

### Where and what is the Alps?

The Alps are one of the great European mountain ranges, and spread across eight countries: France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Monaco

Mont Blanc spans the border of France and Italy, and is the highest mountain in the Alps at 4810 m (15,781 ft).

### How did the Alps form?

The mountains formed over millions of years as the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided. This caused marine sedimentary rocks to thrust and fold upwards into high mountain peaks such as Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.

### Awesome Alps

#### Our big question

#### Why is Alps unique?

#### What is the climate like?

The **weather** in the Alps is affected by different temperatures of air coming from the north, west and south. These conditions create five different types of **climate**, depending on height - the higher up the mountains, the colder it gets. The tops of the mountains are covered in **snow** and **glaciers**.

### Tourism and jobs

**Tourism** is the main industry in the Alps. Around 30 million people visit the Alps each year, enjoying activities such as:

- skiing and snowboarding
- walking
- sightseeing
- trail running
- mountain biking

Other chief industries include forestry, farming, cheese-making and baking, woodworking and carpentry.

### Vocabulary

avalanche	a large mass of snow that falls down the side of a mountain.
agriculture	farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.
climate	The <b>climate</b> of a place is the general weather conditions that are typical of it.
Fold mountains	created where two or more of Earth's tectonic plates are pushed together.
lake	a large area of water surrounded by land, which are usually connected to the sea by river or stream
mountain	a landform that rises high above the surrounding terrain in a limited area, made from rocks and earth.
natural resources	an actual or potential form of wealth supplied by nature, as coal, oil, water power, arable land, etc.
river	a natural watercourse, flowing towards the sea, an ocean or a lake
tectonic plates	pieces of the rocky outer layer of the Earth known as the crust. These <b>plates</b> are constantly moving, and volcanoes, earthquakes and sometimes mountains are found at the <b>plate</b> boundaries.
tourism	the business of providing services for people on holiday, for example hotels, restaurants, and trips.