

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.
Lake	A large stretch of water ringed by land.	River	A natural watercourse, flowing towards the sea.
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.
Agriculture	Farming, including growing crops and rearing animals, to provide food and other products.	Arable farming	Farming to produce crops.
Industry	A group of businesses that provide a product or service.	Settlement	A place where a group of people set up home, often the first inhabitants there.
Tourism	An industry supplying information, transport, accommodation and other services to holidaymakers.	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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