Passage mountains 27

A mountain is a natural rise of the Earth’s surface that usually has a “summit” (or “top”). It is usually steeper and taller than a hill. Mountains are often thought of as being a hill of over 600 meters (about 2,000 feet).Mountains are important to life on Earth, because most rivers begin in mountains and carry water from the mountains down to the sea.

The highest mountain on Earth is Mount Everest in the Himalayas of Asia, whose summit is 8,848 m (29,029 ft) above mean sea level. The highest known mountain in the Solar System is Olympus Mons on the planet Mars at 21,171 m (69,459 ft).

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Mountains cover one-fifth of the earth’s land surface, and occur in 75 % of the world’s countries. Mountains cover 64% of Asia, 25% of Europe, 22% of South America, 17% of Australia, and 3% of Africa. Most of the world’s rivers are fed from mountain sources, and more than half of humanity depends on mountains for water.

Mountains are generally less preferable for human habitation than lowlands; the weather is often harsher, and there is little level ground suitable for agriculture. The decreasing atmospheric pressure means that less oxygen is available for breathing, and there is less protection against solar radiation (UV). Acute mountain sickness (caused by hypoxia—a lack of oxygen in the blood) affects over half of lowlanders who spend more than a few hours above 3,500 meters (11,480 ft).

However, a valley is an area of extended lowland, typically surrounded by much higher hills or mountains. It is one of many geological features that make up the surface of the Earth, and it is of special interest and importance to humans, thanks to the fact that valleys have a number of uses. This landform is also quite abundant.

Some geologists break up valleys by type on the basis of how they are formed. A rift valley is formed through separation of the Earth’s crust, caused by violent earth movements; a notable example is the Great Rift Valley in Africa. A glacial valley is on that has been formed by a glacier; they are especially common in Europe and have a distinctive U-shaped profile when viewed in cross-section. River valleys are formed through the slow process of erosion by water over the course of centuries, and they typically have a V-shaped profile.

Unlike a canyon, a valley is broad, with a large area of floor, rather than a narrow profile. Valleys are generally easy to navigate, and they tend to have a different climate than the surrounding area. It is also common for them to have rich deposits of alluvial mud, making these areas ideal for agriculture. As a result, many human civilizations have settled in valleys, taking advantage of the rivers which often wind through them as a source of water.

**1-C 2-B 3- C 4- D 5- B 6-A**

Questions

1. **Paragraph 2 is mainly talking about:**
2. Mount Everest
3. Olympus Mons
4. The highest mountains
5. The solar system
6. **How much do mountains cover of land surface?**
7. 75%
8. 20%
9. 3%
10. 64%
11. **People don’t prefer to live in mountainous areas because ………..**
12. Mountains are good for agriculture.
13. There is a high percentage of oxygen
14. There are mountain sicknesses like hypoxia
15. There is more protection against Ultra Violet Ray
16. **The underlined word hypoxia probably means:**
17. Solar radiation
18. Breathing

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1. Lowlanders
2. Little oxygen in blood
3. **The writer talked about———— types of valleys.**
4. 2
5. 3
6. 4
7. 5
8. **Which of the following statements is TRUE about valleys?**
9. Valleys are good for agriculture
10. Valleys aren’t generally easy to navigate
11. Valleys had just a few civilizations
12. Valleys have a narrow profile