

# What is life like in the Alps? | Geography | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2025-26

## National Curriculum – Geography

### Locational knowledge

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime / Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).

### Human and physical geography

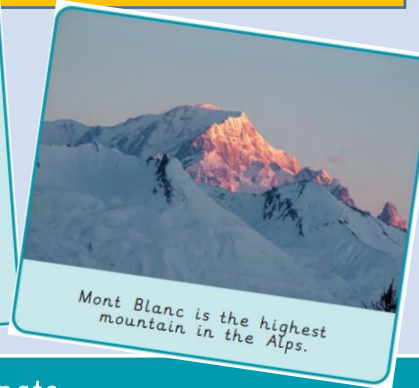
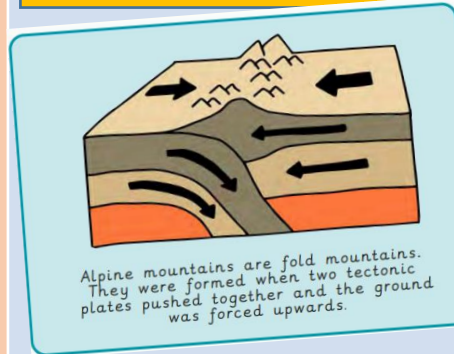
- Describe and understand key aspects of:
  - physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
  - human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

### Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital / computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

## Lines of enquiry

### What are some of the physical features of the Alps?



### Climate

Most of the Alps have a mountain climate. It is much colder than the surrounding climate due to the height of the mountains. Lower regions of the Alps have a temperate climate.

### What are some of the human features found in the Alps?

Popular activities in the Alps include skiing, hiking and sightseeing.



Innsbruck is a popular tourist city in the Alps (in Austria).

## Vocabulary

**Leisure:** the use of free time for enjoyment.

**Tourist:** a person who travels to a place for pleasure.

**Mountain range:** a series of mountains located close together.

**Longitude:** how far east or west a place is located.

**Latitude:** how far north or south a place is located.

**Recreational land use:** land use that provides leisure activities.

**Climate:** long-term weather conditions in a specific region.

**Land height:** the position of a point above sea-level.

**Sea-level:** the base for measuring land height on Earth.

**Human feature:** a landmark that is built by humans.

**Physical feature:** a landmark that occurs naturally on Earth.

**Glacier:** a slow-moving mass of ice formed by the accumulation of compact snow on mountains.

**Temperate forest:** a biome containing deciduous trees at lower levels and coniferous trees at higher elevations.

**Vegetation:** all the plants that grow in a certain area.

**Population:** the number of people living in a certain place.

## Geographical skills and knowledge

Where are the Alps?

Map of Europe



Which countries do the Alps span?

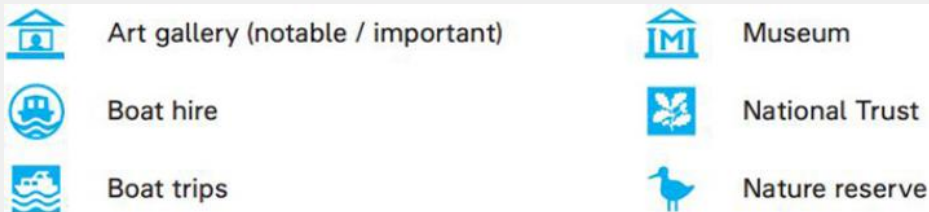
- The Alps stretch approximately 1200km, across eight countries in Europe.



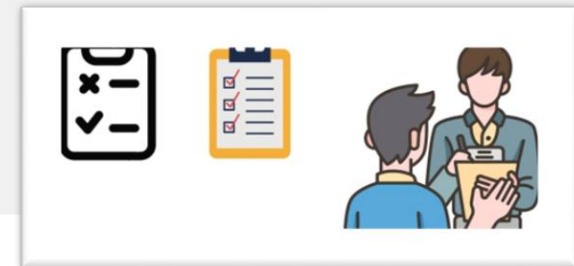
- The highest mountain range in Europe is the Alps.
- The Alps contain hundreds of peaks that exceed 4000m in elevation.
- A topographic map shows elevation changes of the land using contour lines and/or colour bands to represent height above sea-level.

OS map symbols:

A selection representing tourist and leisure information




Qualitative data - **non-numeric information**, such as interviews, diaries, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio-visual recordings and images.



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**Key Learning: To understand geographical similarities and differences between a region of the UK and a region in a European country.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Where are the Alps?</b><br>Recall prior learning about mountains including types of mountains and how they are formed. Link knowledge to highest mountain range in Europe. Use an atlas to locate the Alps and find out which countries the Alps span. Label information on a map.   |
| 2 | <b>What is it like in the Alps?</b><br>Play video link: BBC – A tour of the Alps. Record ideas about physical features seen. Link observations to world climate zones and biomes. Use topographical maps to shade own maps of the Alps to show height above sea-level. Use Google Earth to name and locate physical features found in the Alps.   |
| 3 |  <b>Why do people visit the Alps?</b><br>Using images as prompts, ask: why do you think people visit the Alps? Discuss the key physical and human characteristics that attract tourists to this region. Use map and scale to calculate distance to Alps from our region in the UK. Focussing on Innsbruck (a popular tourist city in the Alps), conduct research and write a short description of the location, climate population, leisure, transport and vegetation. |
| 4 | <b>What is there to do in our local area? (Data collection – Fieldwork)</b><br>Explain 'recreational land use' (e.g. parks, green spaces, nature trails, playgrounds, sports fields, museums and beaches). Learn about OS map symbols and create own key. Conduct fieldwork to draw maps of our local area, added appropriate OS symbols to the correct locations. Record observations via sketches, photographs and questionnaire.   |
| 5 | <b>How are the Alps different to our local area? (Findings – Fieldwork)</b><br>Using information gathered about Innsbruck and our local area in the past two lessons, compare information about the human and physical geography of the two locations. Consider climate, population, vegetation, leisure and transport of both areas. Display data using a Venn diagram. Create a slide showing suggested improvements to the local area, the positive impact this may have and the considerations that would need to be made to implement them.      |
| 6 | <b>What is life like in the Alps?</b><br>Discuss the impact of climate change on the Alps. Create a tourist brochure to communicate learning during this unit using headings: information, when to visit, getting around, things to do, and places to see.  |