

# The United Kingdom

## Learning Objective:

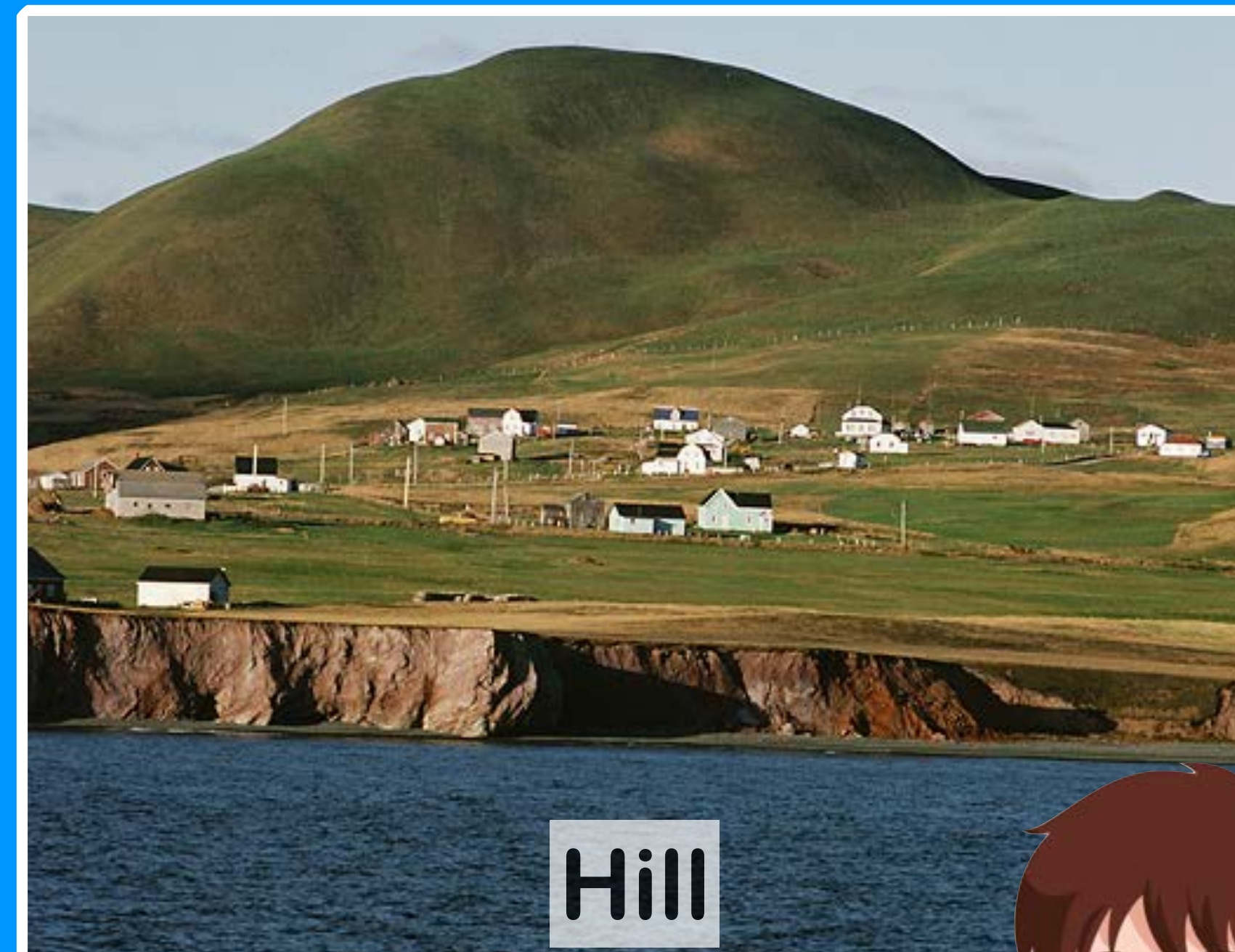
To find out about the hills and mountains of the UK.



What is the difference  
between a hill and a  
mountain?

Think, pair, share your ideas.

The difference between a hill and a mountain is not always clear and there is no set definition for the difference. Hills are generally smaller than mountains. Mountains are usually steeper than hills too and have a distinct summit.



Did you know that the elevation of hills and mountains is measured from sea level?



There are several different ways in which mountains can be formed. The Earth's crust is made up of different slabs called tectonic plates. Over millions of years these plates move. When two plates collide they fold over each other, like a car crash collision, and rock is pushed upwards. This type of mountain is called a 'fold mountain' and is the most common form of mountain.



Another type of mountain are 'dome mountains'. These occur when the pressure from lots of hot magma under the Earth's crust pushes the earth upwards into a dome without the magma pushing through the surface.



