

# What are mountains?

**Mountains are features that rise above the surrounding landscape.**


**Q1.** Which is larger, a mountain range or a mountain chain?

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**Q2.** Which is the world's highest mountain and what is its height?

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**Q3.** What is the difference between a volcano and a mountain range?

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 .....  
 .....

**Q4.** Name a mountain range in the United Kingdom, and give the name and height of its highest peak.

 ..... .....

**Q5.** Where is the world's longest mountain chain?

 .....

**Q6.** Give the name of an island that forms the tip of a mountain.

 .....

## Answers

1. **A mountain chain.**

2. **Mount Everest 8848 m.**

3. **A volcano is a single, isolated conical mountain produced by outpouring of lava or ash; a range is a line or a group of fold mountains that stand together to make an area of high land.**

4. **Lake District; Scafell Pike 978 m, Scottish Highlands; Ben Nevis, 1344m Welsh Mountains; Snowdon 1085m, Mourne Mountains; Slieve Donard 850m**

5. **In the centre of the Atlantic Ocean.**

6. **Hawaii, Iceland.**

## Notes

*Mountain chains are made of mountain ranges. It is useful at this point to make sure that students understand that a range of mountains is a continuous area of high land. Mountain ranges usually have specific local names, for example Grampian Highlands, Front Range of the Rockies. The UK has only ranges; mountain chains are much larger features such as the Alps. Within the Alps the ranges all have different names (e.g. Maritime Alps).*

*The generally quoted height for Everest is 8848 m. However, recent research has found it is actually 2 metres higher than the previously accepted value – as some students may tell you!*

*Notice that this answer requires information from the map on page 7 as well as the diagram on page 6.*

*It is called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.*

*There are many other ocean volcanoes, such as the Azores, Balearic islands (Majorca etc.), that students might know about from their holidays.*