

# Fascinating Facts About Mountains!



People and Planet

Mountains are towering landforms that reach high up above sea level and the surrounding land. They are much steeper than hills, and often have a pointed top called a **peak**! Geologists agree that mountains usually rise at least **1,000ft (300m)** above the surrounding land, so they're truly huge!

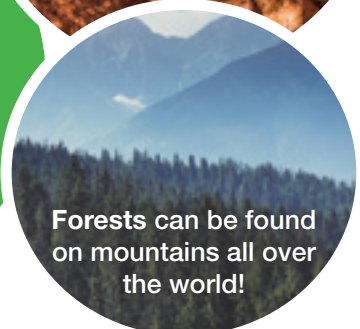
Mountains can be found all over the world - even **underwater!** - so they're home to a huge range of plants and animals. From powerful bears to bearded mountain goats, and ancient trees to tiny grasses. The wildlife varies depending on the **temperature** and **location** of the mountains - for example, mountains in snowy **Canada** have very different plants and animals to mountains in scorching **Tanzania!**

Mountains may look indestructible, but sadly, they're affected by **climate change**. As Earth's temperature rises, mountain

**FUN FACT!**  
New Zealand is home to the mountain with the longest name - it's called **Taumatawhakatang hangakoauauotam teapokaiwhenuaki tanatahu!**



Grizzly bears are close relatives of polar bears!



Forests can be found on mountains all over the world!



Mount Everest is over 60 million years old!

**FUN FACT!**  
Some mountains are caused by **volcanoes** spewing lava over and over again! Over time, the lava cools, hardens and builds up to form a **mountain!**



Mountain goats' toes have hard pads that help them grip - perfect for climbing mountains!

**Did you know?**

- The tallest mountain in the world is **Mount Everest**, which is a colossal **29,029ft (8,848m)** tall!
- Most scientists agree that the oldest mountain range on Earth is the **Barberton Greenstone Belt** in South Africa - it's an estimated **3.6 billion years old!**
- There are **five types** of mountains: **volcanic, folded, block, dome, and plateau** mountains!

snow and ice melts, causing **flooding and landslides** that affect wildlife and people who live nearby. Thankfully, charities, conservation groups, and people worldwide are working to tackle climate change, and **you can help, too!**

**Spread the word!**  
Tell your friends and family about why mountain ecosystems are important.

**Reduce your impact!**  
Try to live in a way that doesn't harm the planet - drive less, buy less and reuse more!

**Give back!**  
Support a charity that protects mountain habitats - try holding a fundraiser at school.