

Unit 9 Mountain weather

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: Students understand that different areas can have an effect on the weather.



1.1. Go to Textbook pages 32-33

“What kind of weather might you find in the mountains or between mountains?”

- ▶ Discuss some weather features associated with mountains.
- ▶ Put screen 3 of the Weather Multimedia, Types of Weather presentation on the whiteboard. (You can also use the pictures in the textbook.) Click on the photo and go through the screens showing pictures of mountain weather.
- ▶ Watch the Mountain Weather video with the students. You may like to make a timeline of the summer weather described in the video. For example: morning is fine and clear; in the late morning air rises, then cools and turns to cloud, etc.

Weather multimedia,
Types of Weather
presentation screen 3

1.2. Go to Textbook pages 34-35,

“What kind of weather might you find in the mountains or between mountains?”

- ▶ Discuss the way that mountains produce rainshadows and so the weather on opposite sides might be completely different. In the case of the Himalayas, there is dense forest on one side and desert on the other (Tibet Plateau).
- ▶ The other important aspect (and usually overlooked more than rain) is the decrease in temperature with height. This is covered in the group exploration.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. Getting colder

- Students can work out how cold it might be up a mountain by using the simple conversion: (on average) 6.4°C per 1000 m. So, if they are at sea level by the coast on a day and it is 20°C , it will be $20 - 6.4 = 13.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ on a 1000m mountain like Snowdon. Find heights of taller mountains and do the same calculation.



2b. Literacy activity

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- This story describes getting lost when bad weather descends quickly on a mountain. You may like to use this to review changeable weather. The weather on mountains can be very changeable, and it is possible to get caught in bad weather even in summer. This is why you always need to be prepared with adequate warm clothing when in the mountains.

Comprehension
workbook 9

Mountain
weather

3. Plenary session

Review the typical weather patterns for mountain areas.

4. Further work/homework

Students can write a short essay on the topic of what kind of weather they like the best – the weather in the mountains or city, and why.