



Subject vocabulary:

mountain	a natural landform that rises high above its surroundings, made from earth and rocks
contour lines	used to show hills and mountains on 2D maps
peak	the highest point of any mountain
summit	the highest part of a mountain
cliff	tall, steep rocks with vertical faces caused by erosion
valley	A valley is a long depression, or ditch, in Earth's surface and usually lies between ranges of hills or mountains.
erode/ erosion	the wearing away of the land through natural forces
mountain range	A group of mountains in the same location.
quarry	a place where rocks, sand or minerals are extracted from the Earth

Where are the major mountain ranges?



Mountains are found in every continent of the world, even Antarctica.

In general, a mountain is over 600m high (otherwise it's called a hill).

Mountains form over millions of years by the folding, crumpling or uplifting of rocks which erode to form peaks.

Most are found in mountain ranges, which join up to form mountain systems such as the Himalayas, the Alps, the Rockies and the Urals. Mount Everest in the Himalayas is the world's highest mountain.

Volcanoes are mountains and there are also vast mountains under the sea.

Mauna Kea in Hawaii is the world's tallest mountain, its base is on the ocean floor!

Mountains support a range of plant, animal and human inhabitants. They are important economically: providing mining, quarrying, timber and tourism.

Mountains are constantly being eroded by a variety of processes including weathering by ice, snow, rain and wind.

British mountains

Ben Nevis is in Scotland it is 1,345m high.

Snowdon is in Wales, it is 1085m

The Pennines are in England and the highest point is Cross Fell at 893m.

Scafell Pike is in England and is 978m high.

