

The importance of mountains

Mountains play a crucial role in shaping weather and climate patterns, and this impacts the cultures and traditions of people who live in mountainous regions.

High altitude means mountains are colder and receive more precipitation, creating unique ecosystems with adapted plant and animal species.

The melting snow and ice from mountains contribute to the flow of rivers and streams, providing fresh water for people and wildlife. The climate can also impact the cultures of mountain communities, which often have unique farming practices and traditional clothing adapted to the colder, wetter climate.



Mountains have influenced the cultural and spiritual beliefs of various societies throughout history. For instance, the ancient Greeks believed that Mount Olympus was the abode of their gods and goddesses, while the Inca civilization considered mountains to be sacred and used them as a way to connect with their gods. Similarly, many indigenous cultures worldwide regard mountains as sacred, either as a source of spiritual power or the dwelling place of their ancestors. Thus, mountains have not just impacted the physical landscape but also the spiritual and cultural beliefs of different societies over time.

Mountains cover about one-fifth of the earth's surface, and they are home to 10% of the world's population.

Everest

The Himalayan mountain range, which includes Mount Everest, was formed by the collision of two tectonic plates.

Appalachian

The Appalachian Mountains in the United States are some of the oldest mountains in the world, dating back over 480 million years.

Andes

The Andes mountain range in South America is the longest mountain range in the world, stretching over 4,300 miles (7,000 kilometers).



The Rocky Mountains in North America are home to over 60 different species of mammals, including bears, elk, and mountain lions.

The Caucasus Mountains, which stretch between Russia and Georgia, are considered one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the world, with over 6,400 species of plants and animals.

The Alps in Europe are a popular destination for winter sports, including skiing and snowboarding.

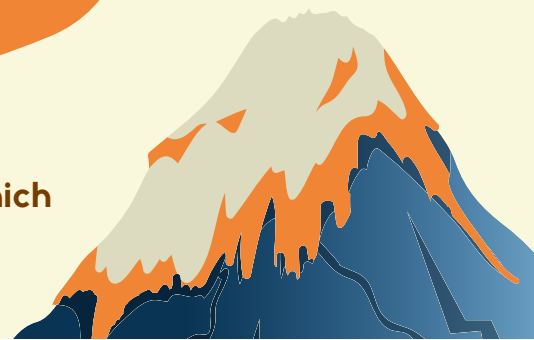


The Great Dividing Range in Australia is the third longest mountain range in the world and is home to over 400 species of mammals, including kangaroos and koalas.



The Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa are home to some of the best examples of rock art in the world, with over 35,000 paintings and engravings.

The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest, which stands at 29,029 feet (8,848 meters) tall.



Comprehension Questions



Set 1 (Easy)

1. What is the tallest mountain in the world?
2. What percentage of the world's population lives in mountainous regions?
3. What country is Mount Everest located in?

Set 2 (Medium)

1. How were the Himalayan mountains formed?
2. How old are the Appalachian Mountains?
3. How many species of mammals are found in the Rocky Mountains?

Set 3 (Hard)

1. Why are the Caucasus Mountains considered one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the world?
2. How many species of plants and animals are found in the Caucasus Mountains?
3. What is the Great Dividing Range, and where is it located?

Set 4 (Challenge)

1. Explain the impact that mountains have on weather and climate patterns, and how this affects the cultures and traditions of people who live in mountainous regions.
2. Compare and contrast the ecological diversity of the Caucasus Mountains and the Andes mountain range.
3. Evaluate the impact of tourism on mountainous regions, and discuss the pros and cons of this industry.