

## Reading - Summer 1 Week 4 - Home Learning

### Session 3

Today, you need to read the report again and then answer the questions. You can type your answers in the boxes or print the questions off or write them into your exercise book. Once you have completed the questions you can check your answers from the separate answer sheet.

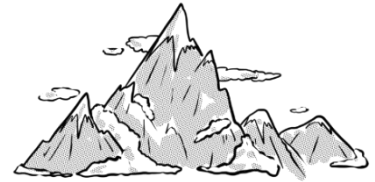
How to share your work:

- Write your answers into your exercise book and take a picture of your work.
- Type your answers directly into the boxes on this page or use Google Docs to edit.

Once you've completed the work, submit your work to Google Classroom following this set of instructions:

1. Go to [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com)
2. Click the class - Classwork - the assignment.
3. To attach an item, click 'Add or create' and select 'Google Drive', 'Link' or 'File' depending on what type of file you have created.
4. The status of your work will change to 'Turned in'.

One of the most dominant geographical features of western Europe is the vast mountain range known as the Alps. The Alps extend from the Mediterranean coast of south-western France across to Germany, Austria and Slovenia in the east. Other countries, such as Switzerland, Italy and tiny Liechtenstein also include sections of this rugged landscape. With peaks as high as 4,800m (Mont Blanc), the Alps are high enough to affect the climate of the whole continent.



### **Formation**

The Alps are part of a series of mountain chains, running from the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa right across to the Himalayas north of India, that were formed by the same basic process. The Earth's crust is made up of a number of massive sections called tectonic plates. These are continually moving, slowly but incredibly powerfully. When the African plate to the south started inching northwards, it collided into another plate which covers much of northern Europe. The extraordinary pressures generated by this process caused the land to be pushed up, much like a tablecloth will form ridges if you push it across a table.

The process of raising and shaping the Alps has not finished, however. The area is still prone to powerful earthquakes. Meanwhile, the weather plays a large part in wearing down the rocks. This includes the action of glaciers. These slow-moving rivers of ice help to carve out huge valleys, some of which have been lined with a thick layer of sand and gravel, dumped by the melting glaciers.

### **Features**

The sheer height of these mountains means that moist air gets snagged on the peaks, resulting in heavy snowfalls. Large parts of the Alps remain snow-capped all the year round, although it melts away from the lower slopes during the warmer months. This leads to many of the valleys being flooded to create deep lakes. It also helps to irrigate the surrounding land and contributes to some of the largest rivers in Europe, including the Rhône, the Rhine and the Danube.

### **Life**

The Alps provide a number of different habitats. At lower levels, there are meadows, bogs and woodland. Above the treeline, the conditions are harsher and animals as well as plants have had to adapt to survive.

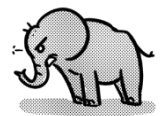
Possibly the most famous plant is a little flower called the edelweiss. The most common name of this tough little relative of the daisy comes from German words meaning *noble white*. However, it is also known by other names, depending on which country you are in. For example, the French call it *Etoile des Alpes*, which means the star of the Alps.

As for the animals, the ibex is probably the most impressive. This member of the goat family lives on the rocky mountainsides above the forests. An expert climber, it shelters from the snows in caves and enjoys the safety of slopes as steep as 45 degrees.

### **Humans**

Despite the harsh conditions, the Alps have a long relationship with humans. Its caves provided ready-made homes for people as long as 10,000 years ago. More recently, it has become a popular destination for holidaymakers, especially the more adventurous ones. They come for the skiing, hiking and mountaineering as well as to enjoy the spectacular scenery provided by the mountains and lakes.

#### **Did you know?**



Over 2,000 years ago, the great general Hannibal crossed the Alps in order to catch the Romans off guard. Imagine their surprise when they saw that he had not only marched a huge army over the dangerous mountain passes but that he had brought elephants with him too!

## Questions - The Alps

1. Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *stretch*.

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. ... *started inching northwards* ... What does *inching* mean in this sentence?

Click or tap here to enter text.

