

Physical Characteristics of the United States

Physical Characteristic	Definition	United States Examples
mountain range	a row of connected mountains	
plain	low-lying stretch of flat or gently rolling land	
coastal plain	low land that lies along an ocean	
plateau	flat land with higher elevation than a plain	
basin	low area surrounded by higher land	
valley	a low piece of land between two hills or mountains	
canyon	a deep, narrow valley with steep sides	
river system	a river and its tributaries	
gulf	part of a sea or ocean that cuts into a mass of land	
desert	a dry region that gets very little rain	