

Mapping the Majestic Peaks: A Geography Expedition with Finn

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the physical features of mountain ranges and how they are formed.

Finn the dolphin has traded his fins for hiking boots! He is exploring the world's most famous mountain ranges. Use the word bank to correctly label the features on your diagram and complete the classification activity. For the 'Greater Depth' section, apply your geographical knowledge to explain how these landscapes change over time.

Word bank: Summit · Slope · Valley · Tree line · Glacier · Mountain Range

1. Finn is looking at a steep, V-shaped valley. Explain why mountains often have V-shaped valleys rather than U-shaped ones. (Hint: Think about the power of water!) (2 marks)

2. True or False: The 'tree line' is the point on a mountain where the temperature is too cold or the soil is too thin for trees to grow. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the climate at the base of a mountain with the climate at the summit. Why does the temperature drop as we ascend? (2 marks)

4. If a climber buys a specialist thermal jacket for £85.50 and a pair of climbing boots for £42.25, how much change would they receive from £150.00? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the local ecosystem if the glacier at the peak of a mountain melts entirely due to rising global temperatures? (2 marks)

6. Justify why mountains are often called 'water towers' for the surrounding lowlands. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a mountain. Clearly label the summit, a glacier, the tree line, and a valley at the base. Add a small drawing of Finn the dolphin wearing a backpack near the base of the mountain.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a cartographer. Create a topographical map of a fictional mountain range. Include a 'key' that uses symbols to show different heights, a river flowing down the slope, and a rocky outcrop. Write a short paragraph describing the dangers and delights of climbing your unique mountain.