

Year 5 & 6 Rivers & Mountains

| Key vocabulary | |
|-----------------------|---|
| mountain | Part of the landscape with steep slopes over 300m |
| tectonic plate | Large, slow moving pieces of the Earth's crust. |
| summit | The top of a mountain. |
| plateau | An area of flat, high ground. |
| valley | area of low land between mountains. |
| mountain range | A series of mountains in a line connected by high ground |
| altitude | Height of a mountain above sea level. |
| source | The place where the river begins |
| mouth | The place where the river flows into the sea. |
| tributary | A stream or river that flows into a larger one. |
| channel | A passage along which water flows. |
| meander | A large bend in a river. |
| erosion | Gradual removal of rock and soil in a particular area of the river. |
| floodplain | Flat ground near a river that floods when the river water rises. |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Longest River | The Amazon—6,840 km |
| Highest Mountain | Mount Everest - 8848 m |

The Himalayas

A mountain range containing the mountains Everest and K2. The mountain dwelling Sherpa people have adapted to the conditions of this harsh environment and many act as guides for tourists who want to explore this area.



Key Knowledge

| | |
|--|--|
| P r e c e d i n g | Hills are areas of land that are higher than everything surrounding it. Mountains are steeper and taller than hills. |
| C u r r e n t | The water cycle is the continuous journey of water from oceans and lakes, to clouds, to rain, to streams, to rivers and back into the ocean again. |

Mountains

Mountains were made by tectonic plates rubbing together.

The 5 different types of mountains are fault block, fold, plateau, dome & volcanic.

Mountains are shown on maps by using contour lines that are close together.

Above the tree line, it is too cold for plants to grow - at a certain altitude there is snow all year round (known as the snow line).

Few people live on high mountains because the cold temperatures and the poor soil makes it difficult to grow crops. Steep slopes also make building houses and travel difficult.

Rivers

All the water on the Earth is involved in the water cycle. Only 1% is useable for humans.

Water falls to the as precipitation: rain, sleet, snow and hail.

The river source is located in the mountains and is the beginning of a river. This starts as a result of rain, melting ice or an underground stream.

Tributaries join together as streams and rivers to the main river increasing its size and the quantity of water travelling along it.

The river is divided into three stages: the upper, middle and lower course.

As the river moves away from the mountains, the gradient at which it travels along decreases; the land is a lot flatter and as a result may flood when the water levels rise. These floodplains are rich in nutrients and are often used to grow crops.

The river mouth is where the river meets the sea and where an estuary often exists.

River Case Study: Danube

The River Danube is Europe's second longest river and is almost 3,000 km long. The source is in Germany in the Black Forest and the mouth of the river is in the Black Sea.

