

Mountain High, River Low



Recommended year group: Year 4 **Theme focus:** Geography, Art, PSHE **Suggested term:** Spring

Theme introduction

Mountain High, River Low is a geography-driven theme in which pupils learn about how mountains are formed, their impact on the human physical and human geography of a place, and the location of them in the UK and across the world. Pupils will then explore the water cycle and the importance of mountains and rivers in it. The learning will then move to a focus on rivers, investigating their features and a study of how important and sacred they are for many people in the world. The final Explore on sacred rivers will ask pupils to consider what it is that is important to them in terms of their mental health and achieving a feeling of purity and being cleansed.

Driving Question

Why are mountains and rivers important?

Switch on Science Unit

The Big Build

Switch on Computing Unit

We are makers

Linked Reading Texts

King of the Cloud Forests by Michael Morpurgo

Poetry (extracts)

Writing Outcomes

Adventure story:

Write a mountain story for friends to enjoy

Poetry:

Write a Haiku and Cinquain with imagery of mountains

Curriculum Coverage

Geography – Britain; the wider world; physical geography; human geography; environment; location and maps; direction

PSHE – Health and wellbeing; living in the wider world

Art – Painting; colour

Excite

Pupils take a virtual trip to amazing mountain landscapes, using a range of well-known mountains and different types.

Explore

There are thirteen Explore sessions:

Explore 1: Coasts

Explore 2: Coastal towns

Explore 3: Mountains

Explore 4: Mountains of the world

Explore 5: Locating hills and mountains

Explore 6: How are mountains formed?

Explore 7: The water cycle

Explore 8: Watercolour mountains

Explore 9: Rivers

Explore 10: From snow to sea

Explore 11: Canyons, gorges, and valleys

Explore 12: Why are rivers important to humans?

Explore 13: Sacred rivers

Theme essential vocabulary

coast, compass, erosion, hill, Kumbh Mela, mountain, mountain range, river, topographical feature, water cycle

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. Know the impact of erosion on the coastlines of the UK.
2. Know the locations and names of some of the mountain ranges of the world.
3. Know how mountains are formed.
4. Know the key features of a mountain: peak, lake, slope, valley and summit.
5. Know the mountainous areas of the UK: Dartmoor, Exmoor, the Grampians, Scottish Highlands and Snowdonia.
6. Know that height is represented on a map by contour lines.
7. Know that evaporation and condensation happen in the water cycle.
8. Understand that heating and cooling can have different effects on materials.
9. Know the locations and names of some of the major rivers of the world.
10. Know the terminology for river features: meander, valley, source and mouth.
11. Know the importance of rivers for both transport and religious beliefs.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 1: Coast

Explore 4: Mountains of the world

Explore 5: Locating hills and mountains

Explore 9: Rivers

Explore 11: Canyons, gorges and valleys

Exhibit

Pupils produce a video guide about the world's mountain ranges. They build on this throughout the theme, using geographical knowledge that they have learned.

Possible wider experiences

Pupils visit a local coastal site or river location and carry out a river study.

Walk along a set of hills to experience the physical and human geographies.

Flipped learning opportunities

Research the different types of mountain and river formations, and find out where they can be found.

Family learning suggestion

Create a 3-D model of a mountain or mountain range.

Or

Create a fact file for some famous rivers of the world.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

Ain't no Mountain High Enough – by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell

Key piece of art

Napoleon Crossing the Alps – by Jacques-Louis-David

Key poem

Looking Glass River – by Robert Louis Stevenson