

Mapping the Majesty of Mountains with Finn

Learning objective: To identify the physical features of mountains and understand how they are formed and categorised.

Use your geographical knowledge to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required to demonstrate your understanding of mountain landscapes.

Finn the dolphin is taking a break from the ocean to explore the world's highest peaks! Mountains are large landforms that rise high above the surrounding land, usually in the form of a peak. They often occur in groups called ranges. Some mountains, known as fold mountains, are created when tectonic plates collide, pushing the Earth's crust upwards over millions of years. As you climb higher towards the summit, the air becomes thinner and the temperature drops. This is due to the change in altitude.

Word bank: Summit · Slope · Range · Altitude · Tectonic plates · Peak · Valley · Fold mountains

1. Explain the process of how 'fold mountains' are formed. Why does this process take such a significant amount of time? (3 marks)

2. Compare the climate at the base of a mountain to the climate at the summit. Why does the temperature change as you increase in altitude? (2 marks)

3. If you were planning an expedition, why might it be safer to travel through a valley rather than directly over a high peak? Justify your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. Define the term 'mountain range' and provide an example of how this grouping might affect the weather patterns of the surrounding area. (2 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to climb a mountain that costs £45 for a guided tour and £12 for equipment hire. If he has £70, does he have enough money? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a mountain range. Label the summit, the slope, the valley, and show where the tree line might end as the altitude increases.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a cartographer mapping a newly discovered mountain range. Write a short journal entry (100 words) describing the challenges a hiker might face in this environment. What might happen if the tectonic plates beneath this range were to move suddenly?