Finn’s Mountain Explorers: Geography Mastery

Learning objective: To understand the formation, features, and climate of mountain ranges, and to explore the human and physical geography of high-altitude environments.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of mountain geography. Read the term or question on the front, then check the answer on the back. For the 'Greater Depth' questions, write a detailed explanation in your workbook.

What is the 'summit' of a mountain?

The highest point or the peak of a mountain.

Define 'altitude'.

The height of an object or point in relation to sea level.

How are 'fold mountains' formed?

They are formed when two tectonic plates collide, causing the Earth's crust to buckle and fold upwards.

What is the 'treeline'?

The edge of the habitat at which trees are capable of growing; above this point, it is too cold or windy for trees.

What is a mountain 'range'?

A series of mountains that are connected together, usually by high ground.

Explain why temperatures are generally lower at the summit than at the base of a mountain.

As you gain altitude, the air becomes thinner and less able to hold heat.

Compare and contrast the impact of weathering and erosion on mountain peaks.

Weathering breaks rocks apart in situ (e.g., frost shattering), while erosion involves the removal of those broken fragments by wind, ice, or water.

Justify why many mountain regions are sparsely populated.

The steep terrain, thinner oxygen, extreme weather conditions, and difficulty of transport make permanent settlement challenging.

What might happen to mountain landscapes if global temperatures continue to rise?

Glaciers may melt, leading to increased risk of floods, loss of specific alpine habitats, and changes to the water cycle for rivers below.

Explain how a glacier shapes a mountain valley over thousands of years.

Glaciers act like giant rivers of ice, they carve deep U-shaped valleys by grinding away rock and debris as they slowly move downwards.