

The Alps

The Alps, a crescent-shaped mountain range, are the highest and largest mountains in Europe. They span a total of 1200km across eight countries: Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.



Mont Blanc

The highest peak is Mont Blanc (which translates as 'White Mountain'). It sits on the French-Italian border and is 4810m high. Another famous mountain is the Matterhorn, which is on the border between Switzerland and Italy, and is 4478m tall. Altogether, the Alps contain around 100 peaks which are higher than 4000m!



The Matterhorn

There are around 30,000 different animal species that live in the Alps. The Alpine Ibex, which are a type of wild goat, live on the steep rocky terrain at elevations of up to

3400m. Marmots, which are small rodents, are often seen scampering around on the lower slopes.



Alpine Marmots

There is a population of around 14 million people who live in the Alpine region across the eight countries. Many of these people still take part in the traditional cultures of farming, cheese-making and wood-working, although tourism is now the major source of income in the area, with over 120 million visitors every year. The Winter Olympic Games have also been hosted in various regions of the Alps.



Alpine Ibex



Cable car

The towns in the lower regions of the Alps are served by a train line, however, some of the higher mountain villages are only accessible by cable car. Many of the lower areas have become car-free, so as to limit the damage to the fragile Alpine terrain.

The Romans built settlements in the Alps – one example is the town of Aosta, named after the Roman emperor, Augustus.



The Apennines

The Apennines is a mountain range that spans the length of Italy, and is often referred to as the 'backbone' of the country. It is 1200km in length, and 250km at its widest point.

The Apennines are split into three sectors: northern, central and southern. There are 21 peaks which are over 1900m – most of these are in the central Apennines, like Gran Sasso (which translates as 'Great Rock'). It consists of three main peaks, the highest of which is Corno Grande (which translates as 'Big Horn') at 2912m. Monte Cimone is the highest mountain in the northern Apennines, at 2165m tall, and is a popular winter skiing resort.



Gran Sasso

As well as the mountains, there are many forests and grasslands in the region, with a wide range of plants,



Corno Grande



Italian wolf

flowers and wildlife. The Apennines are home to the vulnerable Italian wolf, and the critically endangered Marsican brown bear, which are now extinct in other countries of Europe.

The mountain range is mostly verdant (green with grass and other vegetation), although one side of the Corno Grande is partially covered by the Calderone glacier – the only one in the Apennines.



Marsican brown bear

The majority of people who live in this region can be found in the valleys. One reason for this is because they are near to the pasturelands on the lower slopes of the mountains, which are used for sheep and goat grazing.

There are several railway lines which connect Bologna (to the east of the Apennines) and Florence (to the west). Many tunnels had to be made through the mountains, including the Great Apennine Tunnel, at 18.5km long.

There are many hiking trails across the mountains. The Grand Italian Trail, which is a very popular walk with hikers, crosses the entire nation of Italy and is 6166km long!



Hikers in the Apennines

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sort the Alps and Apennines Statement Cards into the correct columns below, using the information sheets to help you.

Alps	Apennines

Which mountain range would you most like to visit? Explain your answer.



<p>This region is home to the Italian wolf and the Marsican brown bear.</p>	<p>This mountain range contains around 100 peaks which are above 4000 metres.</p>
<p>Ibex and marmots are just two of the many species of animals that live on this mountain range.</p>	<p>The highest peak in this mountain range is partially covered by a glacier.</p>
<p>There are 21 peaks which are over 1900 metres in this mountain range.</p>	<p>The Matterhorn is part of this mountain range.</p>
<p>The Grand Italian Trail for hikers can be found in this mountain range.</p>	<p>The highest peak of this mountain range is Corno Grande.</p>
<p>This mountain range spans eight different countries.</p>	<p>The mountain range is often called the 'backbone' of Italy.</p>
<p>This range has a mountain which translates as 'Great Rock'.</p>	<p>The Winter Olympics have been held in this mountain range several times.</p>
<p>The Romans built a town called Aosta in this mountain range.</p>	<p>This mountain range has a highest peak of 4810 metres.</p>

