

Geography Knowledge Organiser: Mountains and Volcanoes

What should I already know?

- Human and physical geographic features, such as buildings, shops (human) and cliffs, beaches (physical)
- England is a country in the continent of Europe
- To understand what happened to the city of Vesuvius in AD 79 and why today it is one of the world's most important archaeological sites

FUN FACTS!

- More than 80% of the Earth's surface was created through volcanic activity.
- The word volcano originally comes from the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.
- While we certainly have some big volcanoes here on Earth, the biggest known volcano in our solar system is actually on Mars. Its name is Olympus Mons and it measures a whopping 600km (373 miles) wide and 21km (13 miles) high.

Key vocabulary and definitions:

Climate	A description of the average weather conditions in a certain place for the past 30 or so years.
Mountain	Steep, rugged upland more than 600 metres above sea level, usually much steeper than a hill, with a peak
Hill	Although an indefinite term, elevated land less than 600 metres above sea level
Snow line	Above this level snow can be found all year; below this point snow will usually melt during the year
Vegetation	Plant life or total plant cover in any specified area
Sharp ridge (arête)	A long, narrow raised edge with sloping sides
Lava	Molten, hot rock flowing from a volcano.
Magma	A molten substance beneath the Earth's crust.
'Ring of Fire'	The geographical area around the edges of the Pacific Ocean. It is called so because it is shaped as a horseshoe and it has more exploding, active volcanoes and earthquakes than any place on the earth.
Mantle	The 'middle layer' of the Earth's crust which is made up of a semi-molten rock called magma.
Igneous Rock	One of the main rock types, all igneous rocks are formed from magma and lava. (Derived from Latin Ignis – fire)

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- To understand how ice, rain, snow and wind shape the mountain and its surroundings
- To identify and name a number of famous mountains and identify these on an atlas
- To understand how mountains are formed
- To identify different types of volcanoes
- To know the names and locations of some volcanoes
- To name the features of a volcano
- To be aware of the role of tectonic plates in creating volcanoes
- To develop an understanding of the forces at work when a volcano erupts
- To use appropriate geographical language to describe a volcanic eruption
- To recount some factual information about the impact on people of a volcanic eruption and begin to understand why some people live near volcanoes

