

## 4th GRADE MINIMUM CONTENTS- SOCIAL SCIENCE

### UNIT 3: LAND RELIEF

#### ► LAND RELIEF

The outer layer of the Earth is composed of rocks and minerals. It is called the **lithosphere** or the Earth's crust.

This layer is not flat; there are mountains, valleys, plains, basins and other features, which form part of the Earth's land relief.

- **Valley** is an area of flat land between mountains.
- **Mountain** is a natural high area of land.
- **Hill** is a small mountain.
- **Mountain range** is a line of connected mountains.
- **Plateau** is a plain, which is higher than the land around it.
- **Basin/ depression** is a plain, which is lower than the land around it.
- **Plain** is a large area of flat land.
- **Delta** is an accumulation of land made of sediment that forms where a river flows into the sea.
- **Beach** is a flat, sandy area next to the sea.
- **Peninsula** is a piece of land with water in all sides except one.
- **Isthmus** is a piece of land that connects two land areas.
- **Gulf** is a large area of sea that extends into the land.
- **Cape** is an area of land that projects into the sea.
- **Island** is an area of land completely surrounded by water.
- **Archipelago** is a group of islands.

#### ► THE FORMATION OF THE EARTH'S LAND RELIEF

The Earth's land relief has formed over millions of years and it continues to change.

- **The Earth's plates**

The Earth's outer layer, or crust, is not one single piece. It is made up of

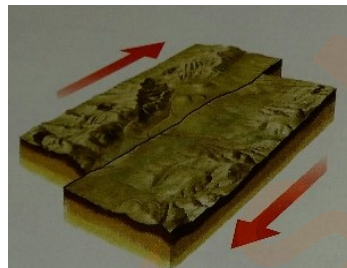
several plates, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle.

These plates move very slowly around the Earth. Over millions of year, this movement has created the land relief on Earth.

When two plates collide, they fold and the land is pushed upwards, forming mountain ranges.

When two plates move in opposite directions, the land breaks and forms a **fault**.

When two plates move apart, a sunken area, called a **trench**, forms.

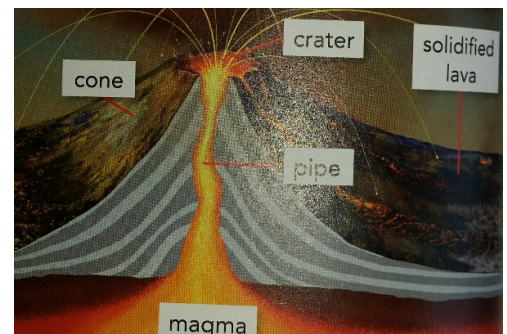


- **Volcanoes and volcanic eruptions**

Volcanoes are points on the Earth's surface where **magma** comes out to the surface. Magma is very hot liquid rock.

When magma comes out violently this is called a **volcanic eruption** and the magma becomes **lava**.

The lava from an eruption becomes rock and it forms mountains and islands.

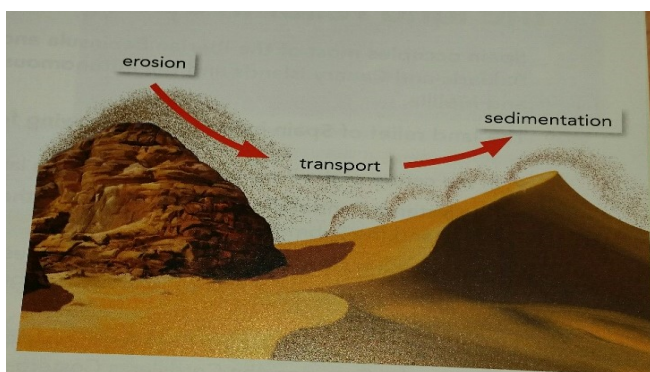


- **Erosion and sedimentation**

The Earth's land relief continues to change over many years.

Two natural phenomena transform the Earth's landscapes:

- **Erosion**. Wind, water (in rivers, seas and rain) and ice erode rocks and create valleys, cliffs, plateaus ....



The speed of erosion depends on how hard the rock is.

- **Sedimentation.** The wind and rivers deposit material on the surface of the Earth. These deposits create features such as hills, valleys, deltas and beaches.

### ► THE LAND RELIEF IN SPAIN

The land relief in Spain includes the following features:

-In the centre is the **Meseta**, a large, high plateau. The Sistema Central divides it into two parts: the Submeseta Norte and the Submeseta Sur.



- The Meseta is surrounded by **mountain ranges** : the Montes de León, the Cordillera Cantábrica, the Sistema Ibérico and the Sierra Morena.

- Other important ranges are: the Macizo Galaico, the Montes Vascos, the Pyrenees, the Cordilleras Costero-Catalanas and the Cordilleras Béticas.
- There are two areas of low, flat land through which two important rivers flow: the **Guadalquivir River Basin** and the **Ebro River Basin**.
- The five **Balearic Islands** are in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The seven **Canary Islands** are in the Atlantic Ocean.

**UNIT 3: LAND RELIEF**  
**ACTIVITIES**

**1.- Circle the types of relief. Then, write them next to their definitions.**

*Peninsula mountain range island archipelago valley beach basin*

- a. A plain, which is lower than the land around it. ....
- b. A piece of land surrounded by water on all sides. ....
- c. A group of islands. ....
- d. A line of connected mountains .....
- e. An area of flat land with sand or pebbles next to the sea.  
.....
- f. An area of low land between mountains. ....
- g. A piece of land surrounded by water on all sides except one. ....

**2.- Listen and complete.**

- The Alps are a ..... in Central Europe.
- In summer, we often go to the ..... to spend time by the sea.
- The Balearics are a group of .....
- Spain is part of the Iberian .....
- The highest ..... in the world is Mount Everest in the Himalayas.

**3.- Complete the table about Spain's mountain range.**

Range	Location	Highest peak


4.- Complete.

a. There are different forms of land relief on the Earth's surface. In a continental landscape, we can see m..... r....., plains, p....., v....., d..... and h.....

In a coastal landscape, we can see islands, b....., p....., g..... and c.....

b. The shape of the Earth's surface has been formed by the movement of p....., by v..... eruptions and by the effects of e..... and s.....

c. In Spain, examples of mountain ranges include the P....., the C..... C..... and the S..... M.....

d. Some examples of relief are the G.....River Basin, the E..... River Basin and the M.....

5.- Complete your bilingual dictionary.

LAND RELIEF		
- Lithosphere: _____	- Gulf: _____	- Relief: _____
- Valley: _____	- Cape: _____	-Plate: _____
-Mountain range: _____	-Island: _____	-Fault: _____
- Plateau: _____	-Isthmus: _____	- Volcano: _____
- Depression: _____	- Archipelago: _____	- Eruption: _____
- Plain: _____	-Peninsula: _____	- Sedimentation: _____