

Year 3 – Mountains

Vocabulary	Definitions
Altitude	The height above sea level.
Avalanche	A large amount of snow that quickly moves down a mountain or slope.
Crust	The outermost layer of the Earth.
Gorge	A narrow valley with steep walls, found between hills or mountains.
Summit/Peak	The highest point of a mountain.
Tectonic plates	Pieces of the earth's crust connected together.
Climate	The weather found in a certain place over a long period of time.
Ridge	A long, narrow crest of land that runs along a mountain or between two mountains.
Face	A side of a mountain that is very steep.
Snow line	The point on a mountain at which the temperature is so cold that snow does not melt.
Slope	The uneven land rising towards the mountain summit.
Valley	A lower part of the land that is in-between higher points of land.

Mount Everest



What does a snowline look like?



The location of Britain's highest mountains



Key Knowledge

Mountains are a natural part of the landscape with steep slopes. They rise above 300m. They have a summit of at least 600m. Some mountains are found in groups called a mountain range but some mountains can be on their own. Not all mountains are single summits.

Mountains are formed when two of the Earth's plates collide and land is pushed upwards or folded.

The world's seven summits (the highest mountains on each continent) are Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, Vinson and Kosciuszko. Mount Everest is the highest Mountain in the world. It is 8848 metres tall.

The tallest mountains in the UK are Ben Nevis, Mount Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Slieve Donard.

There are five main types of mountains: fold mountains, fault-block mountains, volcanic mountains, dome mountains and plateau mountains.

Mountains have their own climates. The weather on a mountain is unpredictable and can change quickly. The area above 8,000 metres is known as the 'death zone' as there is so little oxygen.

Key Skills

Use letters or number coordinates to locate features on a map.

Use large scale OS maps.

Use atlases, maps and globes to locate a variety of different places.

Follow a route on larger scale maps with support.

Have experience of aerial photographs and identify known places.

Start to use geographical vocabulary related to the topic.

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography: Climate zones, biomes, mountains and vegetation belt.

King of the Cloud Forests – Michael Morpurgo

