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Geology Glossary

asthenosphere	layer of the upper mantle of the Earth
atmosphere	is a layer of air and gases that are around our Earth
atom	the smallest unit of an element
avalanche	a snowbank that is triggered by vibration from earthquakes or storms that turn into a slide

B

back-arc basin	a seafloor spreading group of volcanoes which are caused by an extension behind an island arc
barrier island	an island that parallels the shore and protects the land from the storms that pass through
basalt	a volcanic rock that is dark
basement rock	igneous, metamorphic rock that is deformed
batholith	the largest intrusive igneous rocks
bed	horizontal layers of sediment rock
bedrock	solid layers of rock
blowout	a hollow that is caused by the wind blowing a lot
blue hole	a sink hole that is filled with water
blueschist	ocean crust that is metamorphosed rocks, which are exposed to the atmosphere
butte	steep slopes that is a flat-topped hill

C

calcite	minerals that are composed of calcium carbonate
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