

Mapping the Giants: A Geographical Investigation of Mountains

Learning objective: To describe and understand the physical features and formation of mountain ranges using geographical vocabulary.

Use this scaffold to structure your non-chronological report about a mountain range of your choice. Ensure you use technical terminology and provide detailed explanations to support your points.

Mountains are majestic landforms that rise significantly above the surrounding terrain, often defining the geography of entire continents.

Word bank: topography · tectonic plates · altitude · precipitation · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · subsequently · vast · rugged · climate zone · biodiversity

1. Introduction: Identify your chosen mountain range and explain its location. Start by saying: 'The [Name] mountain range is situated in...' (2 marks)

2. Formation: Explain the geological process behind the mountain's creation. Start by saying: 'These peaks were formed primarily due to...' (3 marks)

3. Climate and Weather: Describe the climate at different altitudes. Start by saying: 'As the altitude increases, the climate changes significantly because...' (3 marks)

4. Flora and Fauna: Analyse how the environment supports specific wildlife. Start by saying: 'The biodiversity found within this range is unique because...' (3 marks)

5. Human Impact: Explain why people visit or live in these mountains. Start by saying: 'Human activity in this region includes... which impacts the landscape by...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the importance of this mountain range. Start by saying: 'In conclusion, the [Name] mountains are vital to the planet because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why mountain ranges often act as borders between countries. 2. Compare and contrast a 'fold mountain' with a 'volcanic mountain'; which is more likely to change rapidly and why? 3. Justify your answer: If the global climate continues to warm, what might happen to the ecosystems at the summit of these mountains? 4. Design a mountain rescue plan for a hypothetical expedition, calculating the cost of equipment if a satellite phone costs £850, a thermal tent costs £420, and emergency supplies cost £230. What is the total budget required? 5. Argue whether tourism in high-altitude environments is beneficial or detrimental to the natural landscape. 6. Create a persuasive leaflet encouraging hikers to follow the 'Leave No Trace' code.