Landforms

Vocabulary
Landforms

- Topography
  - Shape of land
    - Includes elevation, relief and landforms
  - Elevation
    - Height above sea level
  - Relief
    - Difference in elevation between highest and lowest points in an area
- Landforms
  - Three major landforms are plains, plateaus and mountains
Landforms

• Plains
  • Nearly flat or gently rolling land with low relief
  • Interior and coastal plains
  • Example: Great Plains are broad interior plain in North America

• Plateaus
  • High elevation, more or less level surface
  • Example: Columbia Plateau in Washington State
Landforms

• Mountains
  • High elevation and high relief
  • Mountain range: group of mountains that are closely related in shape, structure, area and age
  • Example: Bitterroot Mountains in Idaho
Landforms

- Rocky Mountains
- Colorado Plateau
- Great Plains
Landforms

• Landform region
  • Large area of land where topography is mainly of one type of landform
  • Other terms can be used
    • An upland is region with hilly topography
    • A lowland is plain with low elevation
Landforms of the United States
Landforms of Florida

- Limestone
  - Sedimentary rock formed over millions of years from remains of tiny sea animals (corals)
  - Limestone is carbonate rock
  - Florida sits atop a platform of limestone
Landforms of Florida

• Three Florida landforms
  • Northern highlands
    • Gently sloping plateaus
  • Central highlands
    • Long ridges
  • Coastal lowlands
    • Dunes and beaches on Gulf coast
    • Wetlands along southern tip
Landforms of Florida

- **Features**
  - **Ridges**
    - Long raised strips of land that run parallel to the coast
  - **Lakes**
    - More than 7000 in Florida
Landforms of Florida

• Features
  • Wetlands
    • land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally
    • Can be saltwater, freshwater, or brackish.
    • Swamp: wetland that is *forested*
      • Example: Panther Refuge (pineland and cypress)
      • Example: mangrove swamp in Florida Bay (saltwater)
    • Marsh: dominated by herbaceous (non-tree) species
      • Example: Sawgrass marsh and sloughs in Everglades (freshwater)
Landforms of Florida

Pine rockland, Everglades National Park
Landforms of Florida

Mangrove trees and wildlife in Florida Bay at Flamingo, Everglades National Park
Landforms of Florida

Sawgrass marsh
Landforms of Florida

• Features
  • Tropical hardwood hammocks
    • Small islands of trees growing on land raised above sloughs and prairies

• Aquifers
  • Underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock
  • Example: Biscayne Aquifer

• Archipelagos
  • Chain or cluster of islands
  • Example: Florida Keys
Landforms of Florida

Tropical hardwood hammock
Landforms of Florida

• Features
  • Caverns
    • a natural underground space large enough for a human
  • Sinkholes (Karst topography)
    • a natural depression or hole in the Earth's surface that can be caused by the chemical dissolution of carbonate rocks
1. Topography includes three things. Describe them
2. Describe the three main types of landforms
3. Describe the three types of landforms in Florida
4. Florida sits atop a platform of ___, formed from the compressed remains of ___
5. Describe wetlands, aquifers and archipelagoes

Copy the questions into your notebook (right-side) and answer them