

Lower Key Stage 2 - Forest Academy

Knowledge organiser – Mountains

Key vocabulary

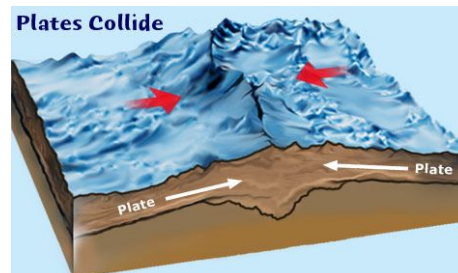
altitude	A measurement of distance, going up
ascent	A climb or walk to the summit of a mountain or hill
avalanche	A large mass of snow or ice detached from the mountain slope and heading down the mountain
erosion	When wind or water sweeps away rock or soil from one place on the Earth's surface to another
gorge	A narrow valley, usually with a stream or river running through it
mountain range	A group of mountains that form a chain or cluster
slope	The slanted side of a mountain
summit	The highest point on a mountain
tectonic plates	Large pieces of rock that make up the Earth's surface
valley	Low ground in between mountains

What is a mountain?

- A mountain is a part of the landscape with steep slopes that rise over 300m.
- Some mountains are found in groups called ranges such as the Lake District in England and Snowdonia in Wales. Others are isolated summits.
- When mountain ranges are found together they make up mountain chains. The Alps in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Andes in South America are all mountain chains.

How are mountains formed?

- Mountains are formed by slow but gigantic movements of the earth's crust (the outer layer of the Earth).
- The Earth's crust is made up of 6 huge slabs called plates, which fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. When two slabs of the earth's crust smash into each other the land can be pushed upwards, forming mountains. Many of the greatest mountain ranges of the world have formed because of enormous collisions between continents.



Mountains form in different ways

Sometimes the crust has folded and buckled, sometimes it breaks into huge blocks. In both cases, great areas of land are lifted upwards to form mountains. Other mountains are formed by the earth's crust rising into a dome, or by volcanic activity when the crust cracks open.

Five types of mountains

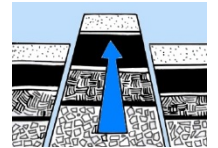
Fold (or, Folded)

- This is the most common type of mountain. It's called 'fold' because when the tectonic plates collide, the edges crumple as they are pushed together and the rock of the Earth's surface is pushed up to create mountains. The Himalayas are fold mountains.



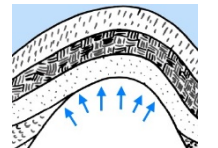
Fault-block (or, Block)

- When cracks in the Earth's surface open up, large chunks of rock can be pushed up while others are pushed down. This creates mountains with a long slope on one side, and a sharp drop on the other.



Dome

- Dome mountains are smooth and round-looking. They are formed when magma from in between the Earth's crust and mantle gets pushed up, but doesn't ever flow out – so, all the magma makes the land bubble up like a balloon.



Volcanic

- Volcanic mountains are formed around volcanoes, which are vents in the Earth's top layer that let through magma from between the crust and the mantle layers. Mountains are made of ash and cooled lava.



Plateau

- Plateau mountains are different from the other mountain types because they haven't formed because of rock or magma being pushed up. Instead, they've formed because of materials being taken away through erosion, which has left deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.

Tourism and Mountains

Mountains can aid tourism and bring in money for the people who live there.

More than 50 million people visit mountains each year.

Many mountain towns around the world depend on tourists to support them. People in the town provide food and lodging for tourists who come to enjoy the nearby mountains.

Did you know?

About 13 million people live in the Alps.

About 100 million visitors visit the Alps each year.

Mountains can be places for leisure activities. Many people like to ski on mountains. Other people like to climb mountains. Some people like to just visit mountains to take photos and admire their beauty.

Tourists are attracted to mountains for many reasons:

- the climate and clean air,
- varied topography,
- beautiful scenery,
- local traditions,
- simple life styles,
- sports that require steep slopes or winter snow
- Sport-based tourism has boomed over the past 30 years

Typical mountain activities

- mountaineering,
- paragliding,

Summer Activities

- walking,
- hiking,
- bird watching
- rafting,
- mountain biking

Winter Activities

- skiing,
- snow boarding,
- sledging / tobogganing
- icefall climbing
- ice skating



Famous Mountains



- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It is in the Himalayas, on the border of Nepal and China, and is 8848 metres high.
- Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is a volcanic mountain that is 5895 metres high.
- Mount Fuji is a volcano in Japan. It is 3776 metres high.
- Mount McKinley is the highest peak in the USA. It is 6294 metres high.

