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**CLASS 6<sup>th</sup>                      SUBJECT S.SCI**

## **Ch:MAJOR LANDFORMS OF THE EARTH**

### **Overview**

The earth has an infinite variety of landforms. These landforms are a result of two processes. Within the earth, a continuous movement is taking place. The first or the internal process leads to the upliftment and sinking of the earth's surface at several places. The second, or the external process is the continuous wearing down and rebuilding of the land surface. The wearing away of the earth's surface is called erosion. The surface is being lowered by the process of erosion and rebuilt by the process of deposition. These two processes are carried out by running water, ice and wind.

### **Mountains**

A mountain is any natural elevation of the earth's surface. It may have a small summit and a broad base. It is considerably higher than the surrounding area. Some mountains are even higher than the clouds. The climate becomes colder when we go higher. In some mountains, there are permanently frozen rivers of ice. They are called glaciers. There are some mountains deep under the sea. Owing to harsh climate, less people live in the mountain areas. Since the slopes are steep, less land is available for farming.

Mountains may be arranged in a line known as range. The Himalayas, the Alps and the Andes are mountain ranges of Asia, Europe and South America, respectively. Mountains vary in their heights and shape.

There are three types of mountains- Fold Mountains, Block Mountains and the Volcanic Mountains. The Himalayan Mountains and the Alps are young fold mountains with rugged relief and high conical peaks. The Aravalli range in India is one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world. The Appalachians in North America and the Ural mountains in Russia have rounded features and low elevation. They are very old fold mountains.

Block Mountains are created when large areas are broken and displaced vertically. The uplifted blocks are termed as horsts and the lowered blocks are called graven. The Rhine valley and the Vosges mountain in Europe are examples of such mountain systems.

Volcanic mountains are formed due to volcanic activity. Mt.Kilimanjaro in Africa and Mt.Fujiyama in Japan are examples of such mountains. Mountains are very useful. They are a storehouse of water. Many rivers have their source in the glaciers in the mountains. Reservoirs are made and the water is harnessed for the use of people.

Water from the mountains is also used for irrigation and generation of hydro-electricity. The river valleys and terraces are ideal for cultivation of crops. Mountains have a rich variety of flora and fauna. The forests provide fuel, fodder, shelter and other products like gum, raisins, etc.

READ THE ABOVE ARTICLE CAREFULLY AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND GIVE THE ANSWER OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1.what is Mountain?

2.What is Range ?

3.Name the three Mountain Range?

4.What is Erosion?

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