



Nonfiction

# Mountains



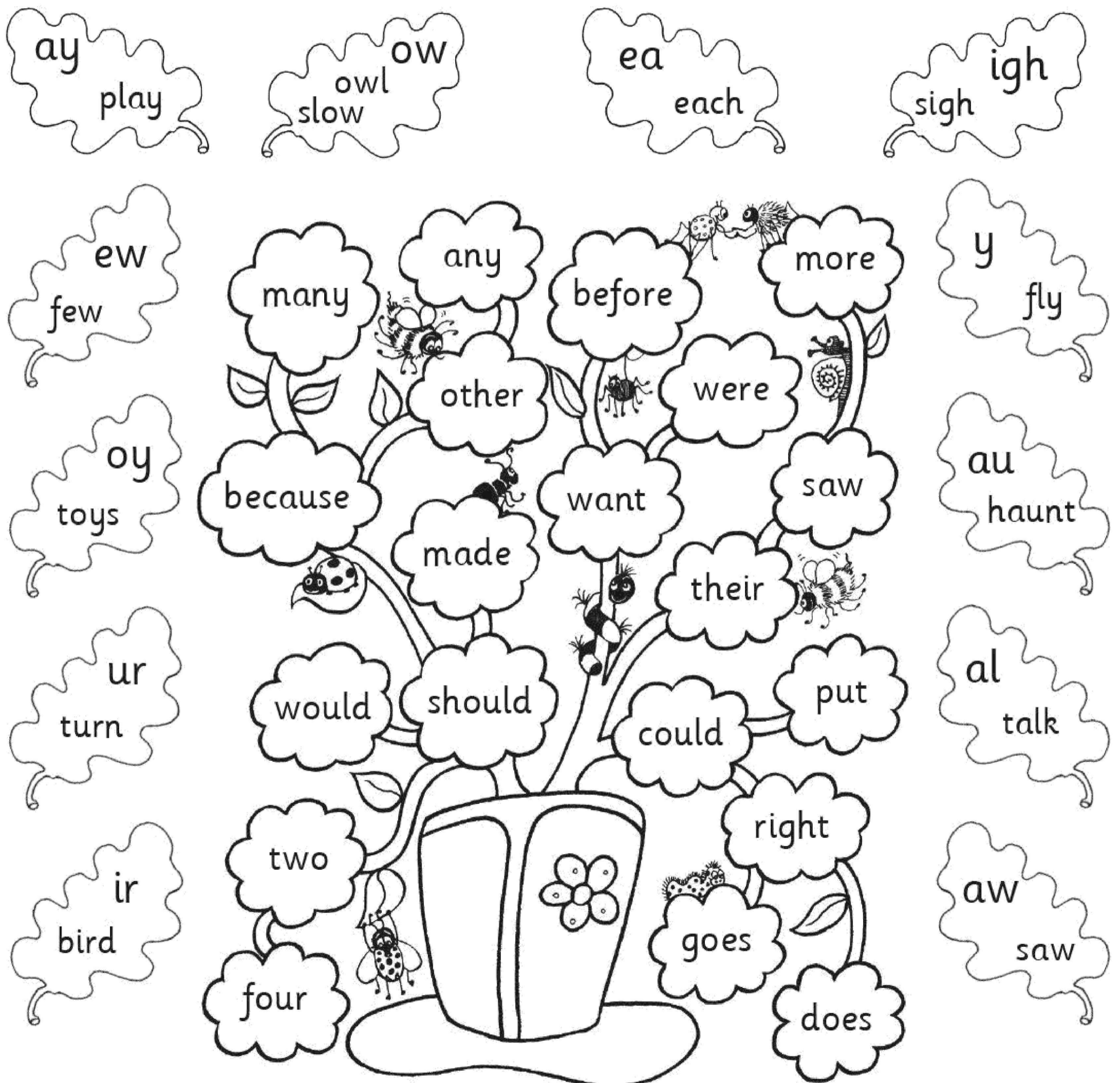
Jolly  
Phonics



## Teachers and parents

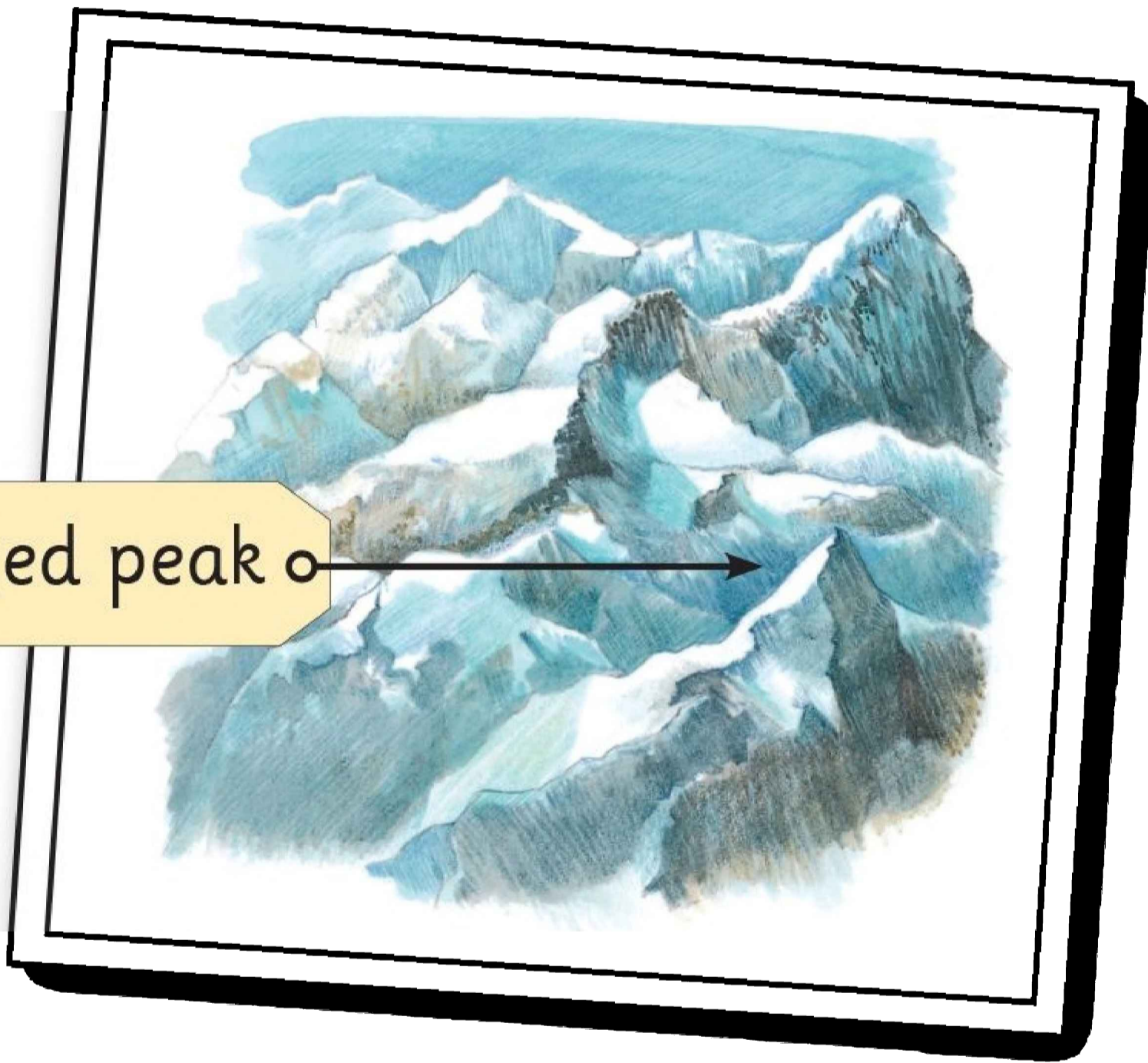
Before tackling these Blue Level Readers, a child will need to be able to:

- Recognise the basic 42 letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, the 'hop-over <e>' digraphs in words like *take*, *these*, *bike*, *code* and *mule*, and the other main alternative vowel spellings in the leaves below;
- Read (blend) regular words containing these letter sounds;
- Recognise the twenty tricky words shown in the flowers below;
- Recognise the names of the three main characters, as well as Phonic.



