

A stylized illustration of a mountain range, likely representing Mount Everest and its surrounding peaks. The mountains are depicted with grey and white tones, suggesting snow and rocky terrain. The sky is a clear blue. The text 'All About... Mount Everest' is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

All About... Mount Everest

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What Is a Mountain?

A mountain is a piece of land that has steep, sloping sides and is more than 300 metres high. A mountain has a high point called a 'peak' or a 'summit'. When mountains are close together, they are known as a 'mountain range' or 'mountain chain'.

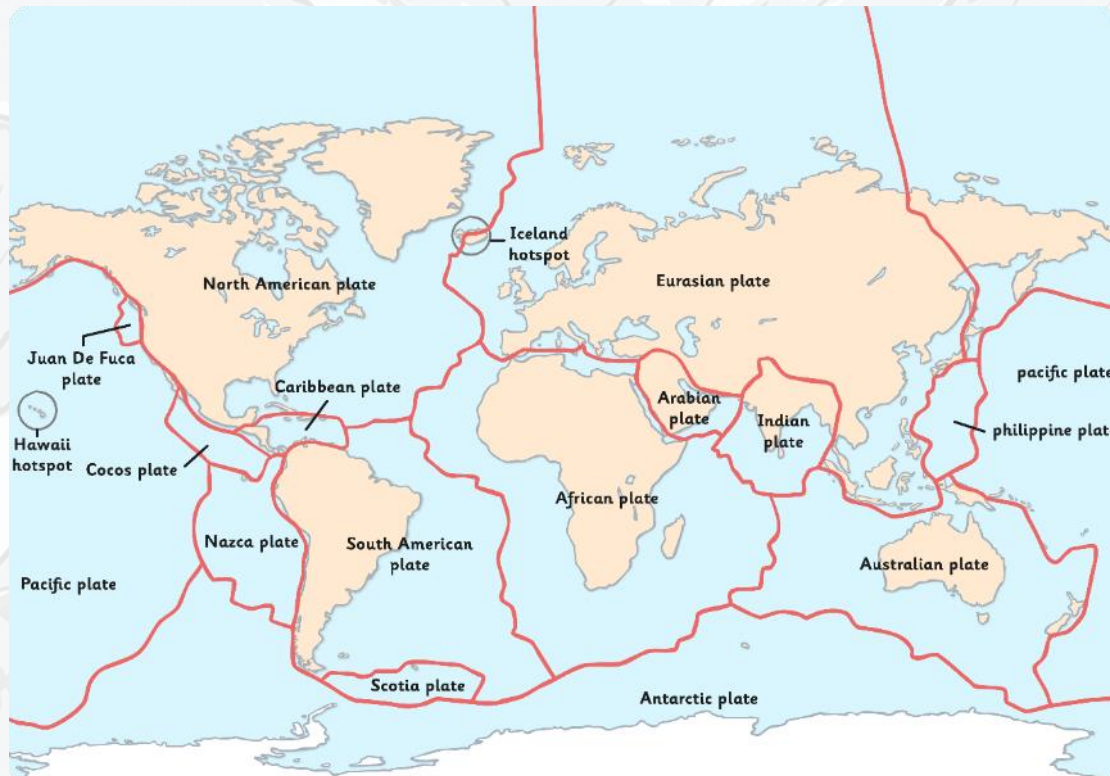


**Talk
About
It**

Do you know the names of any mountains?

How Are Mountains Formed?

The earth's crust is broken up into huge areas called 'tectonic plates'. These plates move. When tectonic plates collide, they can push up rocks - this is one of the ways mountains are formed.



Where Is Mount Everest?

Mount Everest is in the Himalayan mountain range.



The Himalayas

The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in the world. Nine out of the ten highest peaks in the world are part of the Himalayas. The word 'Himalaya' is Sanskrit for 'home of snow'.

The Himalayas cover over 2400km and run through many countries, including India, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal.

Wildlife native to the Himalayas, includes the snow leopard, the Bengal tiger and the one-horned rhino.



Did You Know...?

During the COVID-19 lockdown, less traffic on the roads meant less air pollution. For the first time in over 30 years, people in the Punjab in northern India were able to see the Himalayas - more than 100 miles away!

Mount Everest

Mount Everest is 8848 metres high.

It is thought that Mount Everest is between 50 and 60 million years old.

It was formed when the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates collided.



The Tallest Mountain in the World?

Mount Everest is usually described as the tallest mountain in the world.

In one sense this is true. It is the highest point on Earth and is the highest mountain above sea level.

However, Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano in Hawaii, can be considered to be the tallest mountain in the world. It is over 10,000 metres tall although only 4205 metres of this is above sea level. The summit of Mount Everest is higher than that of Mauna Kea.



Mauna Kea

The Climate on Mount Everest

Mountains are colder at their peaks because as warm air rises, it expands and cools down. The temperature on the summit of Mount Everest never goes above 0°C (32F). The average temperature in summer is -19°C (-2F) and in winter is -36°C (-33F). Winds can reach up to 285km per hour.



The air pressure at the summit is one third of what it is at sea level; this means there is less oxygen available.

Global warming is having a negative impact on the mountain. Glacial lakes are melting and one of the base camps (where climbers start their main ascent) has slid 40 metres down the mountain.

Climbing Mount Everest

Due to the air pressure, climate and height, climbing Mount Everest is a dangerous task; most people who attempt it do not succeed. The first people to reach the summit did so in 1953. They were Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay from Nepal. Since then, there have been over 5000 successful climbs to reach the summit. Sadly, more than 300 people have died while trying to climb Mount Everest.



Climbing Records

- Apa Sherpa and Phurba Tashi Sherpa, from Nepal, both hold the record for the most number of climbs with 21 each.
- Junko Tabei, from Japan, was the first woman to reach the summit in 1975.
- Jordan Romero (USA) was just 13 years old when he successfully climbed the mountain, making him the youngest person ever to conquer Everest.
- The sons of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest have also climbed the mountain.
- In 2004, Moni Mulepati and Pem Dorjee Sherpa, from Nepal, got married on Mount Everest.

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Why do you think so many people want to climb Mount Everest when it is so dangerous?



Junko Tabei

The Impact of Tourism

Hundreds of climbers ascend Mount Everest each year and in some ways this is having a negative impact on the area.

Climbers leave rubbish, including food wrappers, empty oxygen tanks and other climbing gear. Due to the low temperatures, this rubbish doesn't decompose. There are things left from many years ago. One person called the mountain 'the world's highest garbage dump'.

The Nepalese government are so concerned that they have introduced a new law which states that each climber has to bring back at least 8kg of waste with them.





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