

# Routes through the mountains

Both the harsh winter weather and the steep slopes often make it difficult to travel through mountains.

**Q1.** What part of the natural landscape allows people to get from one valley to another?

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**Q2.** In what way are roads designed to make it easier for cars get up steep slopes?

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**Q3.** What happens when there are no easy road passes across mountains?

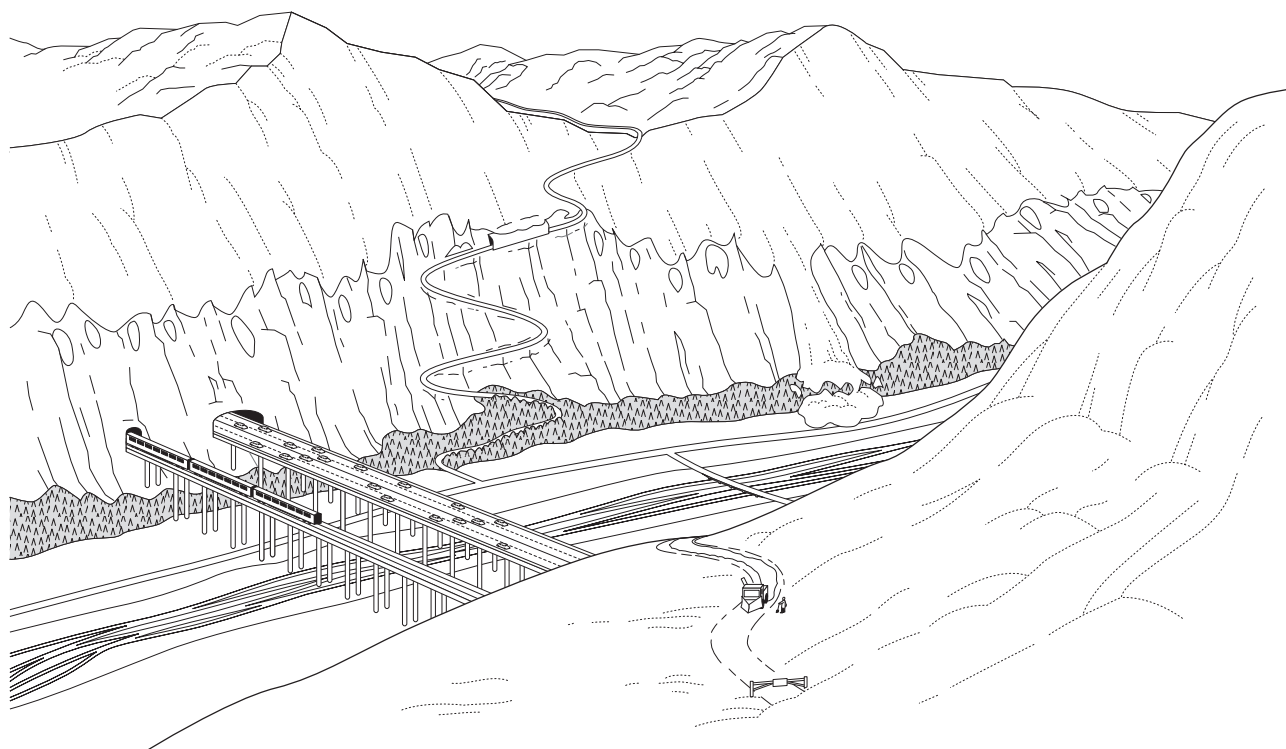
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**Q4.** How do trains get between valleys in mountain areas?

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**Q5.** On the diagram below, mark the way in which weather hazards might affect roads and railways.





## Answers

1. **Passes.**
2. **With hairpin bends.**
3. **People either have to go up and down the valleys (they are dead ends) or they have to blast tunnels through the ridges that separate them.**
4. **By tunnel.**
5. **Students should mark deep snow through passes, avalanches below steep slopes, and ice on steep roads. They should also indicate that railways will be affected by snow.**

## Notes

*As a preliminary to this worksheet, it might be helpful to remind students of the main physical features of the landscape: steep valley sides and passes between valleys. They will then be prepared for Question 1.*

*You may also feel it a good idea to discuss how road transport in mountainous areas is often slow because roads have to follow the contours, resulting in many bends and low traffic speeds.*

*With steep slopes and slow speeds, fuel consumption is high, so that travel in mountains is slow and expensive, even in summer. In winter, deep snow may make it impossible to get about.*