

Why are mountains so important?

Vocabulary

fold mountain – mountains that form mainly by the effects of folding on layers within the upper part of the Earth's crust

tectonic plate- are pieces of Earth's crust around 100 km (62 mi) thick.

mountain ranges - a series of mountains ranged in a line and connected by high ground

summit – highest point of the mountain

slope - the side of a mountain.

valley – the dip between 2 mountains

mountaineer – a person who climbs mountains for discovery or pleasure

tourism- travelling for pleasure or business

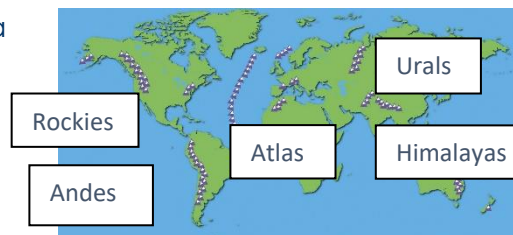
climate – weather generally in the region

reservoir – a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply.

dam- a barrier that stops or restricts the flow of surface water or streams.

disease - illness or sickness characterised by specific signs or symptoms

cholera – bacteria that can be found in contaminated water or food.



Hillary and Norgay

Mountain life has many advantages including rich, fertile soils, jobs created by tourism and breathtaking views. However, risk of avalanches, extreme weather and sloping grounds can make life very tricky.



Fact File

Most geographers agree that a mountain is a large mass of earth or rock taller than 600m that rises up above the surrounding land.

About one-fifth (20 per cent) of the surface of Earth is covered by mountain ranges. A mountain range is a large area where many mountains can be found close together. Among the greatest are the Himalaya, Andes, Rockies, Alps, Urals and Atlas.

Fold mountains are formed when two tectonic plates move towards each other, all of the layers of rock that lie in between them become crumpled or 'folded' up into the air to form mountain ranges.

On 29 May 1953, New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers to have reached the summit of Mount Everest - the highest mountain on the planet above sea level.

The first woman to climb Mount Everest was a Japanese climber named Junko Tabei who reached the summit at the age of 35 in 1975.

Water from reservoirs high up in the Cambrian mountains was transported to the lower lands of Birmingham during the Cholera epidemic so that people had fresh water to drink.