St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

Geography Class 3 Year A – Mountains

Substantive concept: Scale / Environmental impact

Disciplinary concept: Research and enquiry / Similarities and differences

Enquiry Question: How are mountains similar and different, and why do people choose to climb some of the most dangerous ones?

What is this topic about?

In this unit, we will explore what mountains are, how they are formed and where they are found around the world. We will locate the highest peaks, identify major mountain ranges, and research key facts about them. We will use 3D models and presentations to help us understand mountains and share our learning with others.

During this unit, I will discover …

- Some of the highest peaks in the world.
- Some countries that have large mountain ranges.
- Dangerous challenges of mountain climbing, what some people have achieved and why they might have chosen to undertake such a challenge.
- That mountains are formed in a number of ways.
- The terms 'snowline' and 'treeline'.
- Some features of mountain climates and how altitude affects climate and living conditions.
- Some key physical features of the Alps or the Andes.



During this unit, I will work geographically to …

- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including mountains and volcanoes.
- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe, North America and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, the Equator, the northern and southern hemispheres, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of physical geography of a region in Europe and a region within North or South America.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe the features studied.
- Name and locate the world's 7 continents (KS1).
- Communicate and present research findings through a range of methods including the use of ICT.





Key Knowledge (linked to concepts). What children NEED to know.

Mountains around the world are **similar** because they are high, rocky areas of land with steep sides, colder temperatures at the top, and often snow on their peaks. All mountains get colder the higher you go, and trees stop growing at the **treeline**, while snow stays all year above the **snowline**. Mountains are **different** because they are found in different countries and continents, are different heights and shapes, and are formed in different ways, such as when Earth's plates push together or by volcanoes. Some mountain ranges, like the **Alps** in Europe and the **Andes** in South America, share features such as high peaks and valleys but differ in size and location. People climb mountains even though it can be dangerous due to cold weather, ice, strong winds, and steep slopes, because they want to challenge themselves, explore new places, or feel proud of reaching the top.