

Mountains of the World

Mountains are imposing landforms, generally defined as rising more than 600 metres above the surrounding terrain. They are distributed across every continent and also exist beneath the world's oceans, where they are known as seamounts. Earth's highest mountain, Mount Everest, towers at 8,849 metres above sea level, located within the Himalayan range on the border of Nepal and Tibet.

Mountains are formed through several geological processes. The collision of tectonic plates forces land upwards over millions of years, creating fold mountains like the Himalayas and the Alps. Volcanic mountains, such as Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, are built up from layers of lava and ash.

Altitude profoundly affects climate on mountains. Temperature falls by roughly 6.5°C per 1,000 metres, and oxygen levels decrease significantly, making the upper zones inhospitable without specialist equipment. Persistent snow and glaciers form at great heights, and these glaciers act as vital freshwater reserves for millions of people worldwide.

Mountain ecosystems are remarkably diverse. Species such as the snow leopard, Andean condor, and mountain gorilla have evolved unique adaptations to survive in extreme conditions. Vegetation changes with altitude, from dense forests at lower levels to sparse alpine meadows and bare rock near the summit.

Mountains hold enormous cultural and economic significance, attracting tourism, providing hydroelectric power, and serving as sacred sites in many traditions. Everest was first conquered in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Questions

1. What height must land generally reach to be classified as a mountain?
2. What are underwater mountains known as?
3. What is the height of Mount Everest, and where is it located?
4. What type of mountains are formed by colliding tectonic plates?
5. Name one volcanic mountain mentioned in the article.
6. By how much does temperature fall for every 1,000 metres of altitude gained?
7. What important role do glaciers play for people around the world?
8. Name two animals mentioned that have adapted to mountain life.
9. How does vegetation change as you travel up a mountain?
10. The article mentions that mountains have cultural significance and are sacred in many traditions. Why do you think some people might consider mountains to be special or sacred places?



Text D Quiz



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