2 MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

Huge and often striking, mountains can be found all over the world. They create picturesque backdrops and provide extreme sports enthusiasts with climbing, trekking and skiing opportunities – but what are they, exactly?

Mountains are areas of land that are higher than the land around them, but different definitions based on height exist. In Great Britain, the government's definition is a summit of 600 metres or higher. However, mountains can rise to thousands of metres in height.

Mountains are created by areas of Earth's solid crust, called 'tectonic plates', moving on the liquid magma beneath them. Some are made when plates push together and force the ground up where they meet. Some are created by magma erupting from gaps between the plates. Others have been created by underwater volcanoes, when lava reaches the surface.

A group of mountains together is known as a mountain range. Some of the world's best-known ranges include the Alps in Europe, the Rocky Mountains in North America and the Himalayas in Asia. Some of the world's best-known mountains – although not all the highest – are Everest, Kilimanjaro, Fuji and Vesuvius.

Everest

Undoubtedly the most famous mountain of them all, Everest is in the Himalayas in Asia. It is the highest mountain in the world, at a staggering 8,848 metres tall.

Many adventurous climbing enthusiasts have attempted to climb it. At times, it can be so busy that queues form along the route to the summit. Over 5,000 brave climbers are said to have reached the top, but nearly 300 have died during their attempts.

Climbing Everest requires intensive training and can cost a lot of money. Many climbers take on the challenge in order to raise funds for charities.

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Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain. It is located on the northern border of Tanzania, overlooking Kenya. Its summit rises to 5,895 metres – almost 3,000 metres lower than Everest's. Despite its location, its peak is covered with snow and ice all year.

Kilimanjaro is made up of three inactive volcanoes: Kibo, Mawensi and Shira. Shira is the oldest peak. Kibo is the youngest and had the most recent major eruption – but that was around 360,000 years ago.

Fuji

Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan, is 3,776 metres tall. It is situated to the west of the capital city of Tokyo. Fuji is a volcano too, and its last major eruption was far more recent than Kibo's, in 1707. Despite being inactive for more than 300 years, it is still classified as active by geologists.

Fuji's conical appearance is famous across the world, and is an important and sacred symbol in Japan. It is also a hugely popular tourist site. Each summer, thousands climb to its snowy peak.

Vesuvius

Vesuvius is possibly the most infamous mountain in Europe, although it is only 1,280 metres tall. It's in southern Italy, close to the city of Naples – but even closer to Pompeii.

Vesuvius became famous in a dramatic way. In 79 CE, it erupted and covered the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae in lava, ash and burning mud. It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries that archaeologists discovered these cities buried beneath them, and began to explore their remains. Huge areas of the ancient cities were discovered, many of which were well preserved due to the speed at which they were covered. The area has provided us with an incredible insight into Roman life, and now attracts millions of visitors each year.

Vesuvius is still considered to be an active volcano – and it's thought to have erupted over 50 times during the last 2,000 years.

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FIND AND COPY

These questions are about *Mountains of the world*.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that mountains are extremely beautiful.

_____

Look at paragraph two. Find and copy a word that refers to the top of a mountain.

_____

Look at paragraph three. Find and copy a word that suggests that magma is forced out of the ground with explosive force.

_____

Look at the Everest section. Find and copy a word that suggests that lines of people can be found on Everest.

_____

Look at the Kilimanjaro section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Kenya can be seen from the top of the mountain.

_____

Look at the Fuji section. Find and copy a word that suggests that there is still a possibility that Mount Fuji could erupt.

_____

Look at the Vesuvius section. Find and copy a word that suggests Vesuvius is well known.

_____

Look at the Vesuvius section. Find and copy two words that suggest that ancient cities were maintained in a state that was near perfect because of the ash.

_____

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UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

Vesuvius is possibly the most infamous mountain in Europe, although it is only 1,280 metres tall. It's in southern Italy, close to the city of Naples – but even closer to Pompeii.

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Underline or highlight a word that means to understand a complicated situation.

Underline or highlight a word that means to be covered up with earth.

Underline or highlight a word that means known because of something bad.

Underline or highlight a word that means exciting and impressive.

Underline or highlight a word that means under something else.

Underline or highlight a word that means has erupted recently or could erupt soon.