

Year 3 Spring 1: Mountains



Children are introduced to the idea that mountains have been formed over time. They learn about the way mountains are formed, the features of mountains and how they are different types of mountains in different parts of the world. Links are made with map reading, locating other countries, weather patterns, tectonic plates and local knowledge.

Significant People

Junko Tabei



Tenzing Norgay

and Sir Edmund Hillary



Main enquiry questions

What is a mountain?

What are the features of a mountain?

How are mountains formed?

Do mountains have their own climates?

What are the UK and world's highest mountains?

What is the importance of the Himalayas?

Key Concepts

The following are the key concepts for this unit:

Alpine, avalanche, landform, slope, summit, valley, altitude, height above sea level, map index, map reference, scale bar.

English Texts

This term in English we will be studying the following texts:

‘The Beasties’ by Jenny Nimmo

‘Everest’ by Sangma Francis and Lisk Feng

Maths learning

This term in Maths we will be studying:

Multiplication and division

Length and perimeter

Historical links	Science	Art	PE	Music	RE	Computing	French	PSHE
How long ago did mountains start forming? How old is the earth?	Forces and magnets	Working with shape and colour	Dance Fitness	Jazz	How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?	Sequencing sounds	Unit 2: Games and songs	Safety and the changing body









Our Curriculum Elements for this half term.



Trips, activities and or visits this term:

Talk with a mountaineer who will visit us



Learning Hook		Film materials about conditions up on the highest mountains of the Earth Talk to a mountaineer about mountains and climbing
Fieldwork		Virtual tour on a mountain Look at mountaineer equipment Test out magnets in different settings
Written outcome		Biography of a famous mountaineer Fact files on different mountains
Creative Outcome		Making a mountain range scene Making a compass
Adventure (Activities in Adventure Island)		Enhancing biodiversity in Adventure Island Taking care of the allotments RSPB Big School Bird Watch Looking at wildlife in Adventure Island Making compasses and using the 4 directions in AI
Play Project		Build your own mountain range in cardboard
Celebration		We will share our knowledge and experiences about mountains, mountaineering and using a compass with other classes
Retrieval Practice		What are the features of a mountain? How are mountains formed? Do mountains have their own climates? What are the UK and world's highest mountains? What is the importance of the Himalayas? How does a compass work?