

Y5 GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: **WHAT MAKES THE ALPS A DISTINCT REGION?**

Key Words

Glacier	A slow-moving frozen river, formed on mountains or near the Poles.	Avalanche	A rush of snow down a slope.
Topography	The arrangement of the physical geographical features of an area.	U Shaped valley	U-shaped valleys, also called trough valleys or glacial troughs, are formed by the process of glaciation.
Mountain range	A chain of mountains.	Tectonic plate	A huge slab of rock that forms the outer layer of the earth and fits together with other plates like a jigsaw.
Peak	The highest point.	Fold mountain	Fold mountains are created where two or more of Earth's tectonic plates are pushed together.
Culture	The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society	Unsustainable	Not able to be sustained at the current level.
Eco-tourism	A form of tourism involving responsible travel to natural areas, conserving the environment, and improving the well-being of the local people	Sustainable	Meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Key Ideas

- The Alps are one of the great European mountain ranges, covering parts of central western Europe and spread over eight countries: Switzerland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Monaco and France. The region is defined by many similar characteristics: physical, human and cultural.**
- The Alps are a fold-mountain range, formed millions of years ago by the collision of two tectonic plates. . The highest peak in the Alps is Mont Blanc - 4,810 m tall.
- The landscape of the Alps varies with altitude as the air temperature drops as you go higher. A feature of the region are glaciers which are slow moving rivers of frozen ice that form high up in the mountains.
- Until the formation of the modern countries the Alpine region consisted of feudal territories sharing customs and cultures
- People have adapted to the Alpine landscape. Homes must protect and insulate their inhabitants from extreme cold and heavy snowfall in the winter.
- More than 120 million visitors come to the Alps each year. Tourism has had a huge impact on the region. It has created many jobs. However, it has also impacted the natural environment. There is a move to sustainable development in the Alps.



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