

structural geology—Study of the structural features of rocks (folds and faults) and the causes of their deformation.

syncline—A fold in rock layers in which the strata dip inward from both sides toward the axis. A downfold. The core of the fold contains stratigraphically younger rocks. The opposite of an anticline.

system—*see* period

terrestrial—Consisting of or pertaining to land as distinct from water. Examples of terrestrial deposits are flood plains of streams and rivers. These clastic sediments are deposited by flood waters.

topography—The physical features of a region; the shape of the land's surface.

water table—The upper limit of the portion of the ground that is wholly saturated with water.

weathering—The group of processes—such as the chemical action of water and air and of plants and bacteria, and the mechanical action of changes of temperature—whereby rocks exposed to the weather change in character, decay, and finally crumble into soil.