

internal bodies of water, a considerable extent, it is called an inland sea ; such is the Adriatic, the White Sea, or the Mediterranean. When the surface of an inland body of water is less, and the opening by which it is connected with the ocean wider, it is called a gulf or bay ; and when still smaller, and nearly surrounded by land, it is called a port, creek, or road, according to its extent. It will be evident that the names given to these masses of water depend upon their proportions in relation to each other, and the definitions must consequently appear exceedingly vague ; but it would be difficult to give them a more accurate character, and they are generally adequate for practical purposes. The same remark applies to those small masses of land which project into the ocean. A peninsula is a neck of land which enters the sea, and is connected with a continent or island by only a narrow surface. The smaller projections are called capes, promontories, or points, according to their size.

The surface of the land varies in elevation as well as in its horizontal form, and this circumstance produces the necessity of adopting other distinctive terms, and we have consequently mountains, hills, plains, and valleys, as descriptive of the various elevations of the solid portions of the earth's surface. There are also terms to distinguish the circumstances under which water is sometimes found, such as springs, rivers, and cataracts.

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The old continent, or world, as it is usually called, which comprehends the three great divisions, Europe, Asia, and Africa, has a general direction from southwest to northeast ; but, excluding Africa, is nearly parallel to the equator. The new world, which lies in the western hemisphere, and includes North and South America, lies in a nearly north and south direction. The longest line that can be drawn across the old world would commence on the western coast of Africa, near Cape Verde, and terminate on the shore of Behring's Strait, on the northeast coast of Asia, and would measure about eleven thousand miles. A similar line over the new world would have its direction from the Strait of Terra del Fuego to the arctic shore of North America ; its length would be about nine thousand miles.

The continents have several features in common, a fact