

Exploring the Peaks: A Geography Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge of mountain formation, zones, and the impact of human activity on mountain environments.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences where required.

Finn the dolphin has been travelling upriver and into the high mountain ranges to map the world's geography. He has observed how the temperature drops as he climbs higher and how the jagged rocks look different from the smooth valleys below. Mountains are vast, land-changing features that affect everything from weather patterns to where people choose to build their homes.

Word bank: altitude · summit · tectonic plates · climate · erosion · glacier · vegetation · contour lines

1. Identify two ways in which mountains are formed. Use your knowledge of tectonic plates to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'summit' and explain why the climate is generally colder at the summit than at the base of a mountain. (2 marks)

3. Explain why very few trees grow above the 'tree line' on a mountain. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a person living in a mountain village compared to someone living in a flat coastal town. Consider transport and resources. (4 marks)

5. Look at an imaginary map with contour lines. If the lines are very close together, what does this tell you about the steepness of the slope? (2 marks)

6. Justify why tourism in mountain ranges can be both a benefit and a challenge for the local environment. (4 marks)

7. What might happen to mountain ecosystems if global temperatures continue to rise, causing glaciers to melt? Consider the impact on wildlife and water supplies. (4 marks)

8. Extended Writing: Imagine you are an explorer climbing a major mountain range. Describe the changes you see in the vegetation, the weather, and the terrain as you ascend from the foothills to the peak. Use at least four terms from the word bank in your description. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a mountain. Label the following features: The summit, the treeline, a glacier, and the base.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Challenge: Research a famous mountain range (such as the Andes or the Himalayas). Create a small travel guide budget costing £15.00. If a hiking permit costs £4.50 and a mountain hut stay costs £7.50, how much money is remaining for food and supplies? Explain why mountain expeditions are often expensive to prepare for.