

Did you know?

- Olympus Mons, on Mars, is the tallest mountain in the known universe. It is 22 km high – that's almost three times the height of the massive Mount Everest!
- Mount Everest grows by 4 mm every year.
- 12% of the world's population lives on mountains (the Alps are the most densely populated).
- There are only about 700 mountain gorillas left in the world. They are endangered because of habitat loss and poaching.
- For millions of years, the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided, pushing sedimentary rock from the sea bed thousands of metres above sea level. All of this activity formed the Alps; the bodies of shellfish that lived millions of years ago can still be found hidden in these snowy peaks!
- The Himalayan mountain range passes through six countries – India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan and Nepal.
- The Himalayas have the third largest amount of snow and ice on Earth, after Antarctica and the Arctic.
- In Nepal, Mount Everest is known as 'Sagarmatha', which translates as 'forehead in the sky'.
- Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales. On a clear day, you can see Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man from its summit.
- People taking part in the 'Three Peaks Challenge' climb to the top of Ben Nevis (Scotland's highest peak), Scafell Pike (England's highest peak) and Snowdon (the highest peak in Wales), all within 24 hours!
- The amount of water on Earth now is the same as when the Earth was formed.
- About 97% of the world's water is salty or undrinkable, 2% is locked in ice caps, which leaves just 1% for use by humans!
- The search for the Yeti in the Himalayas can be traced back to 326 BC.
- There are more mountains underwater than on land. Hawaii's Mauna Kea, under the Pacific Ocean, is taller than Mount Everest, and the Hawaiian islands are the peaks of an underwater mountain range!
- The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world, stretching along the entire west coast of South America.