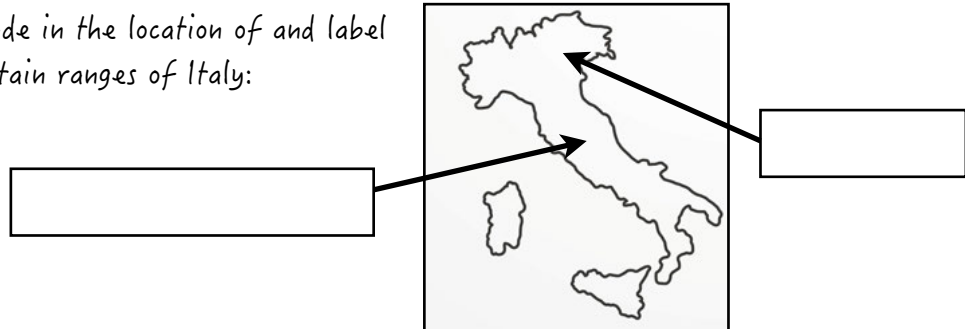
Name: _____

Date: _____



Use the Alps Information Sheet and the Apennines Information Sheet to answer the questions about the two mountain ranges below:

1. On this map, shade in the location of and label the two main mountain ranges of Italy:



2. How many countries do each of the mountain ranges span, and what are they?

ALPS: _____

APENNINES: _____

3. What is the highest peak in each mountain range? How tall are they?

ALPS: _____

APENNINES: _____

4. What type of wildlife might you see in each mountain range?

ALPS: _____

APENNINES: _____

5. What does 'verdant' mean, and which mountain range could be described as mostly this?

6. What traditional cultures are still practised in the Alps?

7. Where do most people live in the Apennines, and why?

See what else you can find out about the two mountain ranges, using books or the internet.



Name: _____ Date: _____



Using the information sheets, write your own description of each mountain range, then compare and contrast them by writing a list of similarities and differences below.

The Alps



The Apennines



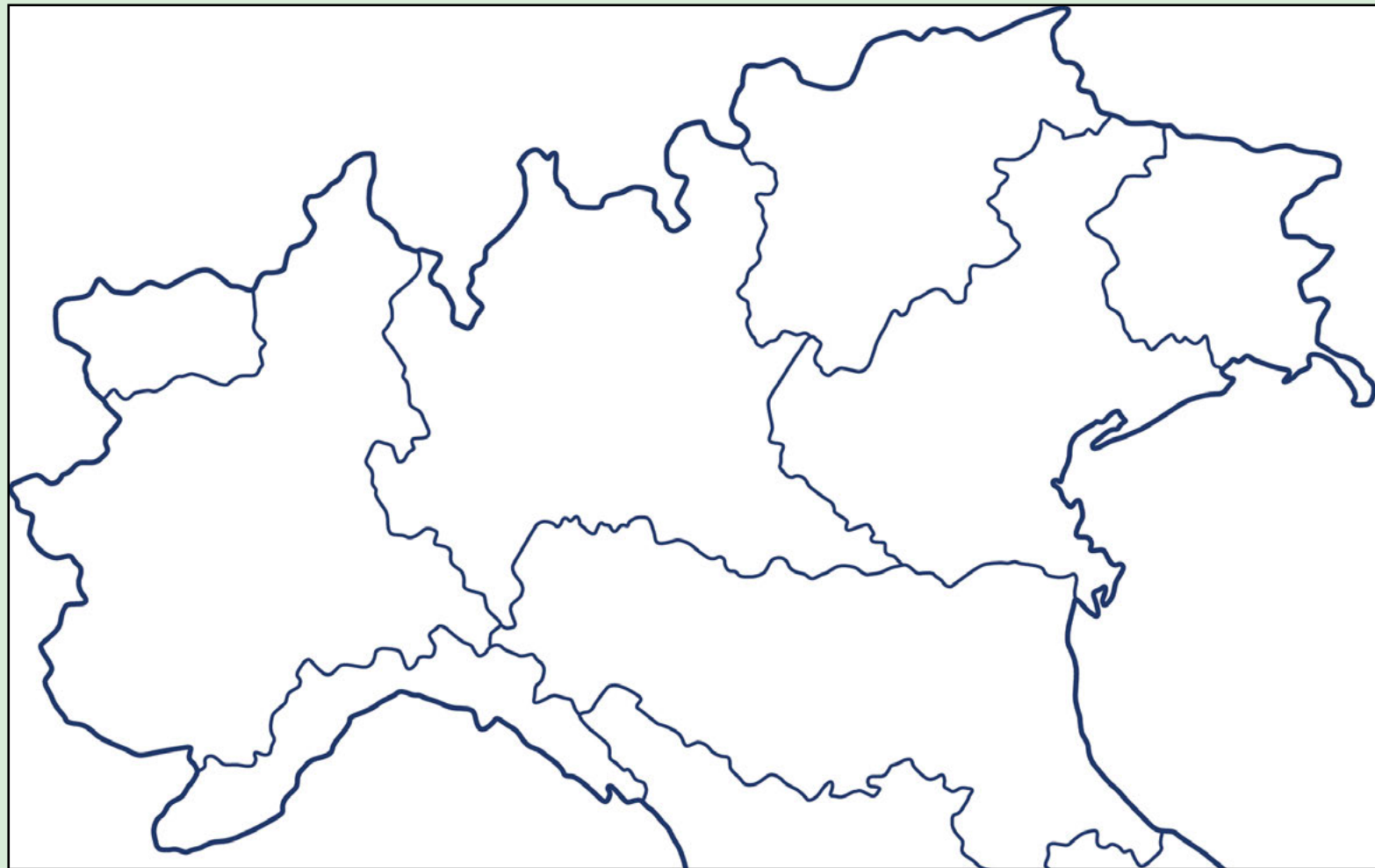
Similarities between the two mountain ranges:

