

GREAT NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE EARTH.

NAMES OF THE LAND-DIVISIONS.

17. Continent.—A continent is a vast extent of land, not divided by water.

18. Island.—An island is a portion of land, smaller than a continent, and entirely surrounded by water.

A collection of islands forms a group. A collection of several groups of islands forms an archipelago.

19. Peninsula.—A peninsula is a portion of land, almost surrounded by water, being joined to the continent only on one side.

20. Isthmus.—An isthmus is a narrow neck of land between two bodies of water.

21. Mountain.—A mountain is a lofty elevation of land.

A connected series of mountains, extending to a great distance, is called a chain.

The name of peak is given to a single mountain which rises in the form of a cone.

A volcano is a mountain which sends forth torrents of fire, smoke, and melted lava, through a large opening called a crater.

Smaller elevations are called hills, hillocks, knolls, bluffs, mounds.

22. Cape.—A cape, or promontory is a point of land extending into the sea.

23. Defile.—A defile is a narrow passage between two mountains, or between a mountain and the sea. If the passage is very narrow it is called a *pass*.

24. Desert.—A desert is an extent of land uninhabited, and generally barren.