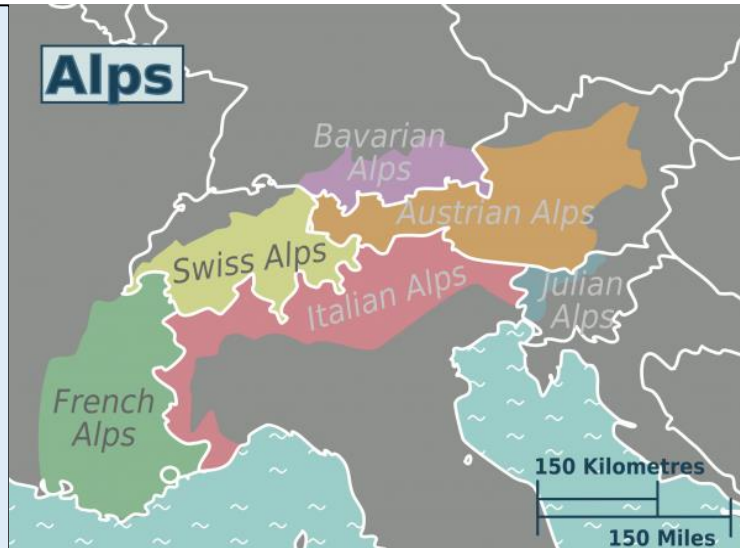


# Y5 – The Alps

- The Alps are a mountain range in Europe.
- The Alps cover areas in the following 8 countries: Switzerland, France, Austria, Italy Germany, Slovenia, Monaco and Liechtenstein.
- Mount Blanc span the French-Italian border and is the highest mountain in the Alps.
- There are other mountain ranges across other continents such as the Rockies, the Andies and the Himalayas.
- The Alps formed 34 –23 million years ago when the African and European tectonic plates hit.
- Farming and forestry are the large parts of the mountains economies along with tourism, along with tourism.
- The Alps are the third longest mountain range in Europe (1200km).
- The average temperatures on the valley floor range between  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter to  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $24^{\circ}\text{C}$  in summer.



The Alps are an interzonal mountain system (Orobiome), or a “transition area” between Central and Mediterranean Europe. The Alps have high habitat diversity, with 200 habitats classified throughout the mountain range. This mountain range is home to a high level of biodiversity.

None of the 80 mammal species found in the Alps are “strictly” endemic, meaning they occur in the Alps and nowhere else in the world. Some of the larger carnivore species found in the Alps include the Alpine ibex, the chamois, the Eurasian lynx, the wolf, and the brown bear. These populations have been reduced in size or fragmented into small groups. There are also numerous rodent species found in the Alps, such as voles and marmots.

Mont Blanc is the highest peak at 15,776 feet (4,808 m). It is the second-highest and second most prominent mountain in Europe and the eleventh most prominent mountain summit in the world. The mountain stands between regions of Italy and of France. There are about a hundred peaks higher than 13,000 ft (4,000 m) in the Alpine region.

At over 12 miles long and about a half-mile thick, the famous Aletsch valley glacier is the longest in the Alps, but due to climate change, the Aletsch is shrinking and predicted to completely melt by the end of this century.

