

What is a mountain?

A mountain is usually defined as a part of the landscape with steep slopes that rise over 300m. Some geographers define a mountain as a summit of at least 600m high.

Some mountains are found in groups called ranges such as the Lake District in England and Snowdonia in Wales. Others are isolated summits.

When mountain ranges are found together they make up mountain chains. The Alps in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Andes in South America are all mountain chains.



Famous Mountains

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It is in the Himalayas, on the border of Nepal and China, and is 8,848 metres high.



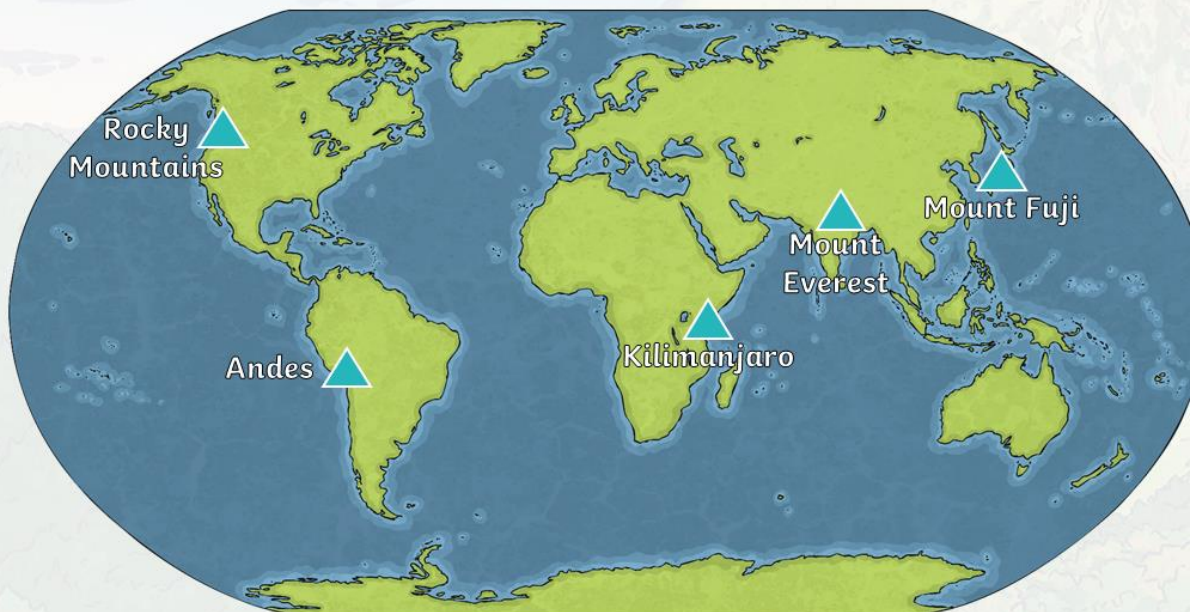
Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. It is a volcanic mountain that is 5,895 metres high.

Mount Fuji is a volcano in Japan. It is 3,776 metres high.



Mount McKinley is the highest peak in the USA. It is 6,294 metres high.

Famous Mountains



Mountains

Temperature on a Mountain

Mountains are colder at their peak because as the warm air rises, it expands and cools down.

Mountains have shiny white surfaces because of the ice and snow. It reflects the sun, keeping the temperature freezing during summer.

Ice on a Mountain

Many mountains have sharp peaks, ridges and valleys. These are formed by frost, ice and glaciers.

In the summer, the rain gets trapped in the cracks. During winter it freezes causing rocks to split from the mountain, leaving sharp, jagged edges.

Glaciers on a Mountain

Glaciers are made from ice and snow that has never been melted.

As it moves down a mountain, it takes rocks with it and erodes away the mountain. Glaciers can leave large U-shaped valleys carved out of the rocks.