

MOUNTAINS

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments

Overview

- A mountain is a natural rise in the Earth's surface that is taller and steeper than a hill.
- Mountains are normally considered to be rises that are 600 metres or higher.
- Mountains can join up with other mountains to make up a mountain range.
- Most mountains are formed when things happen inside the Earth to push rocks up.
- The top of a mountain is known as a 'peak' or a 'summit.'
- The highest mountain above sea level is Mount Everest. Its summit is 8,848 metres high.



Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain above sea level.

Diagram and Terminology

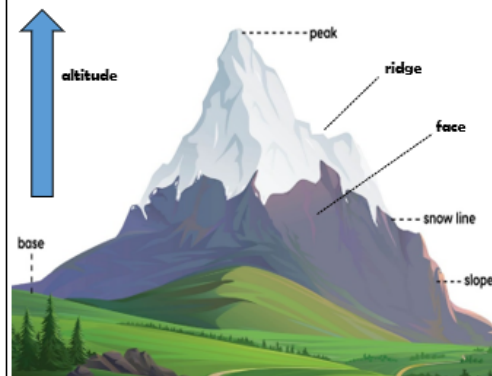
Summit/ Peak – The name given for the highest point on a mountain. Sometimes, there are 'subsidiary peaks' meaning elevated points that are below the height of the main summit.

Altitude – The measure of how high something is compared to sea level. As the altitude increases, it gets colder. There is also less oxygen in the air, making it difficult to breathe.

Ridge – A long, narrow crest of land that runs along a mountain or between two mountains. Sometimes, the most common routes up mountains are along ridges.

Face – The face of a mountain is a side that is very steep. Mountain faces are often identified by the side of the mountain they are on, e.g. north face, west face, etc.

Snow Line – The point on a mountain at which the temperature is so cold that snow does not melt, meaning that it remains on the mountain.



Slope – The uneven land rising towards the mountain summit.

Base – The bottom of the mountain.

Valley – A lower part of the land that is in between higher points of land, for example in between two mountains.

Highest Point in UK Countries

The highest 56 mountains in the UK are all in Scotland.



Ben Nevis:
Scotland
1,345 metres



Mt. Snowdon:
Wales
1,085 metres



Scafell Pike:
England
978 metres



Slieve Donard:
Northern Ireland
850 metres

Notable Mountains

Mount Everest 8,848 metres		-Mount Everest is the highest mountain above sea level in the world. It lies on the border of Nepal and China in the Himalayan mountain range. It was first summited by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953.
K2 8,611 metres		-K2 is the second highest mountain in the world. It is on the border of Pakistan and China in the Karakoram range. Although not as high as Mount Everest, it is considered much harder to climb!
Mauna Kea 4,207 metres		-Mauna Kea is a dormant volcano that is on the island of Hawaii. Although its peak above sea level is 4,207 metres, if the area of the mountain below the water is included then it is the tallest mountain in the world: 9,330 metres!
Mount Kilimanjaro 5,895 metres		-Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain. It is a dormant volcano and so is not a part of a mountain range. This means it towers above the land around it!
Ben Nevis 1,345 metres		-Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the United Kingdom. It stands at the western edge of the Grampian Mountains in Scotland. It attracts 130,000 visitors per year.

How Mountains are Formed and Key Facts

-Most mountain ranges are formed by plate tectonics. The Earth's crust is made up of several large plates that float on a hot mantle layer underneath.

-When two plates collide, they push against each other, causing the Earth's crust to fold. This can create mountains that rise over time.

-Mountains can also be formed by volcanic activity and through erosion - when some land is worn away, leaving a mountain.

