A relief map is a kind of **physical map**. Physical maps show the Earth’s natural features, such as rivers, lakes, and mountains. The physical map below shows several of the Earth’s major **mountain ranges**, or groups of mountains. The map also shows some of the world’s tallest mountains.

1. On which continent are the Andes located?
2. On which continent are the Alps located?
3. On which continent are the Himalaya located?
4. Which two continents are separated by the Ural Mountains?
5. The Atlas Mountains run through the north of what continent?
6. What is the major mountain range in the western half of North America?
7. In which mountain range is Mount Aconcagua?
8. On which continent is Mount Kilimanjaro located?
9. Mount Kosciuszko is located near the coast of what continent?
10. In which mountain range is the world’s highest mountain, Mount Everest?
11. On which continent is Denali located?
France is a lovely European country with both flat and mountainous areas. As on the relief maps you’ve seen before, the mountainous areas on the map below look “bumpy.”

12. Which part of France has the most mountains, the southeast or the northwest?

13. Which city has more mountains around it, Paris or Lyons?

14. What is the name of the mountain range that separates France from Spain?

15. Where would you most likely go mountain climbing, Grenoble or Bordeaux?

16. In which mountain range would you find Mont Blanc?

A ski resort in the mountains of France
Many people live in mountainous areas. They have to adapt to the special conditions of the mountains. For example, high mountain areas get a lot of snow in the winter. People who live in these areas must be prepared with warm clothing and secure shelters.

Many mountainous areas have little water. In some places, it is only easy to find water in the spring. That’s when the snow melts and creates streams and ponds. In other seasons, many streams and ponds dry out or freeze. People who live in the mountains need to build their homes where they can find water all year round.

Agriculture—growing crops and animals—can be very difficult in the mountains. People who tend livestock must choose animals well-suited to mountain life, such as certain kinds of goats and sheep. To grow crops in the mountain climate, some people adapt by making terraces in the mountainsides. Terraces, which look like steps or bleachers, catch water to help crops grow.

Not all mountain ranges are the same age. Some are much older than others. Mountain ranges with many spiky or pointy peaks are generally younger than mountain ranges with rounded tops. For example, the Grand Tetons of Wyoming are very young. The Appalachians of the eastern United States are much older. Wind and rain have rounded off the tops of these older mountains over millions of years.
Mountains can affect the weather. Clouds often form near mountaintops. It might be sunny at the bottom of a mountain but cloudy at the top. Places at the foot of a mountain range are often very windy.

Mountains often block the movement of rain clouds. The land on one side of a mountain range might get a lot of rain, while the land on the other side remains dry.

Clouds near the top of a mountain with no clouds near the bottom

### Skill Builder

#### Review

*Use the map on page 44 to answer the following questions:*

1. Name two mountain ranges in North America.

2. Name one mountain range in Europe.

3. Name the major mountain range in South America.

4. Imagine you are a mountain climber and you just finished climbing Kilimanjaro, Everest, Denali, and Aconcagua. What continents did you visit on your mountain climbing trip?

5. What mountain range separates Europe from Asia?

6. How can you tell that the Appalachians are older than the Grand Tetons?

7. Describe two ways in which people adapt to life in the mountains.

#### Try It Yourself

Look at the United States physical map on pages 68-69. Name five mountains in the United States. In what states are these mountains located? List the mountains in order from the highest to the lowest elevation.