

## Encyclopedic Entry

# channel

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A **channel** is a wide **strait** or **waterway** between two landmasses that lie close to each other. A channel can also be the deepest part of a waterway, or a narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water.

Some channels were created by **glaciers** that carved out deep **canyons** between two landmasses. Channels created by people are usually dug from the bottoms of shallow waterways so large ships can pass through them. These are called navigation channels.

The **English Channel** runs between the countries of England and France. The English Channel is 560 kilometers (348 miles) long and 34 kilometers (21 miles) wide at its narrowest point, the Strait of Dover. The English Channel has long served as a natural barrier between England and the rest of Europe.

The Ambrose Channel, which leads into New York **Harbor**, has been artificially deepened so large ships full of **cargo** can make it into the harbor from the Atlantic Ocean.

## VOCABULARY

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
<b>canyon</b>	<i>noun</i>	deep, narrow valley with steep sides.
<b>cargo</b>	<i>noun</i>	goods carried by a ship, plane, or other vehicle.
<b>channel</b>	<i>noun</i>	waterway between two relatively close land masses.
<b>English Channel</b>	<i>noun</i>	strip of the Atlantic Ocean between southeast England and northwest France.
<b>glacier</b>	<i>noun</i>	mass of ice that moves slowly over land.
<b>harbor</b>	<i>noun</i>	part of a body of water deep enough for ships to dock.
<b>landmass</b>	<i>noun</i>	large area of land.
<b>strait</b>	<i>noun</i>	narrow passage of water that connects two larger bodies of water.
<b>waterway</b>	<i>noun</i>	body of water that serves as a route for transportation.

## For Further Exploration

### Audio & Video

- National Geographic Channel: World's Toughest Fixes—Mississippi River Barge



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