



Key Stage 2 - Knowledge Organiser Geography – Mountains, Volcanoes & Earthquakes

Key Vocabulary	
Tectonic Plates	The Earth's surface isn't one solid piece of rock. It is broken into giant, slow-moving puzzle pieces called tectonic plates.
Plate Boundary	This is the specific place where two tectonic plates meet. Different things occur at plate boundaries. Such as, pushing together, pulling apart or sliding past each other.
Fold Mountains	These are created when two tectonic plates crash into each other. Because the rock has nowhere else to go, it gets squashed and folds upwards, creating mountain peaks.
Mountain Range	Is a big group or a long line of mountains that are all close together.
Volcano	A volcano is a mountain that has an opening (a vent) in the Earth's crust. It allows hot, liquid rock called magma, along with ash and gas, to escape from deep underground. Once magma reaches the surface, we call it lava.
Earthquake	An earthquake is the sudden, violent shaking of the ground. It happens when tectonic plates that have been stuck together suddenly slip or break past each other, releasing a huge burst of energy.
Epicenter	When an earthquake happens deep underground, the epicenter is the exact spot on the surface directly above where the shaking started. This is usually where the most damage happens.
Richter Scale	The Richter Scale is a way of measuring how strong an earthquake is.

Key Knowledge

- The Earth consists of four layers: crust, mantle, outer core and inner core.
- The plates move very slightly – between 1 and 10 centimetres a year – and when they do, earthquakes occur, and volcanoes form or erupt.
- I can name and locate examples of mountain ranges, a volcano and an earthquake.
- When a natural disaster has happened, it can affect society, the environment and the economy.
- Primary effects include the death, injury or disappearance of people.
- Secondary effects include:
 - Heavy rain causing landslides;
 - Hunger due to crops being destroyed;
 - Disruption to travel and farming, which will cost the government money.
- Immediate responses include search and rescue teams clearing roads to rescue people; water, food, medical care and tents provided; evacuation.
- Long-term responses include education and evacuation drills; new and improved emergency response systems, rebuilding infrastructure
- People may live in potentially dangerous areas because, for example, the land is fertile.
- A tsunami (long, high waves) begins far offshore with a volcanic eruption, earthquake or landslide.

