

# MONSTER MOUNTAINS

**D**oes climbing the stairs make you dizzy? Or do you have a good head for heights? You'll need to be in peak condition for the next bit of our tour. Yep, you've guessed it. We're heading for the hills. Only these horrible hills are at least 1,000 metres high, and are counted as monster mountains. Ready for some wicked views from the top?

## Freaky peak fact file

For years, geographers hadn't the foggiest how monster mountains formed. Then brainy Alfred Wegener (remember him?) came up with his ground-breaking idea about how the continents drift. Yep, it's the way the crusty plates move that pushes up the different types of peaks.

Still wondering which mountain to climb? Why not check out our freaky peak fact file before you set off?

THERE'S A FOURTH TYPE OF FREAKY PEAK BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TURN TO PAGE 22 TO SEE THIS BEAUTY BLOW ITS TOP.

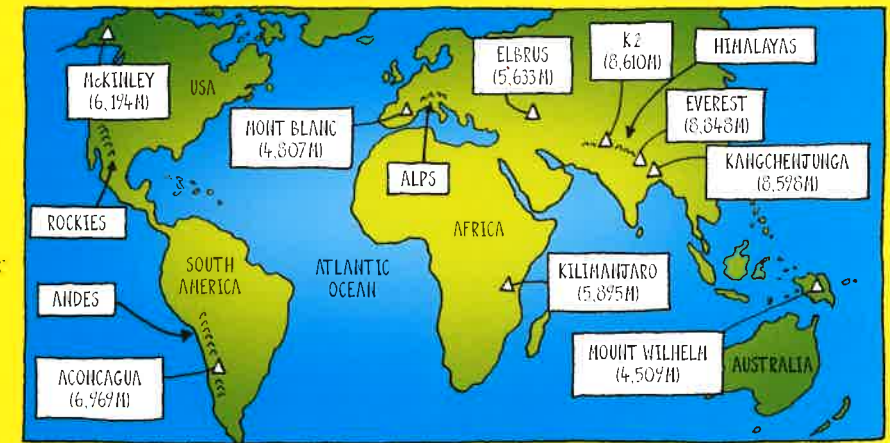
BLOCK MOUNTAIN

FOLD MOUNTAIN

GLACIER

## Ten monster mountains

About a fifth of the Earth is covered in monstrous mountains. But just in case there isn't a freaky peak near you, here's a map of ten of the world's highest mountains and some of the longest mountain ranges.



## PEAK WEATHER REPORT

While you're admiring the view from the top, it pays to wrap up warm. The higher you go up a freaky peak, the colder it feels. The air's so thin and clear up there that it can't trap heat from the Sun. So even in the steamy tropics, peaks are capped with snow all year round.

A MOUNTAIN RANGE IS THE TECHNICAL TERM FOR A LONG CHAIN OF MOUNTAINS.

DOME MOUNTAIN

## TEACHER TEASER

Which is the highest mountain on Earth?  
a) Mauna Kea. b) K2. c) Everest.  
Answer: a) Mauna Kea's a vast volcano that pokes out of the sea in Hawaii. From its base on the seabed, it's a monstrous 10,203 metres high. That's more than 1,300 metres taller than earth-bound Everest.

## Groovy glaciers

The slippery slopes of mountains are great places for glaciers. These are gigantic rivers of ice that slowly flow downhill. So how on Earth does a groovy glacier grow? Uncle Cliff's got the answer ... if he can stay upright. He's still a bit shaky on his skis.

## FOLD MOUNTAIN

**Formation:** Two colossal plates of crust smash into each other. The sea floor between them is squashed and squeezed into gigantic folds.

**High points:** Himalayas (Asia); Rockies (USA); Alps (Europe)

## BLOCK MOUNTAIN

**Formation:** Forms at faults where two plates meet. As the plates push together, they shove up a huge block of rock in between.

**High points:** Massif Central (France); East African Mountains; Sierra Nevada (USA)

## DOME MOUNTAIN

**Formation:** Magma deep underground seeps to the surface. It shoves the Earth's crust up into a nice, round hump.

**High points:** Lake District (England); Black Hills (USA)

1 Snow falls high up on the mountainside.

2 More snow falls and squashes it into ice.

3 Soon the ice is so heavy that it starts to slip. The steeper the slope, the faster it flows.

4 As the glacier flows, it drags along tonnes of rock, which grind out a U-shaped valley.

5 Eventually it reaches its snout. That's the end of the glacier, where it starts to melt. A bit like a runny nose. Aatchooo!

PRETTY COOL!

18

19