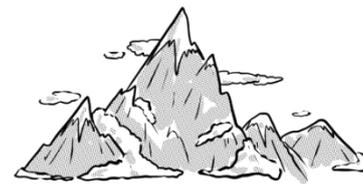




Reading
30 minutes

The Alps

One of the most dominant geographical features of western Europe is the vast mountain range known as the Alps. The Alps extend from the Mediterranean coast of south-western France across to Germany, Austria and Slovenia in the east. Other countries, such as Switzerland, Italy and tiny Liechtenstein also include sections of this rugged landscape. With peaks as high as 4,800m (Mont Blanc), the Alps are high enough to affect the climate of the whole continent.



Formation

The Alps are part of a series of mountain chains, running from the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa right across to the Himalayas north of India, that were formed by the same basic process. The Earth's crust is made up of a number of massive sections called tectonic plates. These are continually moving, slowly but incredibly powerfully. When the African plate to the south started inching northwards, it collided into another plate which covers much of northern Europe. The extraordinary pressures generated by this process caused the land to be pushed up, much like a tablecloth will form ridges if you push it across a table.

The process of raising and shaping the Alps has not finished, however. The area is still prone to powerful earthquakes. Meanwhile, the weather plays a large part in wearing down the rocks. This includes the action of glaciers. These slow-moving rivers of ice help to carve out huge valleys, some of which have been lined with a thick layer of sand and gravel, dumped by the melting glaciers.

Features

The sheer height of these mountains means that moist air gets snagged on the peaks, resulting in heavy snowfalls. Large parts of the Alps remain snow-capped all the year round, although it melts away from the lower slopes during the warmer months. This leads to many of the valleys being flooded to create deep lakes. It also helps to irrigate the surrounding land and contributes to some of the largest rivers in Europe, including the Rhône, the Rhine and the Danube.

Life

The Alps provide a number of different habitats. At lower levels, there are meadows, bogs and woodland. Above the treeline, the conditions are harsher and animals as well as plants have had to adapt to survive.

Possibly the most famous plant is a little flower called the edelweiss. The most common name of this tough little relative of the daisy comes from German words meaning *noble white*. However, it is also known by other names, depending on which country you are in. For example, the French call it *Etoile des Alpes*, which means the star of the Alps.

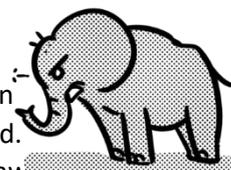
As for the animals, the ibex is probably the most impressive. This member of the goat family lives on the rocky mountainsides above the forests. An expert climber, it shelters from the snows in caves and enjoys the safety of slopes as steep as 45 degrees.

Humans

Despite the harsh conditions, the Alps have a long relationship with humans. Its caves provided ready-made homes for people as long as 10,000 years ago. More recently, it has become a popular destination for holidaymakers, especially the

Did you know?

Over 2,000 years ago, the great general Hannibal crossed the Alps in order to catch the Romans off guard. Imagine their surprise when they saw that he had not only marched a huge army over the dangerous mountain passes but that he had brought elephants with him too!



more adventurous ones. They come for the skiing, hiking and mountaineering as well as to enjoy the spectacular scenery provided by the mountains and lakes.

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *stretch*.

2. ... *started inching northwards* ... What does *inching* mean in this sentence?

3. ... *moist air gets snagged*... Which word is closest in meaning to *snagged* in this sentence? Circle **one**.

troubled
ripped

confused

caught

Retrieval:

4. Name any **two** countries that include part of the Alps.

a. _____ b. _____

5. What is a glacier?

6. Using information from the text, tick one box per row to show whether the statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The Alps stretch all the way to India.		
All the snow melts away from the Alps in summer.		
A sort of goat lives high up in the Alps.		
Hannibal's army brought elephants with them.		

Inference:

7. Why can't you see the Alps growing taller each day?

8. Why do you not find the same animals at all altitudes (heights) in the Alps?

9. What do you think the Romans would have thought when they saw Hannibal's army? Tick **one** thought.

The Alps have spectacular scenery.

How did they get elephants over the mountains?

I thought Hannibal was on our side.

Why didn't they come by boat? It would have been much easier.

Meaning as a whole:

10. Draw lines to match each section to its main content.

Formation

Some of the things you would notice if you visited the Alps.

Features

How the Alps were made.

Life

How people have benefitted from the Alps.

Humans

How plants and animals have adapted in order to survive in the Alps.

Predict

11. If you were able to come back and measure the Alps in a few million years, what would you notice?

Authorial intent:

12. ... *dumped* by melting glaciers ... What impression does the word *dumped* give of the way that sand and gravel are left behind by the glaciers?

GPS warm-up
10 minutes

The challenge activities provide opportunities for children to practise some of the more difficult objectives and question types. Where questions require a written answer, children should be reminded to take particular care with spelling and punctuation (e.g. use of capital letters and full stops). Children can write answers in an exercise books.

If you are unsure what the question is asking, use your homework book to find out what it means. For example if you need to know what a subordinate conjunction is, turn to that page of your book and it should explain.

1. Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

Tick **one**

I spent twenty-two pounds on a new bike.

1

I spent twenty-two-pounds on a new bike.

2

I spent twenty two-pounds on a new-bike.

3

I spent twenty-two-pounds on a new-bike.

4

1 mark

CHALLENGE: Explain the difference in meaning between 'twenty-two pound coins' and 'twenty two-pound coins'.

