

Year 5: Earth Explorers

1. Terms	Definitions
U-shaped Valleys	When a big glacier (see below) melts, it leaves a valley of a deep U-shape
Glacier	A large body of ice moving slowly down a slope or over a wide area of land.
Biome	A region of Earth (such as a tropical rainforest) that has a certain climate and certain types of living things.
Climate	Average measurements of temperature, wind, humidity, snow, and rain in a place over the course of years.
Equator	An imaginary circle around Earth. It divides Earth into two equal halves called hemispheres.
Tropic of Cancer	An imaginary latitude line located above the equator that runs across the globe at about 23 degrees north
Tropic of Capricorn	An imaginary line of latitude going around the Earth at approximately 23.5° south of the equator
Deforestation	The cutting down of forests or groups of trees which is then turned into non-forest use.
Layers of the rainforest	Forest floor, understory, canopy and emergent layers.

5. Rainforests

- 6% of the Earth is covered by Rainforest.
- Rainforests usually appear close to the **equator**, between the **Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn**.
- The world's largest rainforest is the Amazon in South America
- Over 3 million species live in rainforests.
- **Deforestation** means that trees are cut down to
- to create space for farming, to produce timber to make furniture and paper and to create space for housing.



2. UK Mountains and Mountain Ranges

- Ben Nevis is the UK's highest peak. It is in the Grampian Mountain range in Scotland. It is 1345m high – so high that there is snow on the top all year round!
- Scafell Pike in the Lake District is England's highest mountain. It is 978m high.
- In the UK a mountain is classed as a peak over 610m above sea level. A peak lower than that is known as a hill.
- The Pennines is the largest mountain range in England. It is often called the 'spine/backbone of England' (can you spot it on the map and see why?)
- Hiking in mountain ranges is very popular in the UK. Snowdonia is the most visited mountain range (see below for more on Snowdonia).

3. Snowdonia

- Snowdonia is a mountain range and national park in Wales, UK.
- It is home to the highest mountain in Wales (and second highest in the UK): Mount Snowdon
- Mount Snowdon is 1085m high.
- You can climb Mount Snowdon, or get a little train to the top.
- 585,000 people visit Snowdon every year.

Physical Features	Human features
mountains	Railway
rivers	roads
waterfalls	hotels
valleys	restaurants
Trees and plants	shops

4. World mountain ranges

- The world's highest peak on land is Mount Everest in the Himalayas. It is 8,850.1728 m (29,036 ft) tall.
- Mountains make up about one-fifth of the world's landscape.
- At least one-tenth of the world's people live in mountain ranges.
- The world's tallest mountain ranges form when pieces of Earth's crust—called plates—smash against each other in a process called plate tectonics.

