

Vocabulary

The Pacific is the world's largest **ocean**.

The **sea** between Europe and Africa is called the Mediterranean.

Mount Everest is the world's highest **mountain**. It's in a **mountain range** called the Himalayas.

A **volcano** is a mountain that produces liquid rock (lava). Hawaii is in a **volcanic** region.

A **hill** is like a mountain, but is smaller. If a region has lots of hills, we say it's **hilly**.

A **valley** is an area of lower ground between mountains.

The Sahara, in Africa, is the world's biggest **desert**.

A very large area of flat land, with no hills or mountains, is called a **plain**.

A **river** is a long stretch of water flowing to the sea/ocean.

A small river is a **stream**.

When the water in a river or stream falls vertically, it's called a **waterfall**.

A large area of water that's surrounded by land is called a **lake**.

An area of land that's very wet is called a marsh or a **swamp**.

The line between the land and the sea/ocean is the **coast**.

Vertical rocks along the coast are called **cliffs**.

If there's sand along the coast, this is called a **beach**.

A very large area of trees is a **forest**.

The Amazonian **rainforest** is the world's largest forest

Reading 12.1

Who will be the "natural superpowers" of the new, renewable world?

When we think about where money is made, we usually think of urban environments – offices, factories and shopping malls. Of course, most of our basic economic resources are found in the natural environment: in the wood that grows in forests, the oil beneath the deserts and oceans, and the minerals under the hills.

Nature has another sort of economic value, and one that's growing fast:

renewable energy. Solar panels, wind turbines and hydroelectric power stations are proliferating. As a result, the wild places with the potential to power them – sun-baked deserts, windswept plains and mountain streams – could become the new *El Dorado*.

So which countries have the best geography to fully exploit the forces of nature? Who will be the "natural superpowers" of the new, renewable world?

12.1 Follow-up

Look at the descriptions of places below. Match them to examples of types of places mentioned in the article in Reading 12.1. Sometimes, more than one place is possible.

- 1 where a lot of wood grows
- 2 where there's a lot of sunshine, suitable for solar power
- 3 where a lot of the world's oil is found
- 4 where it's windy, but not inaccessible, so good for wind turbines
- 5 where there are streams that can provide hydroelectric power

Practice Exercise 1

Match the descriptions in 1–10 to the geographic words in A–J.

a small river	1	A	hill
an area of low ground between mountains	2	B	lake
an area of high ground, but not as high as a mountain	3	C	desert
a length of coast covered with sand	4	D	plain
a large area of water inland	5	E	marsh
a place where flowing water falls vertically	6	F	waterfall
a length of vertical rocks along the coast	7	G	valley
a region where there are very few plants – often covered with sand	8	H	stream
an area of wet land – also called a swamp	9	I	cliff
a large area of flat land	10	J	beach

Practice Exercise 2

Adventure Chronicles: Nature's Wonders

Complete the following journal entries using the vocabulary below:

valley	desert	volcano	mountain	volcano
volcanic	hill	forest	ocean	waterfall

Journal Entry 1: "Yesterday, I saw the (1)_____. The sound of the waves crashing on the shore was so calming. After spending some time at the (2)_____, we decided to hike up a small (3) h_____. The trail was steep, but the view from the top was worth it. We could see the entire (4)_____ from there. The air was fresh and crisp, making the hike even more enjoyable." On our way down, we took a lot of pictures near a (5)_____. The falling water drops caught the sunlight and created a magical rainbow."

Journal Entry 2: "Today, our adventure took us to a (6)_____. It was quite an experience to see the endless sands. In the distance, we noticed a (7) _____ that was part of a larger (8)_____ range. The (9)_____ peak was still active, with smoke gently rising from the top. As we continued our journey, the next day, we went through a semi-dry thorny (10) f_____, where the temperature was cooler. The journey was long and tiring but filled with amazing sights."

ANSWERS

Follow up 12.1

1. forest
2. deserts, plains
3. deserts, ocean
4. plains
5. mountains

Practice Exercise 1

1. H
2. G
3. A
4. J
5. B
6. F
7. I
8. C
9. E
10. D

Practice Exercise 2

1. ocean
2. sea
3. hill
4. valley
5. waterfall
6. desert
7. volcano
8. mountain
9. volcanic
10. forest