3. ... *moist air gets snagged*... Which word is closest in meaning to *snagged* in this sentence? Tick **one**.

**troubled**

**confused**

**caught**

**ripped**

4. Name any **two** countries that include part of the Alps.

a. Click or tap here to enter text.

b. Click or tap here to enter text.

5. What is a glacier?

Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Using information from the text, tick one box per row to show whether the statement is **true** or **false**.

	<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>
The Alps stretch all the way to India.	x	x
All the snow melts away from the Alps in summer.	x	x
A sort of goat lives high up in the Alps.	x	x
Hannibal's army brought elephants with them.	x	x

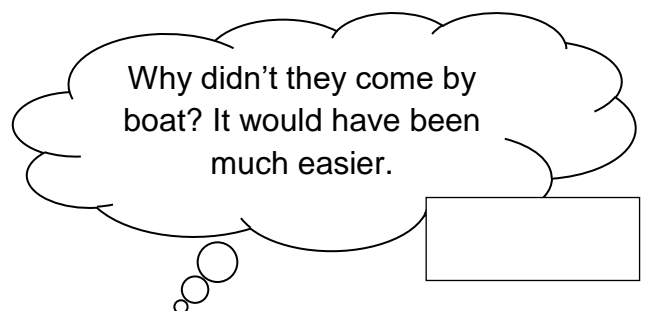
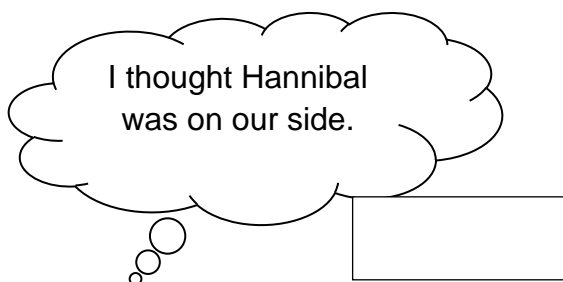
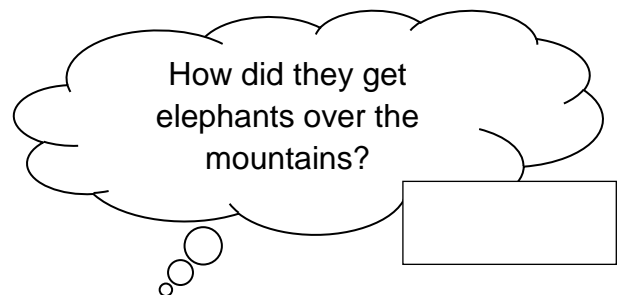
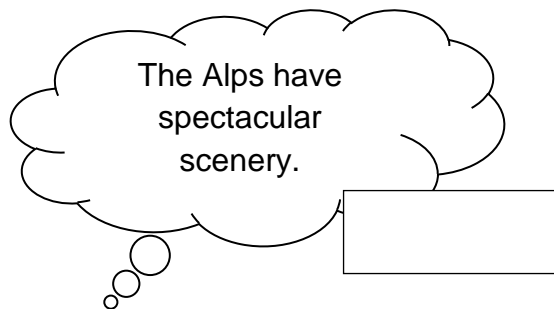
7. Why can't you see the Alps growing taller each day?

Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Why do you not find the same animals at all altitudes (heights) in the Alps?

Click or tap here to enter text.

9. What do you think the Romans would have thought when they saw Hannibal's army? Tick **one** thought.



10. Match each section to its main content by writing the correct number in the box.

1. Formation	2. Features	3. Life	4. Humans
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Click or tap here to enter text.	Some of the things you would notice if you visited the Alps.
Click or tap here to enter text.	How the Alps were made.
Click or tap here to enter text.	How people have benefitted from the Alps.
Click or tap here to enter text.	How plants and animals have adapted in order to survive in the Alps.

11. If you were able to come back and measure the Alps in a few million years, what would you notice?

Click or tap here to enter text.

12. ... *dumped by melting glaciers* ... What impression does the word *dumped* give of the way that sand and gravel are left behind by the glaciers?

Click or tap here to enter text.