

Mountains of the World

Mountains are enormous landforms that rise steeply above the land around them. They are found on every continent on Earth, and even beneath the oceans. The world's highest mountain is Mount Everest, which stands at 8,849 metres above sea level. It is located in the Himalayan mountain range in Nepal, Asia.

The higher you go up a mountain, the colder and windier it becomes. At great heights, there is also less oxygen in the air, which makes breathing difficult. The very tops of high mountains are covered in permanent snow and ice, called glaciers.

Mountains are home to many incredible animals. Snow leopards, golden eagles, yaks, and ibex have all adapted to survive in harsh mountain conditions. Mountain plants, like mosses and small shrubs, also manage to grow in rocky, cold soil.

Humans have always been fascinated by mountains. Many people hike or ski on lower slopes. Professional climbers attempt the highest peaks. Mount Everest was first climbed in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Mountains are spectacular and important parts of our planet.

Questions

1. Where are mountains found on Earth?
2. What is the height of Mount Everest?
3. In which mountain range is Mount Everest located?
4. What happens to the temperature as you go higher up a mountain?
5. What is the name for permanent snow and ice found at the tops of mountains?
6. Why is it hard to breathe at great heights?
7. Name two animals that live on mountains.
8. What kinds of plants grow on mountains?
9. Who first climbed Mount Everest, and in what year?
10. Why do you think fewer people live permanently on very high mountains compared to lower, flatter land?



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