

# YEAR 6 SUMMER TERM

## MOUNTAIN OR MOLEHILL?

Mountains make up about **one-fifth** of the world's landscape, and provide homes to at least **one-tenth** of the world's people.

The **tallest** known mountain in the solar system is *Olympus Mons*, on Mars.

There are mountains under the surface of the sea!

When measuring a mountain, there is a difference between **highest** and **tallest**. A mountain's **height** is measured from **sea level to the summit**. A mountain's length (how **tall**) is measured from its **base to its summit**.

### Types of Mountains:

**Fold:** the most common type of mountain. It's called 'fold' because when the tectonic plates collide, the edges crumple as they are pushed together and the rock of the Earth's surface is pushed up to create mountains.

**Block:** When cracks in the Earth's surface open up, large chunks of rock can be pushed up while others are pushed down.

**Dome:** Smooth and round-looking. They are formed when magma from in between the Earth's crust and mantle gets pushed up, but doesn't ever flow out; all the magma makes the land bubble up like a balloon.

**Volcanic:** formed around volcanoes (vents in the Earth's top layer that let through magma from between the crust and the mantle). Volcanic mountains are made of ash and cooled lava.

**Plateau:** these are different from the other mountain types because they haven't formed because of rock or magma being pushed up. Instead, they've formed because of materials being taken away through erosion, which has left deep valleys or gorges next to high cliffs.

**Altitude:** height in relation to sea level

**Base:** the bottom of the mountain

**Contour lines:** join all the places at the same height above sea level (orange lines on an OS map)

**Equator:** an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at 0 degrees latitude

**Glacier:** a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed from collected snow that gathers faster than it melts

**Gorge:** a narrow valley, usually with a stream or river running through it

**Human geography:** how and where we live

**Physical Geography:** what our planet is like e.g. rivers, coasts, weather etc.

**Prime Meridian:** an imaginary line that circles the Earth from Pole to Pole at 0 degrees longitude

**Rural:** an area with low population density and small settlements (usually countryside)

**Slope:** the slanted side of a mountain

**Summit:** the highest point on a mountain

**Tectonic plates** – enormous plates of rock that make up the Earth's surface. All land and water sit on these plates

**Urban:** an area with higher population density (usually towns and cities)

**Valley** – low ground in between mountains

### The **highest** mountains in the countries of the UK are:

- Ben Nevis in Scotland (which is also the highest in all of the UK)
- Mount Snowdon in Wales
- Scafell Pike in England
- Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland

