



U.S. Geological Survey

Finding USGS data and publications

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**Finding geographic names in the U.S. Board of Geographic Names databases,** <http://geonames.usgs.gov/>

- listed under "Other Links" on the USGS Libraries Program web site, <http://library.usgs.gov>

(1) Domestic Names (United States): <http://gnis.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

- Search feature name = mountain ; in State = New York
- Click "Send Query"
- Be patient; and the query results in 1,547 entries, may want to limit by county
- Select the first result, Painter Mountain; the reference information and map name is listed; we use this when someone has a feature (lake, mountain, etc.) and they are looking for the elevation, coordinates, and quad map name
- Redo the search but limit to Essex County, New York
- Click "Send Query"

(2) Domestic Names (United States): <http://gnis.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

- Search feature name = mountain; in State = Colorado ; and select Feature Class = Summit
- Click "Send Query"
- This search is limiting to only "mountain" names that are summits (i.e. mountain peaks), and there are 1,345
- Click on the link for Lookout Mountain; note there are three variant names, and the citations are included

(3) Citizens can request name changes; for example click on the "Propose or Change a Name" from the link at:

<http://gnis.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

- To view the status of proposed names, click on the "Quarterly Review List" from the link at:  
<http://gnis.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>

(4) Foreign Names: <http://gnis.usgs.gov/foreign/index.html>

- Use the NGA GEOnet Names Server (GNS): <http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/index.html>
- This is useful for research geologists working in foreign countries; use the "Download Country Files" on the left to use as search terms for research.

(5) Antarctic Names: <http://gnis.usgs.gov/antarctic/index.html>

(6) Additional information:

- U.S. Board on Geographic Names, Brochures and Fact Sheets:  
[http://gnis.usgs.gov/brochures\\_factsheets/index.html](http://gnis.usgs.gov/brochures_factsheets/index.html)
- Elevations and Distances in the United States: <http://egsc.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/booklets/elvadist/elvadist.html>