Volcanos are also mountains. Volcanos are caused when magma (hot melted rock) erupts through the centre of the volcano and the lava cools in a cone shape. Volcanos are built up when layers of cooled lava turn to rock which build on top of each other over time.

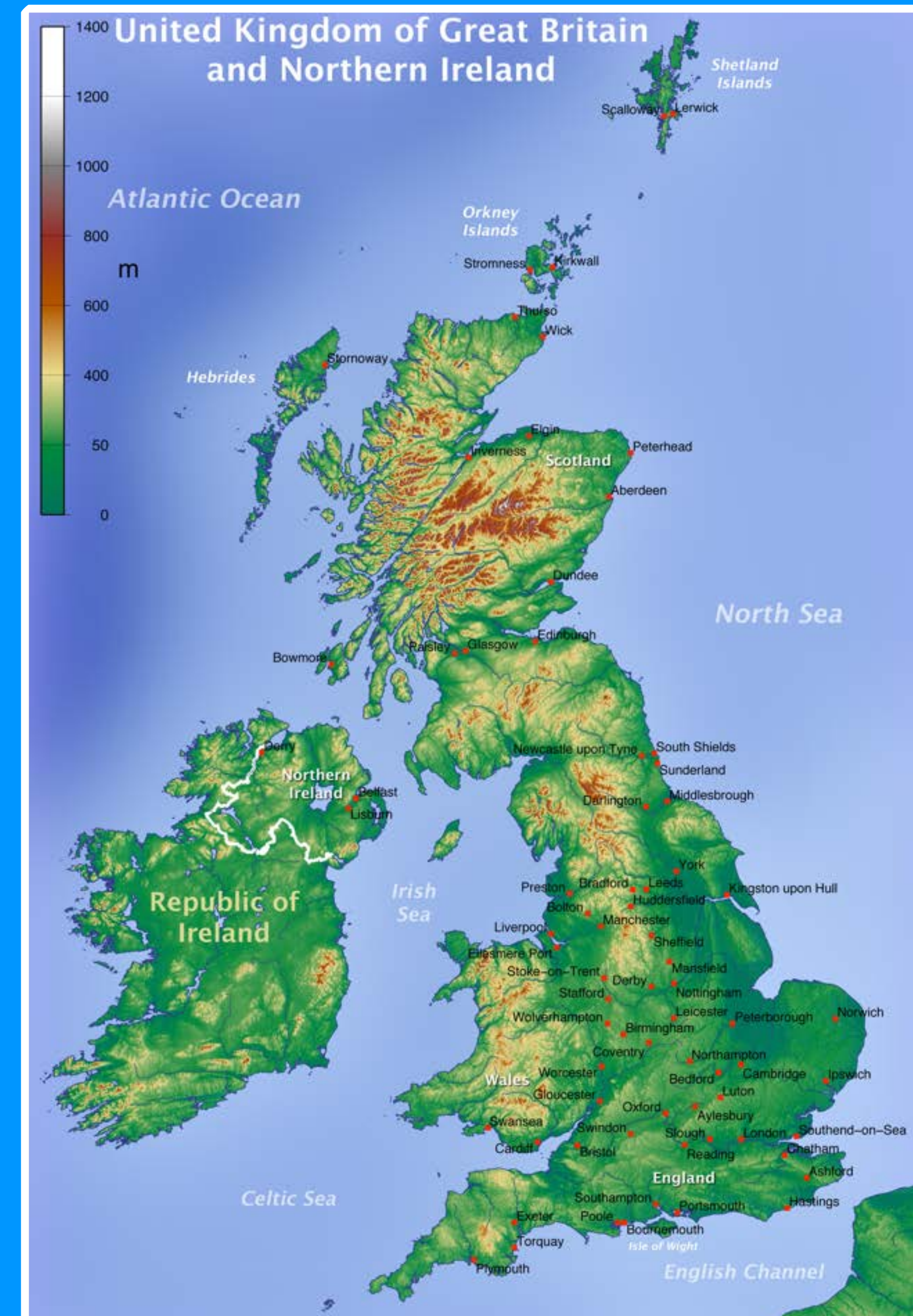


There are no active volcanos in the UK but there are several mountains that were formed by volcanos that are now extinct.

This type of map is called a topographical map. Topographical maps show the natural features of a region, such as hills and mountains.



Which parts of the UK have the most hills and mountains?



# The Pennines

The Pennines are sometimes called the 'backbone of England'. They are a range of hills that separate North West England from Yorkshire and North East England.



The highest point in the Pennines is Cross Fell which has an elevation of 893m. The Pennines also have several chasms as well as reservoirs which store water for the north of England.

