

Finn's Mountain Expedition: Mapping the Altitude

Learning objective: To identify and describe the features of a mountain environment and understand how altitude affects climate and vegetation.

Finn the dolphin has traded his fins for hiking boots to explore the mountains! He has discovered five distinct zones on his climb. Match the descriptions below to the correct mountain zone from the word bank. Then, explain why the temperature changes as you climb higher.

Word bank: Foot · Lower Slopes · Tree Line · Alpine Meadow · Summit

1. 1. The base of the mountain where rivers often flow and farming takes place. Which zone is this? (1 mark)
2. 2. This is the boundary where it becomes too cold for trees to grow. What is this called? (1 mark)
3. 3. The very top of the mountain, often covered in ice and snow all year round. Which zone is this? (1 mark)
4. 4. Area covered in hardy grasses and colourful wildflowers, located above the trees. (1 mark)
5. 5. Why does the temperature drop as Finn climbs higher up the mountain? (Hint: Think about the air pressure). (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a large mountain. Label the five zones from the word bank in the correct order from bottom to top, and draw one animal or plant you might find in the Alpine Meadow zone.



Extension challenge: Finn wants to buy hiking gear for his next trip. He has £50.00. A map costs £8.50, a compass costs £12.25, and a warm fleece costs £24.99. Does Finn have enough money to buy all three items? Show your calculation.