



# WATER vs LAND

Earth's surface is made of land and water arranged in different types of natural features. The features vary greatly in their size and shape. They form when water, air, ice, and land interact through a process called **erosion**.

As water moves across the land, from small streams to ocean waves, it picks up bits of the land, which is reshaped. While erosion can be a slow process, it is powerful and can form amazing structures like the Grand Canyon!

There are other processes that affect Earth's surface. Humans, plants, and other animals can change the shape of the land. Energy from the center of the Earth causes its surface to move around, forming deep trenches, tall mountain ranges, or even volcanoes!

Some landforms look like water bodies but they form in different ways. Below are descriptions of parts of water bodies and landforms that look like each other.

## Bodies of Water

**Bays** are enclosed by land on one half.

vs

## Landforms

**Capes** stick out slightly from the surrounding land.

**Lakes** are surrounded by land.

vs

**Islands** are surrounded by water.

**Straits** are narrow divisions between pieces of land.

vs

An **isthmus** is a bridge of land with water on both sides.

A **gulf** is large and mostly surrounded by land.

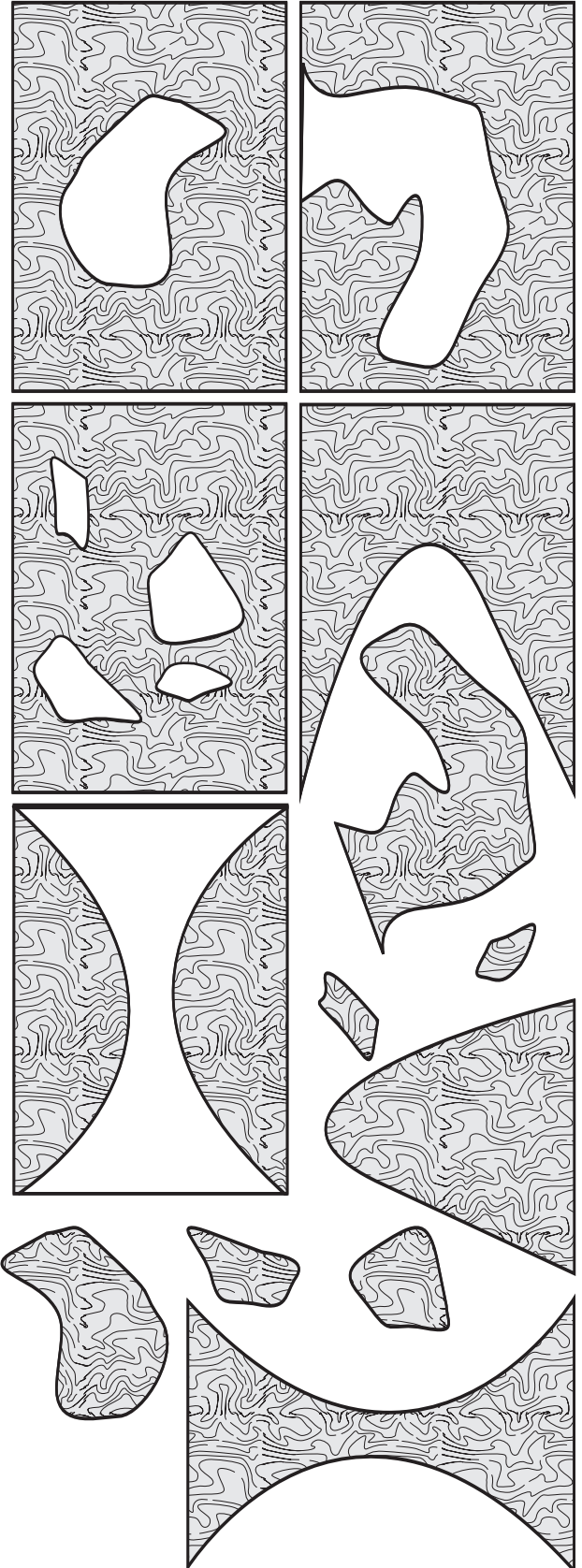
vs

**Peninsulas** are narrow and surrounded by water on three sides

**Lake systems** are collections of lakes

vs

**Archipelagos** are collections of islands.



**Instructions:** Print this worksheet double-sided. Color the grey patterned side of the shapes blue and the backs green. Cut out the shapes. You can throw away shapes that do not have a wave pattern. Arrange the pieces so they fit together like a puzzle with green and blue parts and tape them together. Use the descriptions above to identify each landform on the front and back of each card.

