

## a p p e n d i x b

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Back-arc Spreading**—The region of crustal spreading between a volcanic archipelago and the continental interior.

**Bars—Eddy or Shoulder Bars**—Formed downstream from promontories or recesses.

**Pendant Bars**—Extended downstream behind the protection of a rock island or other obstruction.

**Expansion Bars**—Formed where the water spreads out after passing through a narrow point and deposits material.

**Basalt**—A dark-colored fine-grained extruded volcanic rock, rich in iron and magnesium, that is chiefly composed of plagioclase and pyroxene.

**Basin**—A large circular or elliptical depressed area in a landscape.

**Braided River**—A stream system so overloaded with sediment that there are many dividing and rejoining channels.

**Colonnade**—The lower portion of a lava flow with well-formed parallel shrinkage columns, usually vertical.

**Columnar Jointing**—Long joints, usually vertical, in volcanic rock that splits into columns as the rock cools and contracts.

**Continental Glacier**—A thick ice sheet covering a large part of a continent.



**Coulee**—A dry trench-like intermittent streambed or wash.

**Delta**—A low, flat tract of land at the mouth of a river, composed of stream-deposited sediment, and triangular in shape from an aerial view.

**Entablature**—The upper portion of a lava flow that displays irregular thin shrinkage columns.

**Erratic**—A large rock that is not of local origin and has been moved to its location by glacial ice.

**Fault**—A break in the earth's crust along which movement has taken place. Frequently occurs as a zone of numerous smaller faults.

**Fault Trace**—Intersections of faults on the ground surface (horizon); also called fault line.

**Fauna**—The entire animal population living in a given area, environment, or time span.

**Flood Basalt**—A plateau basalt. Successive flows of high temperature fluid basalt from fissure eruptions merge to form a continuous flat plateau.

**Flora**—The entire plant population living in a given area, environment or time.

**Floodplain**—The flat area where a stream or river may overflow.

**Glacier**—A mass of ice and snow that moves downhill because of gravity.

**Graded Bedding**—Rapid sedimentation leaving a distinctive texture of coarse grains followed by fine grains in a single layer. See Rhythmites.

**Hanging Valleys**—Smaller glacial valleys feeding into a deeper main glacier trough.

**Jökulhlaup**—An ice dam failure or glacial outburst

**Kolk Lake**—A hole eroded by rushing water at the base of a broken dike; a deep pool, eddy or scour area which has filled with water.

**Lithosphere**—The outer 60 miles of the earth between the crust and mantle where the rocks are harder and more brittle.

**Lode**—Deposits in which ores have been emplaced into rock formations where they occur in veins.

**Loess**—Non-stratified silt, clay, and dust, originating as glacial sediment, but re-deposited by wind. Wind-blown silt.

**Magma**—A silica-rich molten fluid that appears on the surface as lava and that cools underground as a pluton.

**Magma Chamber** —A magma reservoir in the shallow part of the lithosphere.

**Plunge Pool**—A spot at the base of a waterfall where the descending force of the water strikes the bottom and carves out a basin. A deserted plunge pool is one whose waterfall has migrated upstream.

**Pothole**—A bowl-shaped depression in a rock surface that has been carved by the whirling action of stones in a stream bed.

**Rhythmites**—Layers consisting of gravel or sand at the base, followed by silt on top, representing separate flooding events.



**Rift**—A distinct, roughly linear trough or depression on the earth’s crust that reflects a pulling apart of the crust due to tension.

**Ripple Marks**—Deposits left by currents flowing over the bottom that shape the sediments into smooth, parallel, ridge rows resulting in washboard-like ripples that are regularly patterned.

**Sand**—Rock and mineral fragments ranging in size between 1/16 and 2 millimeters in diameter.

**Scabland**—An irregular land surface of basalt that has been scoured of its soil cover by floods.

**Spillways**—Low divides that have been overtopped by floodwaters.

**Strand**—Beach and very shallow coastal area dominated by shoreline processes, particularly wave processes.

**Subduction Trench**—A distinct linear groove on the earth’s crust marking the boundary between two colliding tectonic plates in which one plate slips beneath another.

**Submarine Canyon**—A steep V-shaped trench along or across a continental shelf or deep ocean floor.

**Till**—Loose sediment deposited by glaciers.

**Watershed**—The total area drained by a stream system.