Differences between the two mountain ranges:

Name: _____ Date: _____



Using atlases or Google Maps, can you draw the River Po on the map of northern Italy below?



Can you label the following:

- the source of the river
- the mouth of the river
- the regions it flows through
- any important cities it flows through?





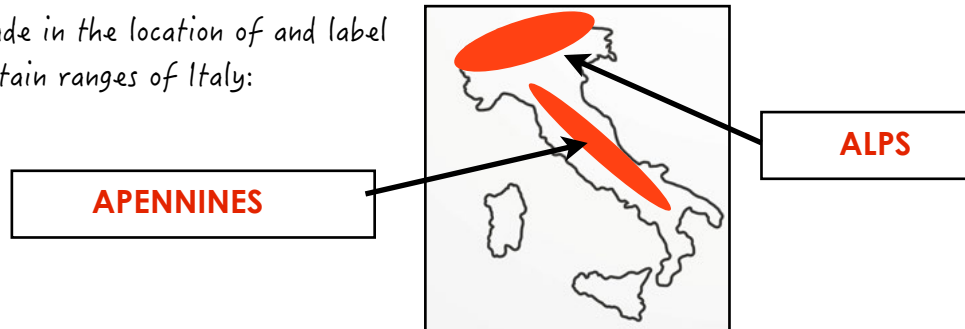
Sort the Alps and Apennines Statement Cards into the correct columns below, using the information sheets to help you.

Alps	Apennines
<p>This mountain range contains around 100 peaks which are above 4000 metres.</p>	<p>There are 21 peaks which are over 1900 metres in this mountain range.</p>
<p>Ibex and marmots are just two of the many species of animals that live on this mountain range.</p>	<p>The highest peak in this mountain range is partially covered by a glacier.</p>
<p>The Matterhorn is part of this mountain range.</p>	<p>The Grand Italian Trail for hikers can be found in this mountain range.</p>
<p>The Winter Olympics have been held in this mountain range several times.</p>	<p>The highest peak of this mountain range is Corno Grande.</p>
<p>This mountain range spans eight different countries.</p>	<p>The mountain range is often called the 'backbone' of Italy.</p>
<p>This mountain range has a highest peak of 4810 metres.</p>	<p>This range has a mountain which translates as 'Great Rock'.</p>
<p>The Romans built a town called Aosta in this mountain range.</p>	<p>This region is home to the Italian wolf and the Marsican brown bear.</p>



Use the Alps Information Sheet and the Apennines Information Sheet to answer the questions about the two mountain ranges below:

1. On this map, shade in the location of and label the two main mountain ranges of Italy:



2. How many countries do each of the mountain ranges span, and what are they?

ALPS: EIGHT- Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland

APENNINES: ONE- Italy

3. What is the highest peak in each mountain range? How tall are they?

ALPS: Mont Blanc, 4810 metres tall

APENNINES: Corno Grande, 2912 metres tall

4. What type of wildlife might you see in each mountain range?

ALPS: Alpine Ibex, marmots

APENNINES: Italian wolf, Marsican brown bear

5. What does 'verdant' mean, and which mountain range could be described as mostly this?

Verdant means green with grass or other vegetation. The Apennines could be mostly described as this.

6. What traditional cultures are still practised in the Alps?

Cheese-making, wood-working and farming.

7. Where do most people live in the Apennines, and why?

In the valleys, because they are near to the pastureland on the lower slopes, which is used for sheep and goat grazing.

See what else you can find out about the two mountain ranges, using books or the internet.

