Mapping the Mountain Peaks with Finn

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate the physical features of a mountain environment, including altitudinal zones and geological formations.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a detailed diagram of a mountain landscape. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the key geographical features accurately. Ensure your labels are clear and pointed to the correct part of your illustration.

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a large, rugged mountain range. The style should be a clear, scientific diagram. Include a jagged summit peaking above the clouds, a steep slope leading down to a rocky scree field, and a U-shaped valley at the base with a river flowing through it. Include a thick forest area that stops abruptly at the treeline. Use subtle shading to show the texture of the rock and the icy surface of a glacier resting in the shadow of the mountain peak.

Label words: Summit · Slope · Valley · Glacier · Treeline · Snow line · Tributary · Scree slope

Steps:

1. Explain why the vegetation changes significantly as you move from the valley floor to the summit of a mountain.
2. Compare and contrast the physical characteristics of a V-shaped valley and a U-shaped glacial valley.

3. Justify why many human settlements are typically located in the valley rather than near the summit.

4. Label your drawing to indicate where the 'snow line' is located. What might happen to this line if global temperatures were to rise?

5. Identify two potential hazards that climbers might face on a 'scree slope'.

6. Creative Extension: Imagine Finn the dolphin is observing a mountain range from a nearby river. Write a short, poetic description of the mountain's appearance from his perspective at the water level.