



## Geography: Lime Class – Mountains and Volcanoes

### Why are some mountains more active than others?

#### Key Vocabulary—Mountains

gorge	A narrow, steep-sided valley
mountain range	Single mountains joined together
Tree line	Large fall of soil or rocks down a mountainside.
erode	Slowly wear away.
altitude	Height of a mountain measured above sea level
plateau	a flat part of land high up the mountain
base	the bottom of a mountain where it meets flat ground
face	a visible section of the side of a mountain
Snow line	above this line, snow covers the mountain all year
contour	the map lines which join points that are the same height
fold	a common type of mountain formed by colliding plates
Tectonic plate	huge slabs of rock that make up part of the earth
ridge	long, narrow top connecting mountains
slope	the incline or decline on the side of a mountain
Summit	the highest point of a mountain or hill
Valley	usually a stream runs through this area between hills or mountains
outcrop	a rock formation that sticks out of the land or mountain



#### Key Places

##### Some famous mountain ranges around the world are:

The Himalayas, Asia  
 The Rocky Mountains, North America  
 The Andes, South America  
 The Ural Mountains, Europe  
 The Alps, Europe  
 The Pyrenees, Europe

##### British Mountains:

Ben Nevis, Scotland  
 Snowden, Wales  
 Slieve Donard, Northern Ireland  
 Scafell Pike, Lake District

#### Key Vocabulary—Volcanoes

Mantle	The layer between the crust and the outer core of the earth.
Magma	Molten (liquid) rock beneath the earth's surface.
Volcano	A vent in the earth's surface from which
Active	A volcano that has erupted recently or
Dormant	A volcano which has not erupted recently but is expected to erupt again.
Extinct	A volcano that hasn't erupted recently
Pumice	A light, porous volcanic rock formed when lava cools.
Lava	Molten rock flowing from the vent of a
Eruption	The name of the process in which solids, liquids or gases are expelled through a vent in the earth's surface.
Crust	The rocky outer layer of the earth.
core	The centre of the earth which is made of
Ash	Tiny pieces of rock or lava blasted into the air during a volcanic eruption
Vent	Openings in the Earth's crust from which



## Geography: Lime Class – Mountains and Volcanoes

### Why are some mountains more active than others?

#### Key Knowledge—Mountains

##### How mountains are formed:

1. When plates bump together, the rock between the plates is forced upwards and folds in on itself creating fold mountains.
2. Sometimes great pressure against the crust cause cracks in the rock (faults) where huge blocks of rock may be forced up.

Weather can erode mountains; cracks that form can fill with water that freezes. This ice widens cracks and rocks split and crumble.

Few people live on high mountains because the cold temperatures and the poor soil makes it difficult to grow crops. Steep slopes also make building houses and travel difficult.

Farmland is sometimes made by cutting steps (called) terraces) into slopes. Terraces stop rain washing away the soil and farmers can then grow food like rice and potatoes and keep sturdy animals like goats and sheep.

The lowest slopes of the mountain is often warm enough for certain trees to grow and is known as the forest zone.

Above the tree line, it is too cold for plants to grow – at a certain altitude there is snow all year round (known as the snow line).

#### Key Knowledge—Volcanoes

The Earth is made up of a number of different sections: the core, the mantle and the crust.

Volcanoes are formed when magma from the Earth's upper mantle rises to the surface. At the surface, it erupts forming lava flows and ash. As the volcano continues to erupt it increases in size resulting in how many volcanoes look today. During an eruption, magma is pushed upwards through vents and craters. When this magma reaches the Earth's surface it is known as lava.

Lava gives off a large amount of gas often resulting in an 'ash cloud' seen billowing out of the top of an erupting volcano. This comes out of the throat which is the top entrance to a volcano.

There are three main types of volcano – composite, shield and dome.

Composite volcanoes erupt explosively; they are usually quite large and cone shaped.

Shield volcanoes are gentle slopes; runny lava that can run a long distance erupts out of them.

Cone volcanoes have rock formed around the vent.

