

2 MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

Huge and often striking, mountains can be found all over the world. They create picturesque backdrops and provide extreme sports enthusiasts with climbing, trekking and skiing opportunities – but what are they, exactly?

Mountains are areas of land that are higher than the land around them, but different definitions based on height exist. In Great Britain, the government's definition is a summit of 600 metres or higher. However, mountains can rise to thousands of metres in height.

Mountains are created by areas of Earth's solid crust, called 'tectonic plates', moving on the liquid magma beneath them. Some are made when plates push together and force the ground up where they meet. Some are created by magma erupting from gaps between the plates. Others have been created by underwater volcanoes, when lava reaches the surface.

A group of mountains together is known as a mountain range. Some of the world's best-known ranges include the Alps in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Himalayas in Asia. Some of the world's best-known mountains – although not all the highest – are Everest, Kilimanjaro, Fuji and Vesuvius.

Everest

Undoubtedly the most famous mountain of them all, Everest is in the Himalayas in Asia. It is the highest mountain in the world, at a staggering 8,848 metres tall.

Many adventurous climbing enthusiasts have attempted to climb it. At times, it can be so busy that queues form along the route to the summit. Over 5,000 brave climbers are said to have reached the top, but nearly 300 have died during their attempts.

Climbing Everest requires intensive training and can cost a lot of money. Many climbers take on the challenge in order to raise funds for charities.



Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain. It is located on the northern border of Tanzania, overlooking Kenya. Its summit rises to 5,895 metres – almost 3,000 metres lower than Everest's. Despite its location, its peak is covered with snow and ice all year.

Kilimanjaro is made up of three inactive volcanoes: Kibo, Mawensi and Shira. Shira is the oldest peak. Kibo is the youngest and had the most recent major eruption – but that was around 360,000 years ago.

Fuji

Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, is 3,776 metres tall. It is situated to the west of the capital city of Tokyo. Fuji is a volcano too, and its last major eruption was far more recent than Kibo's, in 1707. Despite being inactive for more than 300 years, it is still classified as active by geologists.

Fuji's conical appearance is famous across the world, and is an important and sacred symbol in Japan. It is also a hugely popular tourist site. Each summer, thousands climb to its snowy peak.

Vesuvius

Vesuvius is possibly the most infamous mountain in Europe, although it is only 1,280 metres tall. It's in southern Italy, close to the city of Naples – but even closer to Pompeii.

Vesuvius became famous in a dramatic way. In 79 CE, it erupted and covered the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae in lava, ash and burning mud. It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries that archaeologists discovered these cities buried beneath them, and began to explore their remains. Huge areas of the ancient cities were discovered, many of which were well preserved due to the speed at which they were covered. The area has provided us with an incredible insight into Roman life, and now attracts millions of visitors each year.

Vesuvius is still considered to be an active volcano – and it's thought to have erupted over 50 times during the last 2,000 years.

FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill the gap.

They create _____ backdrops and provide extreme sports enthusiasts with climbing, trekking and skiing opportunities – but what are they, exactly?

Mountains are areas of land that are higher than the land around them, but different definitions based on _____ exist.

However, mountains can rise to _____ of metres in height.

Some of the world's best-known ranges include the _____ in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Himalayas in Asia.

Mountains are created by areas of Earth's solid crust, called _____, moving on the liquid magma beneath them.

Some are created by magma _____ from gaps between the plates.

Others have been created by underwater _____, when lava reaches the surface.

Some of the world's best-known mountains – although not all the highest – are _____, Kilimanjaro, Fuji and Vesuvius.

Many _____ climbing enthusiasts have attempted to climb it.

Climbing Everest requires intensive _____ and can cost a lot of money.

It is located on the northern border of _____, overlooking Kenya.

It is situated to the _____ of the capital city of Tokyo.

Fuji's conical appearance is famous across the world, and is an important and sacred _____ in Japan.

Each summer, thousands climb to its _____ peak.

Vesuvius is still considered to be an _____ volcano.

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

Fuji
Everest
Kilimanjaro
Vesuvius

5,895 metres
1,280 metres
8,848 metres
3,776 metres

Fuji
Vesuvius
Everest
Kilimanjaro

Italy
Himalayas
Africa
west of Tokyo

nearly 300 people died
three inactive volcanoes
erupted in 79 CE
major eruption in 1707

Fuji
Kilimanjaro
Everest
Vesuvius

requires intensive training
Shira is the oldest peak
classified as active
destroyed Pompeii

Vesuvius
Everest
Fuji
Kilimanjaro

Vesuvius
Fuji
Kilimanjaro
Everest

raise money for charities
three inactive volcanoes
conical appearance
insight into Roman life

LABEL



Label the statements with the correct mountain.

8,848 m tall	
located near to Tokyo	
located close to Naples	
conical appearance	
Kibo is its youngest peak	
destroyed Stabiae	

Label the information with the correct mountain.

3,776 m tall	
found in Europe	
summit 5,895 m	
temporarily inactive	
nearly 300 deaths	
erupted 360,000 years ago	

Label the information with the correct mountain.

located on northern border of Tanzania	
found in the Himalayas	
Shira is its oldest peak	
thousands climb to this peak each year	
1,280 m tall	
erupted over 50 times in last 2,000 years	

TRUE OR FALSE



Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false*.

