

Prior Knowledge:

In Key Stage 1 you learnt about hot and cold place. In Year 3 you learnt about tectonic plates during your study into earthquakes and volcanoes, the movement of these plates helped form a mountain range called the Alps. In Year 2 you learnt about continents, the Alps are in the continent of Europe. As part of your study into the Ancient Greeks, you found out about the Olympic Games, the Alps has held the Winter Olympics (an event with different events more suited to the cold conditions) many times in the past. In Year 4 you studied rivers, there are many rivers which have their source in the Alps. You studied our prehistoric ancestors in Year 3, humans have lived in the Alps since this time. You will also compare the Lake District to the Alps.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- [BBC Bitesize](#) — Let's Explore the Alps

Suggested family experience:

- Use Google Earth to explore this region — Visit the Alps [here](#), or click [here](#) to go to the summit of Mount Blanc

National Curriculum:

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of a region of the United Kingdom, **a region in a European country**, and a region within North or South America.
- Locational knowledge: locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on **Europe** (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
dam	A barrier to hold back water
densely populated	Lots of people live in the same area
glaciers	Blocks of ice which form high in the mountains
hydroelectric	Making electricity using flowing water
mountain range	A group of mountains close together
peak	The pointed top of a mountain
scenery	The natural features of an area making a nice view to look at
sightseers	People who visit places they find interesting
source (of a river)	The start of a river
tectonic plates	Pieces of the Earth's surface
tourist	Someone who is spending time away from home to visit somewhere they can have fun, relax or spend time somewhere they find interesting

Quick Summary



The Alps are a large mountain range in the middle of Europe. They are spread over 8 countries. They were formed when two tectonic plates collided. You may have heard of the highest mountain in the Alps called Mont Blanc. Many tourists visit this mountain range each year.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see videos about the Alps and test your knowledge with a quiz.



Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding

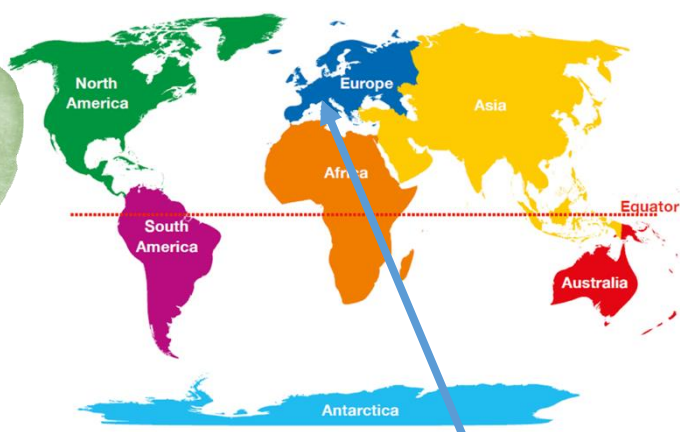
What continents are the Alps in?
Can you identify and locate the 8 countries that the Alps are spread out over?

Look back at the knowledge organiser from Year 3 on the Lake District, this was a region in the UK you studied.
Answer the questions on the right-hand side of this knowledge organiser to find the geographical similarities and differences between the Lake District and The Alps.

Where are The Alps?



Location



The Alps are in the continent of Europe.

The Alps are spread over 8 countries in Europe:

- France
- Monaco
- Italy
- Switzerland
- Liechtenstein
- Austria
- Germany
- Slovenia

They are 750 miles long.



What is the same/different about the location of the Alps in comparison to the Lake District?

Physical Features: Mountains

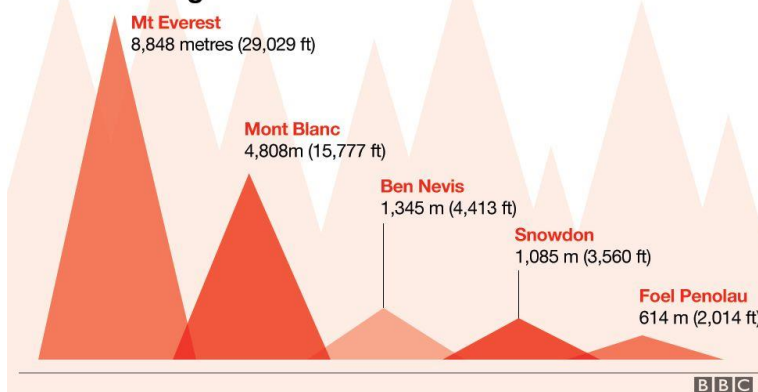


Physical features

The Alps were formed about 44 million years ago when tectonic plates collided. Humans have lived in the Alps since prehistoric times.

The Alps formed when two large tectonic plates slowly collided over tens of millions of years, creating mountains.

Mountain heights



The highest peak is Mont Blanc (also known as the White Mountain) which stands at 4,810 m high, making it the highest peak in Europe.

What is the same/different about how the Alps and Lake District were formed?

Physical Features: Weather

The weather in the Alps is affected by different temperatures of air coming from the north, west and south. The conditions change depending on how high you are in the alps — the higher up the mountains, the colder it gets.

The tops of the mountains are covered in snow and glaciers.



Different types of animals and plants live in the different areas. Some are not found anywhere else in the world.

The Alps are the most densely populated mountain range in Europe. The climate is a very important reason why people choose to live there.

How are the physical features of the Alps and the Lake District the same/different?



Human features



Physical features



Many rivers have their source in the Alps. Melting snow and ice in spring and summer supply water to the rivers and lakes at the foot of mountains. Dams have also been built to hold this water in order to create hydroelectric power.

The Alps play an important role when it comes to the weather, they act as a wind barrier, meaning that south of the Alps is slightly drier and warmer.

Human Features



Human features



In the winter months, people mainly visit to ski or snowboard.



Places such as Lake Como, in Italy, get lots of sightseers due to the fact that it is close to the Alps.



The clear Alpine lakes such as Lake Geneva, are visited due to their beauty.



Tourists go:

- Mountaineering
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Paragliding
- Trail Running
- Walking
- Sailing

How is tourism the same/different in the Alps in comparison to the Lake District?

A nearby town called Chamonix was where the first ever Winter Olympics took place in 1924. This is a winter version of the games that you studied in Year 3 when looking at the Ancient Greeks. Sports suited to the mountainous, cold conditions are held.

Tourism is the main industry in the Alps. Around 30 million people visit the Alps each year.

What are the reasons for the similarities/differences in tourism and land use?