Mountains are enormous bits of rock that stand much higher than the ground around them. Some are on their own, while others are part of a chain.

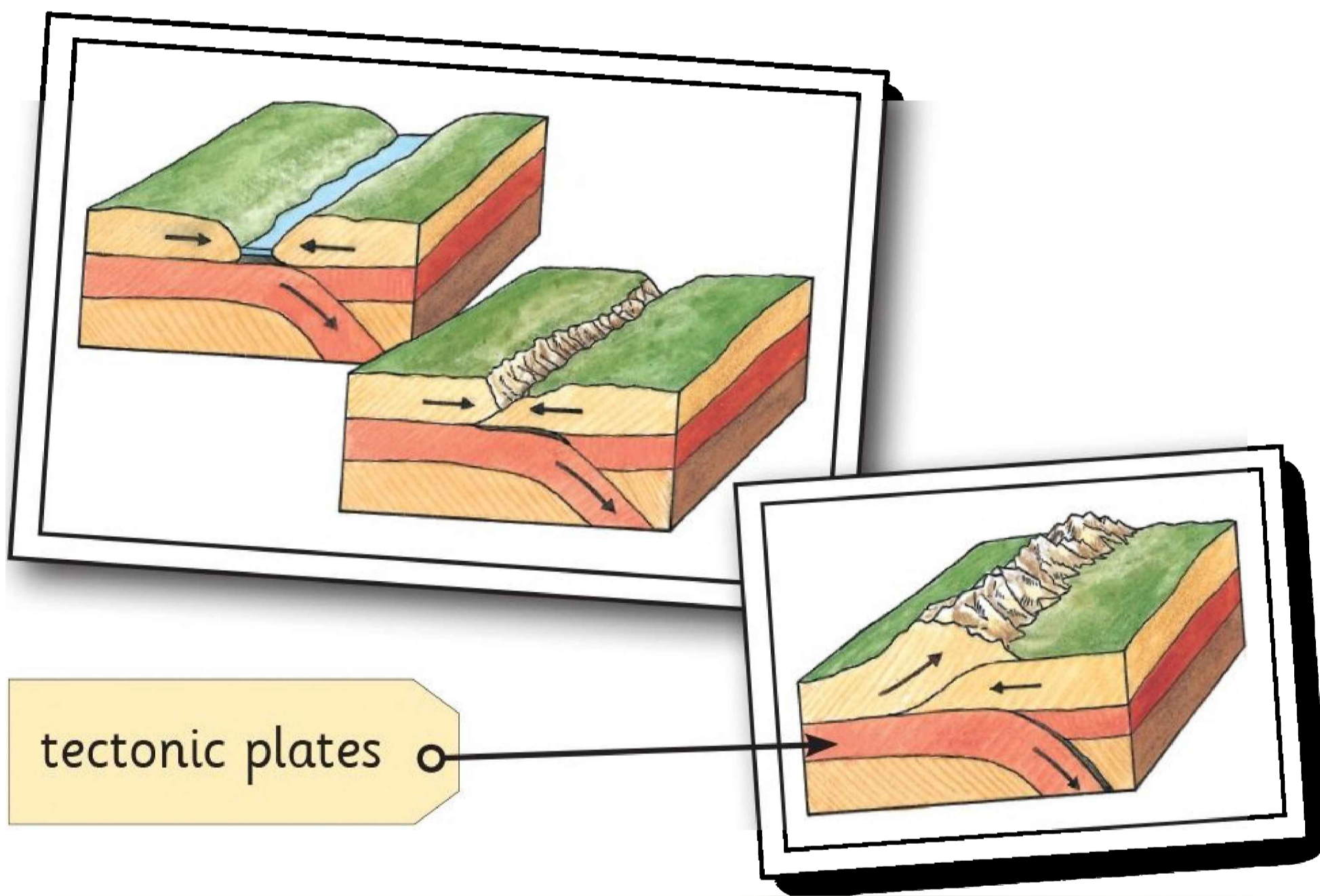
jagged peak



They can be many different shapes with rounded tops or jagged peaks. It all depends on how the mountains were formed and how old they are.