- A group of mountains is known as a gang of mountains. True False
- The Himalayas are found in Asia. True False
- The Alps are found in the United States. True False
- The Rocky Mountains are found in Mexico. True False
- Some mountains are created by underwater volcanoes. True False
- Mountains form when the Earth's crust is pushed together and up. True False
- The most famous mountain is Kilimanjaro. True False
- Mount Everest is in the Himalayas. True False
- Mount Fuji is 8,848 metres tall. True False
- Queues can form at the summit of Mount Everest. True False
- 3,000 climbers have conquered Mount Vesuvius. True False
- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. True False
- Kilimanjaro's summit is almost 5,000 metres lower than Mount Everest. True False
- Kilimanjaro is in Africa. True False
- Nearly 300 people have died climbing Mount Everest. True False
- Mount Vesuvius is located in Europe. True False
- Mount Vesuvius played a significant role in history. True False
- Archaeologists discovered ancient cities buried by Mount Fuji. True False
- Mount Everest is an active volcano. True False
- Pompeii was a Roman city. True False

MULTIPLE CHOICE



Circle the correct answer for each of the following questions.

Where can mountains be found?

in Europe	above sea level	on continents	all over the world
-----------	-----------------	---------------	--------------------

What is the correct name for a group of mountains?

a mountain gang	a mountain range	a mountain team	a mountain group
-----------------	------------------	-----------------	------------------

What is the name of the best-known group of mountains in Europe?

the Alps	the Andes	the Himalayas	the Rockies
----------	-----------	---------------	-------------

Which of the following creates mountains?

floods	tectonic plates	earthquakes	avalanches
--------	-----------------	-------------	------------

What is the height of Mount Everest?

5,895 metres	2,950 metres	3,776 metres	8,848 metres
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Which of the following measures 1,280 metres tall?

Fuji	Kilimanjaro	Vesuvius	Everest
------	-------------	----------	---------

Which modern-day city is Pompeii closest to?

Tokyo	Tanzania	Nepal	Naples
-------	----------	-------	--------

Mount Fuji has been inactive for...

less than 100 years	200 years	more than 300 years	50 years
---------------------	-----------	---------------------	----------

Which of the following is the name of the oldest peak on Mount Kilimanjaro?

Mawensi	Shira	Kibo	Fuji
---------	-------	------	------

When did Mount Vesuvius erupt and destroy Pompeii?

79 CE	97 CE	17 CE	73 CE
-------	-------	-------	-------

123 SEQUENCING



Look at *Mountains of the world*. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text. Look at the first line of each paragraph to help you.

Undoubtedly the most famous mountain of them all, Everest is in the Himalayas in Asia.

Huge and often striking, mountains can be found all over the world.

Mountains are created by areas of the Earth's solid crust, called 'plates', moving on the liquid magma beneath them.

Vesuvius is still considered to be an active volcano – and it's thought to have erupted over 50 times during the last 2,000 years.

Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, is 3,776 metres tall.

Look at the second to last paragraph in *Mountains of the world*. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text.

Vesuvius became famous in a dramatic way.

In 79 CE, it erupted and covered the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae in lava, ash and burning mud.

The area has provided us with an incredible insight into Roman life, and now attracts millions of visitors each year.

It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries that archaeologists discovered these cities buried beneath them, and began to explore their remains.

Huge areas of the ancient cities were discovered, many of which were well preserved due to the speed at which they were covered.

Look at *Mountains of the world*. Number the statements from 1 to 5 to show the order they occur in the text.

It is the highest mountain in the world, at a staggering 8,848 metres high.

Some of the world's best-known ranges include the Alps in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Himalayas in Asia.

Over 5,000 brave climbers are said to have reached the top, but nearly 300 have died during their attempts.

Kibo is the youngest and had the most recent major eruption – but that was around 360,000 years ago.

Huge areas of the ancient cities were discovered, many of which were well preserved due to the speed at which they were covered.

 **FIND AND COPY**


These questions are about *Mountains of the world*.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that mountains are extremely beautiful.

Look at paragraph two. Find and copy a word that refers to the top of a mountain.

Look at paragraph three. Find and copy a word that suggests that magma is forced out of the ground with explosive force.

Look at the Everest section. Find and copy a word that suggests that lines of people can be found on Everest.

Look at the Kilimanjaro section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Kenya can be seen from the top of the mountain.

Look at the Fuji section. Find and copy a word that suggests that there is still a possibility that Mount Fuji could erupt.

Look at the Vesuvius section. Find and copy a word that suggests Vesuvius is well known.

Look at the Vesuvius section. Find and copy two words that suggest that ancient cities were maintained in a state that was near perfect because of the ash.

 **UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT**


Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

Vesuvius is possibly the most infamous mountain in Europe, although it is only 1,280 metres tall. It's in southern Italy, close to the city of Naples – but even closer to Pompeii.

Vesuvius became famous in a dramatic way. In 79 CE, it erupted and covered the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae in lava, ash and burning mud. It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries that archaeologists discovered these cities buried beneath them, and began to explore their remains. Huge areas of the ancient cities were discovered, many of which were well preserved due to the speed at which they were covered. The area has provided us with an incredible insight into Roman life, and now attracts millions of visitors each year.

Vesuvius is still considered to be an active volcano – and it's thought to have erupted over 50 times during the last 2,000 years.

Underline or highlight a word that means to understand a complicated situation.

Underline or highlight a word that means to be covered up with earth.

Underline or highlight a word that means known because of something bad.

Underline or highlight a word that means exciting and impressive.

Underline or highlight a word that means under something else.

Underline or highlight a word that means has erupted recently or could erupt soon.