

MOUNTAINS

Year 5




Geography


Satellite image showing Mountain Ranges across the world



Relief and Height of the land

You can tell the height of land on a map in three different ways:

Contour Lines		Contour lines are line on a map that join places of equal height. They are usually shown as fine brown lines on a map
Layer colouring		Layer colouring uses colours to represent areas of higher land. Areas of mountainous land are usually shown as brown, like in this map of the UK
Spot heights		Spot heights are usually shown as a dot or triangle with a number on a map. They give the exact height of a point on the map.

 Contour lines give you an idea of the shape of the land. Most have their height marked on them in meters.

- ✓ If contour lines are close together, the land is steep.
- ✓ If contour lines are far apart, there is a gentle slope.

Key Vocabulary

Altitude height above the ground or above the sea level

Base: The bottom of the mountain where it meets the flat ground

Earth's crust Earth's hard outer layer made up of different types of rocks: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks.

Glacier: A **glacier** is a large area of thick ice that remains frozen from one year to the next. **Glaciers** also slowly flow over the land.

Peak or Summit: the highest point of a mountain

Ravine a small narrow valley with steep sides

Ridge A **ridge** is a long, narrow, elevated strip of land or any raised strip or band. **Ridge** also refers to the line formed by hills or mountains

Tectonic plates: Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called **plates**. All of Earth's land and water sit on

Key Facts

- ◇ Mountains make up about **one-fifth of the world's landscape**, and provide homes to at least one-tenth of the world's people.
- ◇ Generally, mountains are higher **than 600 metres**. Those less than 600 metres are called hills.
- ◇ The world's highest peak on land is **Mount Everest in the Himalayas**. It is 8,850m tall.
- ◇ There are mountains and mountain ranges in the ocean. Many islands are actually the tops of mountains.
- ◇ The elevation above 26,000 feet is called the "death zone" because there isn't

How are mountains formed?

There are **five types of mountains**:

Fold (or, Folded) is the most common type of mountain. It's called 'fold' because when the tectonic plates collide, the edges crumple as they are pushed together and the rock of the Earth's surface is pushed up to create mountains. The Himalayas are fold mountains.



Famous Mountain Ranges

- The Himalayas (Asia)
- The Andes (South America)
- The Rockies (North America)
- The Alps (Europe)
- The Urals (Russia)
- The Atlas (Africa)