

# Unit 6 Mountain weather

## 1. Whole class instruction

**Objective:** To see how the weather in a mountainous area differs from that of a lowland area.

### 1.1. Go to Mountain>>Section 3 screen 1

**“People often talk of mountain weather being very severe and changeable. But lots of people go touring in summer and skiing in mountains in winter, so how do they get on?...”**

- ▶ Here we want to relate a well-known activity, such as summer holidays in mountains or winter skiing, to weather.
- ▶ We also want to notice that changes occur in both temperature and rainfall/snowfall.

### 1.2. Go to Textbook pages 20-23

**“Let’s find out how weather varies up a mountain”.**

- ▶ Help children to see that the air gets colder as you increase altitude.
- ▶ For the more able, also discuss the way that a rainshadow is produced by a mountain (page 21). This is more challenging as it requires understanding of column charts.

## 2a. Group exploration

### 2.1. Webcams

**“How do we find out about mountain weather?”**

- ▶ Webcams are great for transporting yourself to another place in real time, and especially so in mountain areas.
- ▶ Divide the class into several groups, each dedicated to a different mountain web cam. They should take a screen grab of the webcam at the same time each



Start with video 33 which is about changes in mountain weather in summer.

The 31 video talks children round the diagram on page 20.

Cross curricular with Geography Weather and Science (Keeping warm and cool)

day (explaining to them the importance of timed observations when making experiments). After a week compare webcams. You may be able to string the screen grabs together to make a webcam diary in a Word document or similar.



## 2b. Literacy activity x 2

Go to Literacy>>Unit 10 Snow

**“What do you think you would experience if you were caught in a snow drift?”**

- ▶ This unit is all about extreme weather and snowdrift survival.

Go to Literacy>>Unit 10 Avalanche

**“What kinds of weather might result in avalanches?”**

- ▶ This unit is all about changes of weather combined with mountain slopes.

## 3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

## 4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Most children might take an interest in their home local weather, but they can take an interest in mountain weather in two ways. They can pretend they are near Fort William, or near Keswick, or near Llanberis and find out the weather each day using the BBC weather info. They can also use webcams – see sidebar notes link.

Webcams for mountains:

Note: these locations were accurate on publication, but web sites change, so in a browser search engine type ‘mountain webcam’, if this link fails.

[http://www.mountaindays.net/weather/item/mountain\\_web\\_cameras/](http://www.mountaindays.net/weather/item/mountain_web_cameras/)