

Exploring the World's Peaks with Finn

Learning objective: To write a non-chronological report about the physical geography of mountain ranges.

Use this scaffold to help Finn the dolphin map out the features of a mountain. Use your best vocabulary to describe the landscape, the climate, and how humans interact with these giant landforms.

Rising majestically from the earth, mountains are some of the most awe-inspiring landforms on our planet.

Word bank: altitude · summit · coniferous · precipitous · landscape · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · breathtaking · topography

1. Introduction: Briefly define what a mountain is and explain why some people are drawn to explore these high-altitude environments. Start with: Mountains are defined by... (2 marks)

2. The Formation of Mountains: Describe how mountains are created. You might mention tectonic plates or volcanic activity. Start with: These colossal structures are formed when... (3 marks)

3. Climate and Zones: Compare the temperature at the foot of a mountain to the temperature at the summit. Explain why the climate changes as you ascend. Start with: As one climbs higher, the environment shifts because... (3 marks)

4. Flora and Fauna: Justify why certain animals and plants have evolved to survive in mountainous regions. Start with: Despite the harsh conditions, resilient species such as... (3 marks)

5. Human Impact: Explain why humans visit mountains and discuss the importance of preserving these fragile ecosystems. Start with: Humans are often attracted to mountains for sport and discovery; however, it is vital to... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the significance of mountain ranges to our world's geography. Start with: In conclusion, mountains are essential because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine a new mountain range has been discovered. Compare and contrast its potential topography with the Himalayas. Explain why a scientist might choose to study its summit, and justify what might happen if the global temperature continues to rise, affecting the mountain's glaciers. Create a 'Mountain Fact-File' that includes a detailed diagram showing the different vegetation zones.