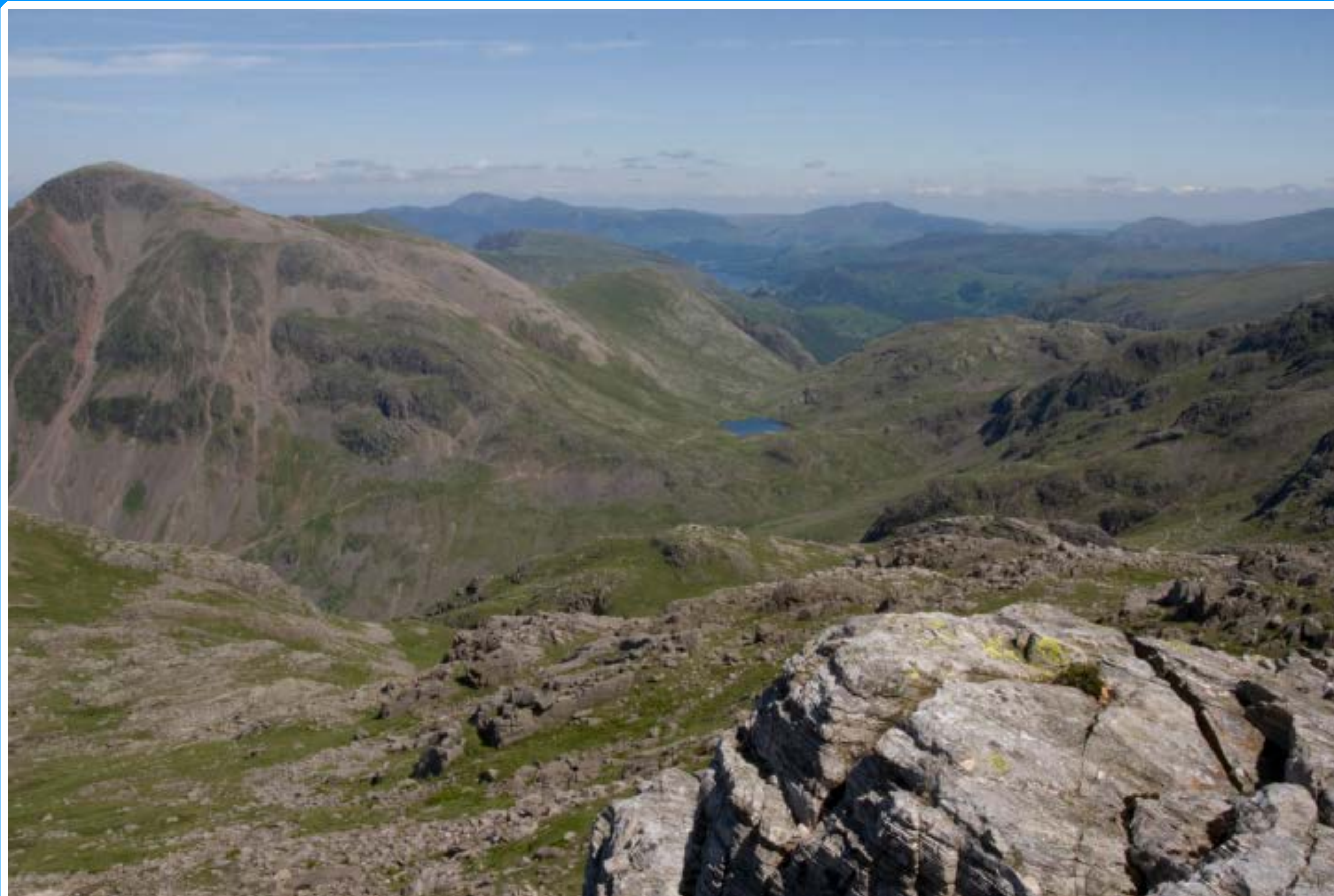
# The Peak District

The Peak District is a limestone plateau (area of high ground) in Derbyshire at the southern end of the Pennines. A large part of the Peak District was designated as a national park in 1951. The highest point of the Peak District is Kinder Scout which is 636m high.

