



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Mountains” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Mountains” unit offers 12 pages.

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Mountains



Mountains

Mountains are large chunks of rock and earth that rise high above their surroundings. They are formed by movements of the earth's crust. Mountains rise on land and from the bottom of oceans. Some mountains may have peaks, ridges and canyons.

Mountains can be rocky and barren. Some have trees growing on their sides.



Very high mountains have snow on their peaks.

The air on the top of high mountains is usually cold enough to keep water frozen and snow from melting.

All the continents have mountains. Old mountains have low, smooth, and rounded tops. They have been worn down by wind, rain, ice, erosion, and snow. It has taken many years to wear them down.



The Appalachian mountains of North America are considered old mountains.



Younger and newer mountains are wrinkled, high, rugged, and still growing. The Himalaya mountain system in Asia, is young. It is believed to be 50 million years old. Some mountains are still being pushed up and formed. An example is the Andes in South America.

Mountains



Mountains affect weather and climate. Moisture from the winds of the ocean fall on the windward side of the mountains. Moisture can be rain or snow. Windward means the side facing the incoming winds. The winds go over the mountains that block their path.

By the time the wind reaches the leeward side of the mountain, the moisture is almost gone. Leeward is the opposite side or the side that is away from the wind.

The lands on the leeward side of the mountains are much drier. Many of the deserts of the world are formed because of the lack of moisture blocked by the mountains. The Gobi desert is located behind the Himalaya mountain system in Asia.



1. What does windward mean? _____

2. What does leeward mean? _____



The growth of plants, trees, and vegetation depends on rainfall. Forests of various types of trees grow on the lower slopes of the mountains. These change to conifers, cone bearing trees, at higher altitudes. These are followed by alpine meadows and finally bare rock, at the top of the mountain.

At a certain altitude it becomes too dry, and the temperature is too cold for trees to grow. This is called timberline.

Mountains

CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

elevation
forest

volcanic
alpine

ridges
shale

chain