2. Circle the two words in the sentence that are **synonyms** of each other.

Faisal sped down the rickety stairs and sat at the bottom to tie his laces before he dashed out of the front door.

1 mark

CHALLENGE: Write an antonym for rickety.

3. Change the following question to a **statement.**

Do not use any additional words.

Punctuate your answer correctly.

Will you buy a new book?

_____ **1 mark**

CHALLENGE: Write a question with the answer My brother.

Writing
30 minutes

Continuing from yesterday.

Activity 3: Artistic challenge

Doors are not only exciting for what may lie behind them, they can be designed to invite you into their world. A few years ago, a derelict area of Funchal in Madeira was transformed by local artists who decided to bring the dead doors to life. The beauty of the art opened new doors, and soon homes, shops and restaurants flourished there. Here are a few of those doors.



Work out the calculations.

a) $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{3}{4} =$

b) $2\frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{3} =$

c) $3\frac{7}{10} - 2\frac{1}{4} =$

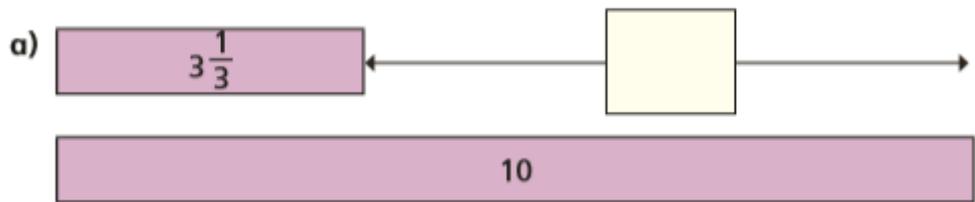
2)

Complete the calculation.

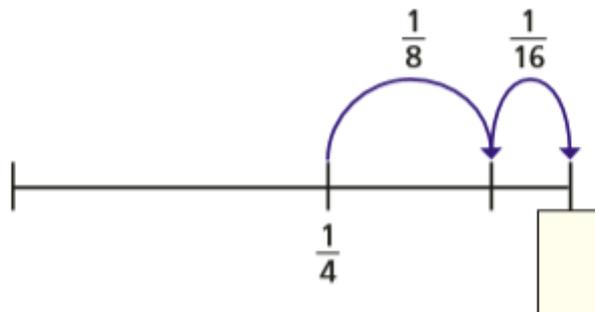
$$\frac{5}{6} + 1\frac{2}{9} - \frac{1}{2} =$$

3)

Work out the missing fractions.



b)



4)

Complete the calculations.

a) $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \square = 1$

b) $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \square = 1\frac{1}{2}$

c) $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \square = \frac{4}{3}$

d) $\frac{4}{5} = \square - \frac{4}{5}$

5)

Which of these are true and which are false?

Can you decide without having to do the additions or the subtractions?

Talk about your reasons with a partner.

	True or false?
$2\frac{1}{3} + 3\frac{3}{4}$ is equal to $3\frac{1}{3} + 2\frac{3}{4}$	
$3\frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{3}$ is less than $4\frac{3}{4} - 1\frac{1}{3}$	
$3\frac{3}{4} - 2\frac{1}{3}$ is equal to $3\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{3}{4}$	

6)

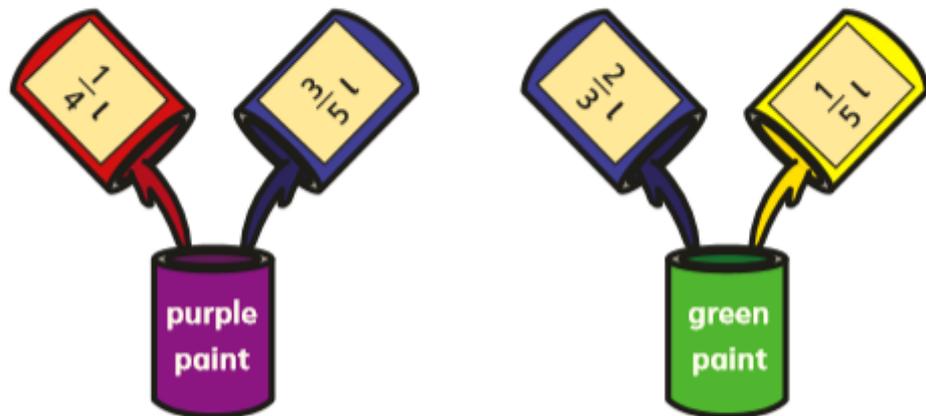
Complete the addition grid.

$1\frac{1}{4}$		$\frac{1}{4}$	$= 3\frac{3}{5}$
$\frac{1}{25}$	$1\frac{3}{20}$		$= 3\frac{39}{100}$
	$1\frac{1}{50}$	$1\frac{3}{100}$	$= 5\frac{9}{20}$
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

7)

A painter uses the following mixtures.

How much more green paint does she have than purple paint?



8)

Eva and Amir are working out this calculation.

$$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{25}{100} - \frac{2}{8} - \frac{9}{36}$$



This is going to be very difficult, because I can't find a common denominator.



I have found an easier way.

Find Amir's solution. Explain how this calculation can be solved.

Enquiry/Project work
30 minutes

Research project

Journey to fame

Find out about the work of your favourite artist, musician, author or actor.
Write a short biography or timeline to show their journey to fame.
Was it an easy journey?
What obstacles did the person overcome?

