# Mountain Magic: Identifying the Basic Physical Characteristics of Mountains

Students learn about the physical characteristics of mountains and the literary concept of personification.

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<td>Grade Level</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>Duration</td>
<td>2 class periods</td>
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## National Geography Standards

**ELEMENT TWO PLACES AND REGIONS**
4. The physical and human characteristics of places

**ELEMENT THREE PHYSICAL SYSTEMS**
7. The physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface.

## Arizona Geography Standards

### Concept 1 The World in Spatial Terms

**Grade 1**

PO 4. Recognize characteristics of human and physical features:
- physical (i.e., continent, ocean, river, lake, mountains, islands)
- human (i.e., equator, North and South poles)

**Grade 2**

PO 5 Recognize characteristics of human and physical features:
- physical (i.e., ocean, continent, river, lake, mountain range, coast, sea, desert)

## Other Arizona Standards

**ELA Common Core Standards**

**Reading Informational Text**

**Key Ideas and Details**

1.RI.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

2.RI.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

**Craft and Structure**

1.RI.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text

2.RI.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**

1.RI.7 Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

2.RI.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

**Writing Production and Distribution of Writing**

1.W.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

2.W.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

**Speaking and Listening**

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

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**ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE**
Overview

Due to improvements in technology and mass globalization, our students live in a smaller world today. It is imperative that students know about the natural characteristics of the earth to bring about a greater understanding of the planet as a whole.

Purpose

In this lesson, students learn about mountains and mountain ranges as distinct landforms with the related geographical vocabulary.
## Mountain Magic: Identifying the Basic Characteristics of Mountains

### Materials
- Personification worksheet: *I Am A Mountain*
- Personification worksheet example
- National Geographic *Windows On Literacy* series- *Going Up the Mountain* class set of 12 or other non-fiction selections about mountains from school library

### Objectives
The student will be able to:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the physical characteristics of mountains and mountain ranges and the related geographical vocabulary.
- Demonstrate an understanding of personification as a writing style.

### Procedures
#### SESSION ONE
1. Brainstorm prior knowledge about mountains and record responses on large chart paper or the chalkboard. Be sure to discuss "pass", "peak", and "summit" with the class, as they are not included in the book.

2. Pass out copies of the book *Going Up the Mountain*. Conduct a picture walk through the book using and pointing out such geographical terms as peak, base, summit, pass, timberline, and snowline. For second graders, discuss how mountains found together form a mountain range or a mountain chain. Perhaps point out some examples on a physical map.

3. Do a shared reading of the book with the class. When finished, add new knowledge to the chart or the chalkboard.

#### SESSION TWO
1. Review the chart from Session One or brainstorm the characteristics of a mountain again. Rereading the book is also an option.

2. Discuss personification as a writing style. *Personification is the representation of an object as a person; having human qualities.* Demonstrate personification with "I Am A School" student sheet.

3. Distribute the worksheet and begin to personify a mountain. Encourage the use of the learned geographical terms and help as needed.

4. The students may display their completed personifications and/or share them orally.

### Assessment
The students will use and spell correctly at least four of the six introduced vocabulary words in their writing sample: *peak, base, summit, pass, timberline, and snowline*. The writing sample will be assessed with focus on the following parts of the 6 Traits Writing Rubric: Voice and Conventions.

### Extensions
Identify the major mountain ranges of each continent on maps of the world. (See Leapin’ Landmarks lesson.)

Make a travel brochure about nearby mountains.

Students may read *Ming Lo Moves A Mountain* by Arnold Lobel. They may make a Venn diagram of Ming Lo’s home and their homes.

### Sources
*National Geographic Society, Going Up the Mountain Order # JL41012*