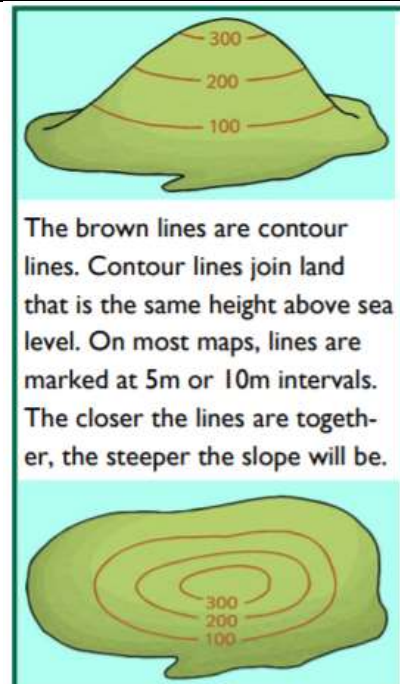
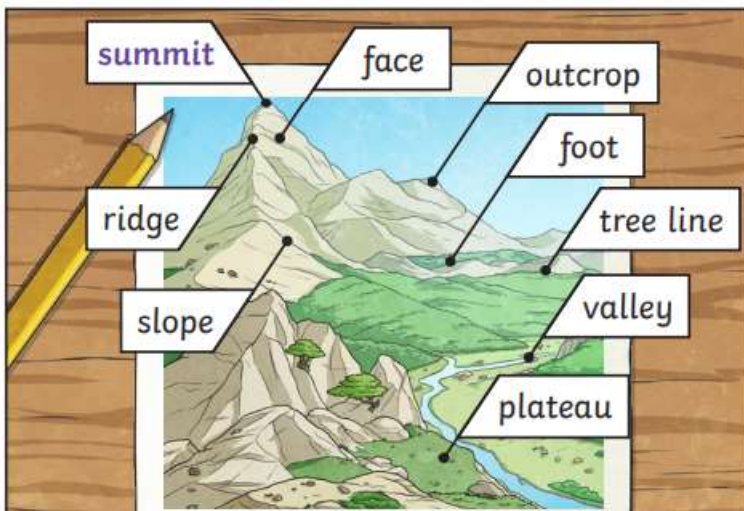


What is a Mountain?

Key Vocabulary	
Mountain	A part of landscape that is higher than the surrounding area usually with steep slopes that rises over 600m.
Base	The bottom of the mountain where it meets the ground.
Summit	The peak or highest point of a mountain.
Mountain Range	A series of mountains that are connected over high ground typically made up of fold mountains.
Contour Lines	Contour lines join land that is the same height and help us identify mountains on a map.
Tectonic plates	Pieces of Earth's crust that are connected together.
Crust	The outermost layer of the Earth.
Mantle	Part of the Earth's interior that lies between the thin crust and the core.
Inner Core	The inner most layer of planet Earth. Mostly made up of iron.
Outer Core	The liquid layer of the Earth that sits above Earth's inner core and below the mantle.
Magma	Hot, liquid rock located deep below the Earth's surface.
Altitude	The height of an object above sea level.
Above sea level	Used to describe the height of land forms that are above the water.
Below sea level	Used to describe land forms that are below the average height of the surface of one or more oceans.

Mountains are a natural part of the landscape with steep slopes that rise over 600m. Some mountains are found in groups called a mountain range but others are on their own.



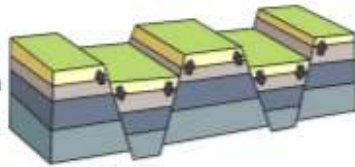
Mountain Name	Continent	Mountain area	Height
Mt. Everest	Asia	Himalayas	8, 848m
Mt. Anconagua	South America	Andes	6, 962m
Denali (Mt. McKinley)	North America	Alaska Range	6, 140m
Mt Blanc	Europe	The Alps	4, 807m
Mt Elbrus	Europe/Asia	Caucasus	5, 642m
Mt Kilimanjaro	Africa	Kilimanjaro	5, 895m
Mt Kosciuszko	Oceania	Great Dividing Range	2, 228m

How mountains are formed:



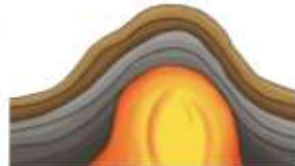
Fold mountains—Fold mountains occur when tectonic plates collide. The rock of the Earth's surface is pushed up to create mountains.

Fault-block mountains—When cracks in the Earth's surface open up, large chunks of rock can be pushed up while others are pushed down. This creates mountains with a long slope on one side, and a sharp drop on the other.



Volcanic mountains—Volcanic mountains are formed around volcanoes. Volcanic mountains are made of layers of ash and cooled lava.

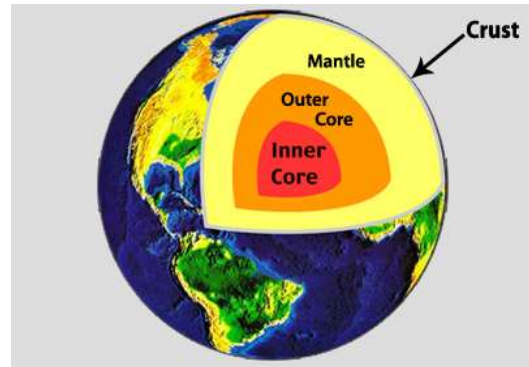
Dome mountains—Dome mountains are smooth and round-looking. They are formed when magma is forced up between the crust and the mantle, but doesn't ever flow out. The magma makes the land bubble up like a balloon.



Plateau mountains—Plateau mountains are different from the other mountain types. They haven't formed because of rock or magma being pushed up. They form because of materials being taken away through erosion, which has left deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.



Earth can be divided into three main layers: the core, the mantle and the crust. The core is then divided into two parts; the inner and outer. Both of these are made up of iron and a little nickel.



Climate—The temperature on mountains becomes colder the higher the altitude gets. Mountains tend to have much wetter climates than the surrounding flat land. Mountain weather conditions can change dramatically from one hour to the next. In just a few minutes a thunder storm can roll in when the sky was perfectly clear, and in just a few hours the temperatures can drop from extremely hot temperatures to temperatures that are below freezing.

What Are the Risks of Being in the Mountains?



- Altitude sickness
- Low temperatures causing hypothermia
- Wild animals
- Poorer access to medical facilities, schools, etc.
- Avalanches or landslides
- Bad weather causing power cuts
- Bad weather leaving you stranded or causing road accidents

Tourism— People visit mountains for a variety of reasons including: climbing; winter sports (e.g. skiing); hiking; photography and wildlife. This has both positive and negative effects on the area.



Positive	Negative
Employment opportunities	Increased pollution
Creation of nature reserves	Damage to ecosystems and habitats
Improved infrastructure and facilities	Noise and disruption
Money into the local economy	Increase in property prices.



Protecting Mountain Environments

- Strict planning controls and regulations
- Marked paths and vulnerable areas fenced off
- Education courses and cultural centres
- Improve public transport
- More litter bins, cleaners etc.