

# Mountain lakes and passes

One of the most obvious features of mountain areas are their lakes and passes.

**Q1.** Why are some mountain lakes called finger lakes?



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**Q2.** What is another term for a finger lake?



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**Q3.** Was it the action of sandstorms, glaciers or floods that formed most mountain lakes?

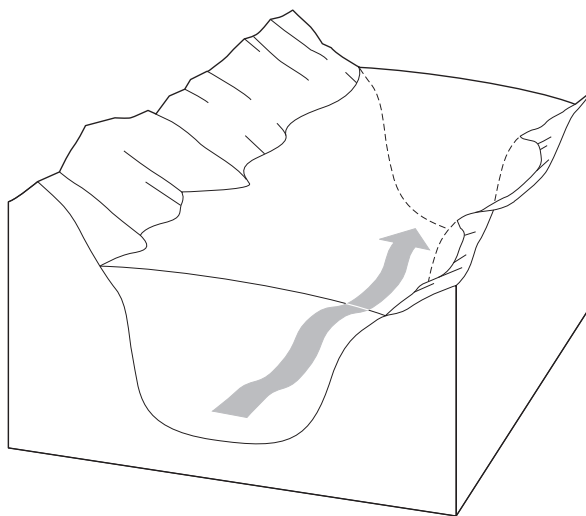


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**Q4.** On the diagram below colour the place where you expect lakes to form.



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**Q5.** Name one famous British finger lake.



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**Q6.** How does a pass form?



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**Q7.** Name one famous British pass.



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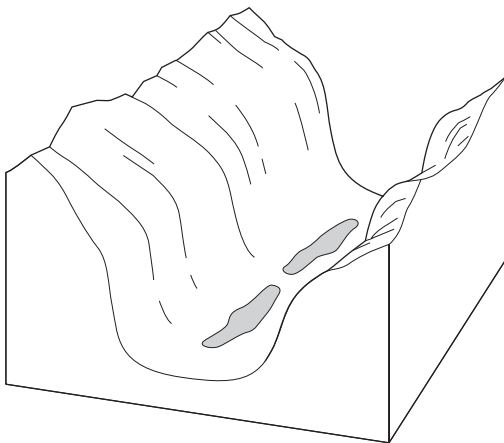
## Answers

1. They are long and narrow and shaped like a finger.

2. A ribbon lake.

3. Glaciers.

4. See the diagram below.



5. Buttermere, Crummock Water, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, Llyn Ogwen, etc.

6. When ice spills over the sides of its valley and scours a new valley.

7. Glen Coe (Grampian), Llanberis (Snowdon), Kirkstone (Lake District), etc.

## Notes

*Virtually all lakes in mountainous regions are caused by the effects of glacial erosion. Those in mountainous areas are long and narrow because they are confined by the sides of their U-shaped valleys.*

*In some cases, lakes have formed against a ridge of glacially-deposited material called moraine (a terminal moraine). This is often the case when a lake forms partly in a mountain region, and also partly on the lowland beyond. The lakes of the Italian Alps (Garda) etc., are classic examples.*

*In this section make sure that students check to see that what they are describing is a lake, not a reservoir! For example, Thirlmere in the Lake District is a reservoir.*

*Passes allow people to travel across a mountainous region. The A9 in Scotland follows several passes; the roads through Snowdonia, including the A5, use passes (e.g. Pass of Llanberis), and the majority of roads crossing the Lakeland fells follow passes (e.g. Kirkstone Pass).*