

Year 4 – Summer Term Geography – What is a mountain?

Vocabulary and Glossary

Altitude	The height of an object or point above sea level
Altitudinal zone	One layer out of many that naturally occur in mountainous regions to form a particular habitat.
Base	The bottom of a mountain where it meets flat or gently sloping land
Contour Line	A line on a map that joins areas of equal height above sea level
Mountain	A large, raised part of the Earth's surface that is much higher than a hill
Peak/Summit	The highest point of a mountain
Plateau	An area of flat, high ground found on some mountains
Ridge	A long, narrow section of high, rocky ground that connects one mountain to another
Topography	The physical appearance of an area of land, especially relating to its shape and surface

What is a mountain and where can we find them in the United Kingdom?

A mountain is a large, raised part of the Earth's surface. A mountain's highest point is called its peak or summit. Mountains are at least 610m in height. A mountain range is a chain of mountains that are close together. They are usually arranged in a line connected by ridges. There are four mountain ranges in the UK that are home to each country's highest mountain: Ben Nevis, in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland; Scafell Pike, in the Cumbrian Mountains, England; Yr Wyddfa, also known as Snowdon, in Eryri, also known as Snowdonia, Wales; and Slieve Donard, in the Mourne Mountains, Northern Ireland.



Where can we find mountain ranges around the world?



What is a mountain?

What are the different types of mountain?

Mountains can be classified according to what they look like and how they were formed.

Fold mountains form when tectonic plates collide with each other. One plate is pushed down while the other is pushed up and compressed, forming folds.



Volcanic mountains are formed when lava, ash and gases erupt and then cool. This type of mountain often has steep, symmetrical slopes.



Fault-block mountains form at plate boundaries. The earth on one side of the boundary is forced up, and the other side collapses.



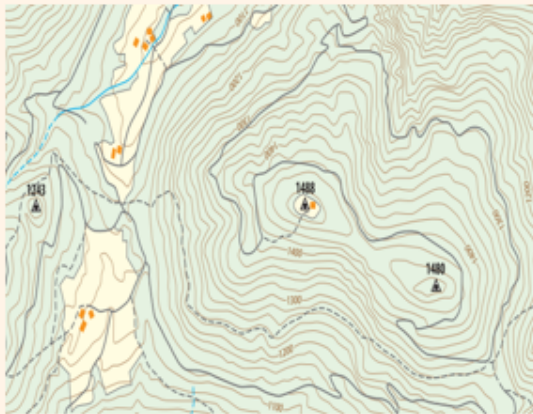
Dome mountains are the result of when magma is pushed upwards against the Earth's crust. Instead of erupting through the crust, the magma cools and hardens.



Plateau mountains are formed when land is lifted by magma below the Earth's crust. Large, flat areas of land are forced upwards, creating a plateau.



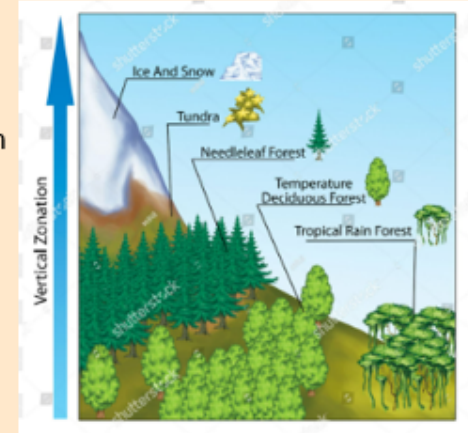
What do contour lines tell us on a map?



Contour lines are used on maps to show the topography of the land. They join places of equal height and are usually labelled in intervals of 10m. If contour lines on a map are close together, the land is steep. If they are far apart, the land is flat.

What are altitudinal zones and how can they change?

In mountainous areas, there are large differences in altitude. These differences mean that the climate, landscape and oxygen levels at the bottom of a mountain can be very different from those at the top. These differences create altitudinal zones, with each zone supporting a range of different plants and animals. The four altitudinal zones from highest to lowest are: glacier, tundra and meadow, coniferous and deciduous forest and subtropical rainforest



What is the impact of tourism on mountain environments?

Tourists visit mountain regions for many reasons – beautiful landscapes, sports, local traditions, to see nature and more!

Advantages

- Creates jobs
- Improved living standards for people who live in the area
- Encourages local crafts

Disadvantages

- Higher prices of land and food
- Pollution from traffic
- Erosion
- Litter
- Crowding
- Tree felling to supply timber/fuel
- Loss of cultural identity