



## YEAR 2 PHYSICAL FEATURES – MAPS

### PHYSICAL FEATURES ON MAPS OF THE UK

Maps help us find places and learn about the land. Some special features on maps show us the shape of the land, like mountains, rivers, and valleys. These are called **physical features**. Let us explore some of them!

### MOUNTAINS AND HILLS

Mountains are tall and have steep sides. Hills are smaller and not as steep. In the UK, the tallest mountain is **Ben Nevis** in Scotland. The **Pennines** are a range of hills in England. On a map, mountains and hills are shown using brown colours and wavy lines to show their height.

### RIVERS AND LAKES

Rivers are long, flowing bodies of water. They start in the hills and travel to the sea. One of the longest rivers in the UK is the **River Thames**, which flows through London. Lakes are large areas of water surrounded by land. The **Lake District** in England has many famous lakes, like **Lake Windermere**. On a map, rivers are shown as blue lines, and lakes are blue shapes.

### COASTS AND BEACHES

The UK is an island, which means it is surrounded by the sea. The edges of the land near the sea are called the **coast**. Some coasts have sandy beaches, like those in **Cornwall**, while others have high cliffs, like the **White Cliffs of Dover**. On a map, coasts are shown where the land meets the sea, often with blue shading.

### VALLEYS AND PLAINS

A valley is a low area between hills or mountains, often with a river flowing through it. The **Hope Valley** in the Peak District is a well-known valley. Plains are large, flat areas of land. The **Fens** in eastern England are an example of a flat, lowland area. Maps use green colours to show lower land like valleys and plains.



## WHY ARE PHYSICAL FEATURES SO IMPORTANT

Physical features shape the land we live on. They help animals find homes and people find places to build towns and farms. Next time you look at a map, see if you can find mountains, rivers, and coasts. They help tell the story of the land!

## FIND OUT MORE...

[UK Human and Physical Features](#)

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### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the tallest mountain in the UK?
2. How are rivers shown on a map?
3. What is the name of the famous cliffs in Dover?
4. What is the difference between a mountain and a hill?
5. Why are physical features important?