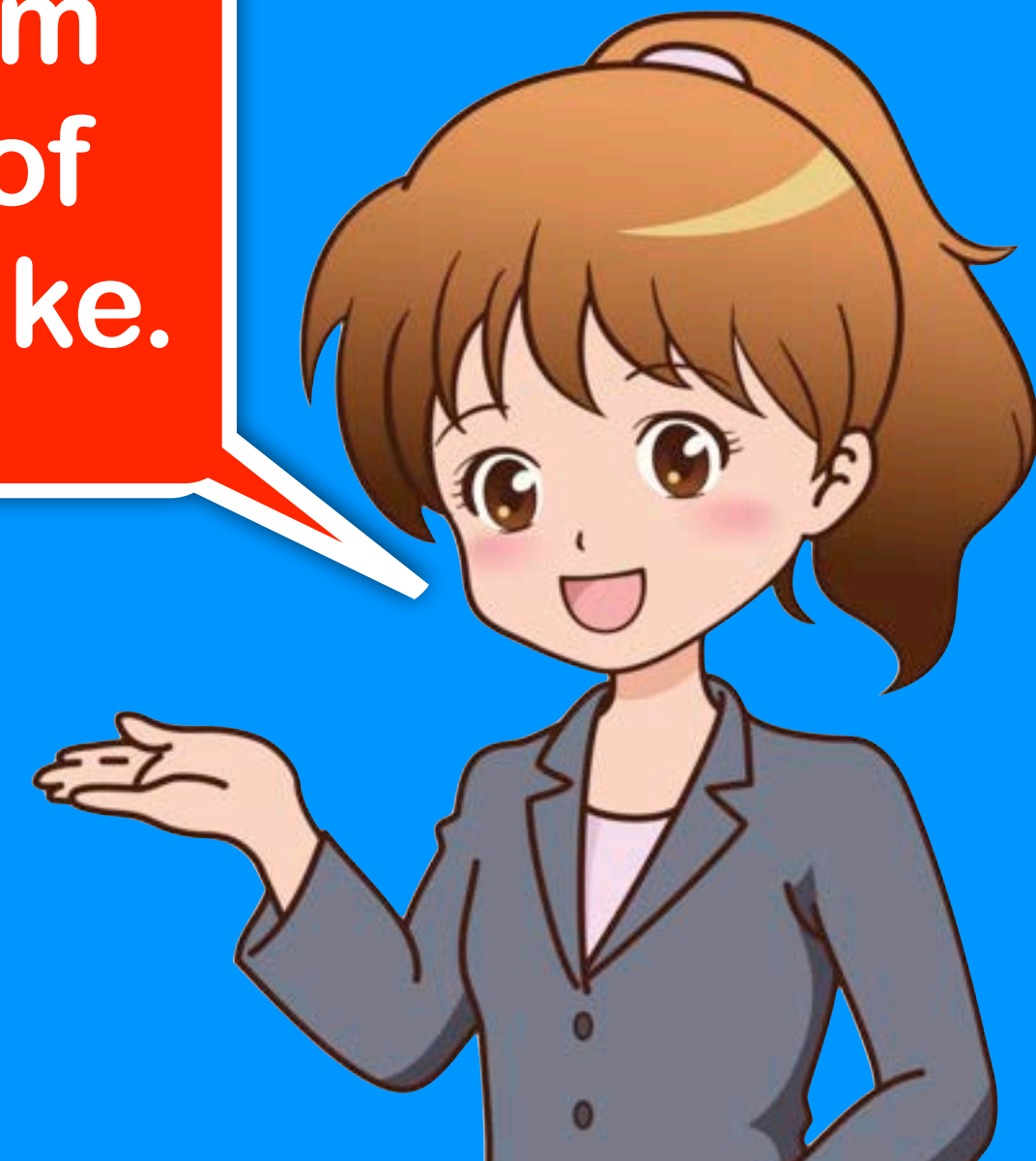


# The Lake District

The Lake District is an area of mountains and lakes in Cumbria. It includes the Cumbrian mountains and part of the Furness peninsula. It also has the highest mountain in England, Scafell Pike (978m).



This photo shows the view from the top of Scafell Pike.



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# The Highlands

The Highlands is a region of mountains and moorland in Scotland, to the north of Glasgow and Stirling. The area is split into the Northwest Highlands and the Grampian Highlands. The western end of the Grampian mountains is home to the highest point in the UK, Ben Nevis, which has an elevation of 1344m.

Ben Nevis



# The North and South Downs

The North Downs is a ridge of chalk hills that stretch from Surrey to the white cliffs of Dover. The South Downs extend across the south-eastern coastal counties from Hampshire to Beachy Head in East Sussex. Beachy Head is the highest chalk sea cliff in Britain at 162m tall.



Beachy Head

# Mourne Mountains

The Mourne Mountains are a granite mountain range in County Down in the south-east of Northern Ireland. They contain the highest peak in Northern Ireland which is Slieve Donard (850m).



A view of Slieve Donard

# Snowdon

Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales. It has five peaks, the highest of which is 1085m. Mount Snowdon is found in a national park known as Snowdonia in Gwynedd, the north west of Wales. The mountains of Snowdon were created by volcanos.

This photo shows the view from the summit of Snowdon.

