Year 5 Term 2 Geography: What is life like in the Alps?

Where are the Alps located? What are the geographical features of the Alps? How are The Alps different from our local area? Would you like to live in The Alps? Why or why not?

Key Vocabulary	
country	An area of land with its own government and borders.
continent	One of the seven very large areas of land on Earth, made up of many countries.
Atlas:	A book or collection of maps showing countries, continents and other geographical features.
Mountain range	A group of mountains connected together
Northern Hemisphere	the half of the Earth that is north of the Equator
Tectonic plates	Huge pieces of the earth's outer layer
lake	Large area of water surrounded by land
tourism	Travel for pleasure in which people visit places of interest
physical feature	For example, seas, mountains and rivers are natural.
human feature	For example, houses, roads and bridges. They have been built by people.
glacier	A large area of thick ice that remains frozen from one year to the next.
Alps	Large mountain range in Europe that stretches across eight countries.



Mountain peaks – Mont Blanc



Lake Bled, Slovenia

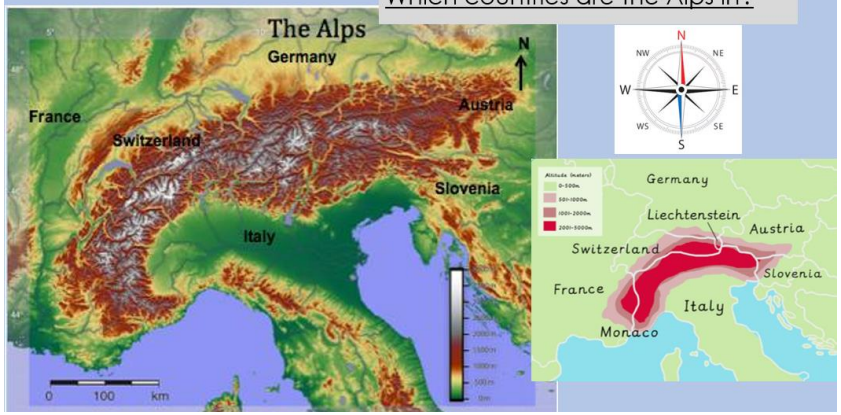


U-shaped valley – Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland



River Rhone in Switzerland.

Which countries are the Alps in?



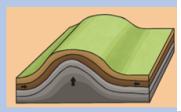
How were the Alps formed?

Around 65 million years ago, two enormous **tectonic plates** began **pushing against each other**. The rocks between them were squeezed, folded and pushed upwards, slowly creating the Alps.

Millions of years later, During the last Ice Age, which ended around 11,700 years ago, **the Alps were covered by enormous, thick glaciers.** Some glaciers were hundreds of metres thick.

Glaciers are **huge masses of ice that move very slowly downhill because of gravity.** As they move, they change the landscape through erosion.

- **Tectonic movement created the mountains.**
- **Glaciers shaped many of the mountains and valleys.**





Alpine Forest, Switzerland