Exploring the World's Mountains with Finn the Dolphin

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

Read each question carefully and use your geography knowledge to provide detailed answers. Finn the Dolphin is cheering you on as you explore these high-altitude landscapes!

Mountains are incredible landforms that rise high above the surrounding land. They are often found in groups called ranges. These towering giants are created by the movement of tectonic plates deep beneath the Earth's surface, which push the land upwards over millions of years. Once formed, mountains are shaped by the weather, including wind, rain, and ice, a process known as erosion. As you climb higher, the temperature drops and the air becomes thinner, making life very different at the top compared to the bottom.

Word bank: Summit · Range · Tectonic plates · Altitude · Erosion · Slope · Peak

1. Explain how tectonic plates contribute to the formation of a mountain range. (2 marks)

2. What is the difference between a mountain 'peak' and a 'summit'? (2 marks)

3. Describe how weather and erosion change the shape of a mountain over a long period of time. (2 marks)

4. If a climber is at a high altitude, why might they find it harder to breathe compared to someone at sea level? (2 marks)

5. A mountain expedition costs £450 for equipment and £120 for a guide. If a group of 3 friends splits the total cost equally, how much does each person pay? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a mountain. Label the summit, a steep slope, and the base of the mountain. Add a small forest at the bottom and snow at the very top.

Extension challenge: Research a famous mountain range in the UK, such as the Pennines or the Grampians. Write three sentences explaining why these mountains are important to the local environment and the people who live nearby.