

Objective

By the end of this lesson, Heidi will be able to identify and describe various landscapes and landforms, understand the processes that shape them, and appreciate the beauty and diversity of Earth's natural features.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen/pencil for note-taking
- Access to the internet for research (if available)
- Outdoor space for observation (backyard, park, etc.)
- Map of local landforms (printed or drawn)
- Camera or smartphone for taking pictures (optional)

Before the lesson, it would be helpful to review some basic geography terms related to landforms, such as mountains, valleys, plateaus, and plains.

Activities

- **Landform Scavenger Hunt:** Take Heidi outside to explore her surroundings. Create a list of common landforms (like hills, streams, or flat areas) for her to find and document with sketches or notes.
- **Research Project:** Have Heidi choose one type of landform (e.g., mountains, deserts) and research its characteristics, formation, and examples around the world. She can present her findings in a fun and creative way, like a poster or slideshow.
- **Nature Journal:** Encourage Heidi to start a nature journal where she can draw and write about different landscapes she encounters. She can include observations about the flora and fauna in those areas too.
- **Landform Model:** Using materials found at home (like clay, paper, or even food items), have Heidi create a 3D model of a specific landform and explain how it was formed.

Talking Points

- "Landforms are natural features of the Earth's surface. Can you name a few types?"
- "Did you know that mountains are formed by tectonic forces? They can take millions of years to form!"
- "Valleys are often created by erosion from rivers or glaciers. Have you ever seen a valley?"
- "Plateaus are like flat-topped mountains. They can be formed by volcanic activity or erosion."
- "Deserts are fascinating! They can be hot or cold and are defined by their lack of precipitation."
- "The process of erosion shapes our landscapes. Water, wind, and ice can all contribute to changing landforms over time."
- "Every landform has a unique ecosystem. What kinds of plants or animals do you think live in a desert compared to a forest?"
- "Maps are a great way to learn about landforms. Have you looked at any maps of your local area?"
- "Photography can capture the beauty of landscapes. If you could take a picture of any landform, which one would it be?"
- "Understanding landforms helps us appreciate nature and its diversity. Why do you think it's important to learn about our planet?"