlets are very small bays. Some deep, sheltered bays are called **harbors**.

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Beach—the sandy or rocky land at the edge of an ocean, sea, or lake. Beaches are part of the coastline or seashore.

Butte—an isolated, rocky hill or mountain with a small flat top. A mesa is similar to a butte except it has a large flat top.
Canyon—a deep, narrow valley with steep, rocky sides. Flowing along the bottom or floor of most canyons is the river that created it by carving through the surrounding rock. Small canyons are called chasms, gorges, or ravines.

Cape—a pointed piece of land that projects from a coastline. Small capes are often called points or spits.