

Mountains



A mountain is a large _____ rising above the flatter earth around it. They are higher and _____ than hills. There is no universally agreed definition, but any landform over 300 metres (1,000 feet) is normally considered to be a mountain.

Mountains are found on every continent on Earth and even under the sea! In fact, they cover one-fifth of the Earth's surface. Most are found in _____, which are strings of mountains close to each other. They are vital to life on Earth as major _____ begin their journey in the mountains, providing fresh water to billions of people.

Mountains form at places where the Earth's _____ meet. These are large plates of rock that make up part of the Earth's outer _____. They float on the Earth's mantle, so they move around. The plates move between 2 to 10 centimetres (1 to 4 inches) a year.

There are five ways in which a mountain can be formed. The most common type of mountain on Earth is a fold mountain. These are formed when tectonic plates _____ with each other. The force of the collision causes the Earth's crust upwards, causing it to buckle and fold. Many of the world's most famous mountain ranges were formed by this process, including the _____ in Asia and the Andes in South America.

Block mountains (also known as fault-block mountains) are also the result of tectonic plate movement. In this case, the movement forces large blocks of _____ up and down, causing the mountains to form. The Sierra Nevada mountain range in _____, USA, is mainly formed of this type of mountain.

Volcanic mountains are built up from the materials ejected from a volcano during an eruption. The _____ and rocks form layers, which produce a distinctive cone shape over many years.

Dome mountains are also caused by _____ rock. In this case, however, the magma does not break through the Earth's crust. Instead, it causes the crust to rise up into a dome shape. As the _____ cools, it forms a layer of hard rock beneath the dome. Over many millions of years, _____ wears away the top layers, leaving the hard rock _____. The Adirondack Mountains in New York State, USA, are formed from a dome around 260km (160 miles) across with over 100 individual _____.



rivers	rock	crust	steeper
ranges	peaks	magma	erosion
collide	lava	tectonic plates	California
Himalayas	molten	landform	exposed

Mountains

A mountain is a large **landform** rising above the flatter earth around it. They are higher and **steeper** than hills. There is no universally agreed definition, but any landform over 300 metres (1,000 feet) is normally considered to be a mountain.

Mountains are found on every continent on Earth and even under the sea! In fact, they cover one-fifth of the Earth's surface. Most are found in **ranges**, which are strings of mountains close to each other. They are vital to life on Earth as major **rivers** begin their journey in the mountains, providing fresh water to billions of people.

Mountains form at places where the Earth's **tectonic plates** meet. These are large plates of rock that make up part of the Earth's outer **crust**. They float on the Earth's mantle, so they move around. The plates move between 2 to 10 centimetres (1 to 4 inches) a year.

There are five ways in which a mountain can be formed. The most common type of mountain on Earth is a fold mountain. These are formed when tectonic plates **collide** with each other. The force of the collision causes the Earth's crust upwards, causing it to buckle and fold. Many of the world's most famous mountain ranges were formed by this process, including the **Himalayas** in Asia and the Andes in South America.

Block mountains (also known as fault-block mountains) are also the result of tectonic plate movement. In this case, the movement forces large blocks of **rock** up and down, causing the mountains to form. The Sierra Nevada mountain range in **California**, USA, is mainly formed of this type of mountain.

Volcanic mountains are built up from the materials ejected from a volcano during an eruption. The **lava** and rocks form layers, which produce a distinctive cone shape over many years.

Dome mountains are also caused by **molten** rock. In this case, however, the magma does not break through the Earth's crust. Instead, it causes the crust to rise up into a dome shape. As the **magma** cools, it forms a layer of hard rock beneath the dome. Over many millions of years, **erosion** wears away the top layers, leaving the hard rock **exposed**. The Adirondack Mountains in New York State, USA, are formed from a dome around 260km (160 miles) across with over 100 individual **peaks**.



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