

LIFE ON A

Mountain





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The Mountain Biome

Julian Alps,
Slovenia

One of Earth's **biomes** is found higher up than any other! It is the mountain, or **alpine**, biome.

It begins above
the **tree line**. Its
snowy peaks are
some of the planet's
harshest places.

Himalayas,
Pakistan



The alpine biome exists thousands of feet above **sea level**.

Mountains that reach great heights are found across the globe.

highest peak on continent = ▲

mountains = ■



The world's tallest mountain is Mount Everest in Asia. It rises over 29,000 feet (8,840 meters) high!



The Climate

Bernese Alps,
Switzerland



The mountaintop **climate** is known for temperatures far below **freezing**. But the extreme cold does not last all year at lower heights.

Temperatures can reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit (16 degrees Celsius) just below the peak. Other biomes exist closer to the bottom.

Mountain Zones

Alpine:

11,500 feet (3,500 meters) +

Subalpine:

10,000-11,500 feet (3,000-3,500 meters)

Montane:

8,000-10,000 feet (2,400-3,000 meters)

Foothills:

6,000-8,000 feet (1,800-2,400 meters)

Plains:

4,000-6,000 feet (1,200-1,800 meters)

The temperature drops 3.5 °F (2 °C)
for every 1,000 feet (300 meters) gained.

Sea level: 0 feet (0 meters)

Heights listed for Colorado's Rocky Mountains.