The top layer of the Earth is called the crust. This crust is made up of several big chunks. These chunks are called “tectonic plates”, and they are not fixed in one spot.

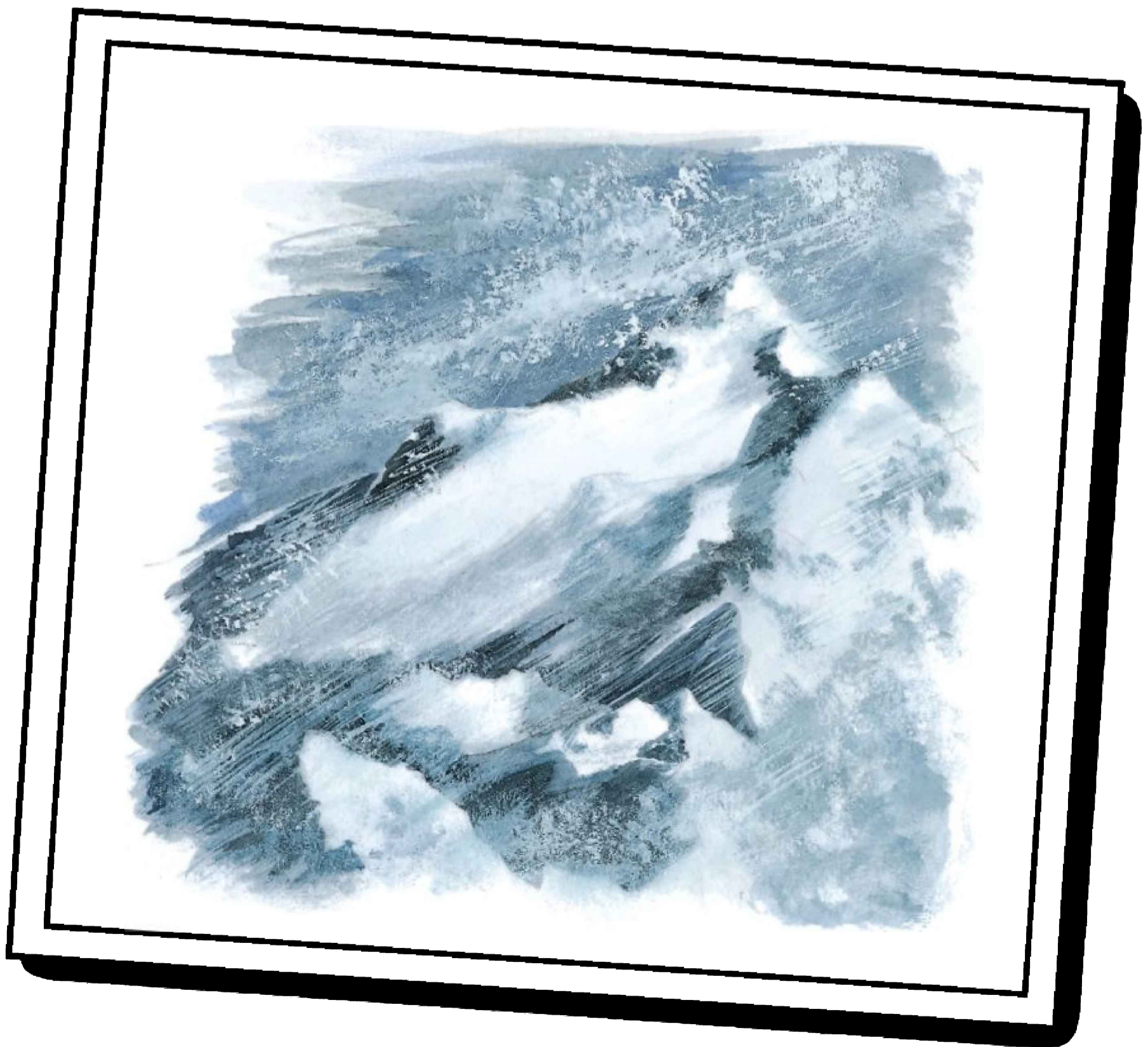


tectonic plates

The sides of these plates hit against each other. When this happens, the layers of rock in the Earth’s crust are folded up to form mountains.

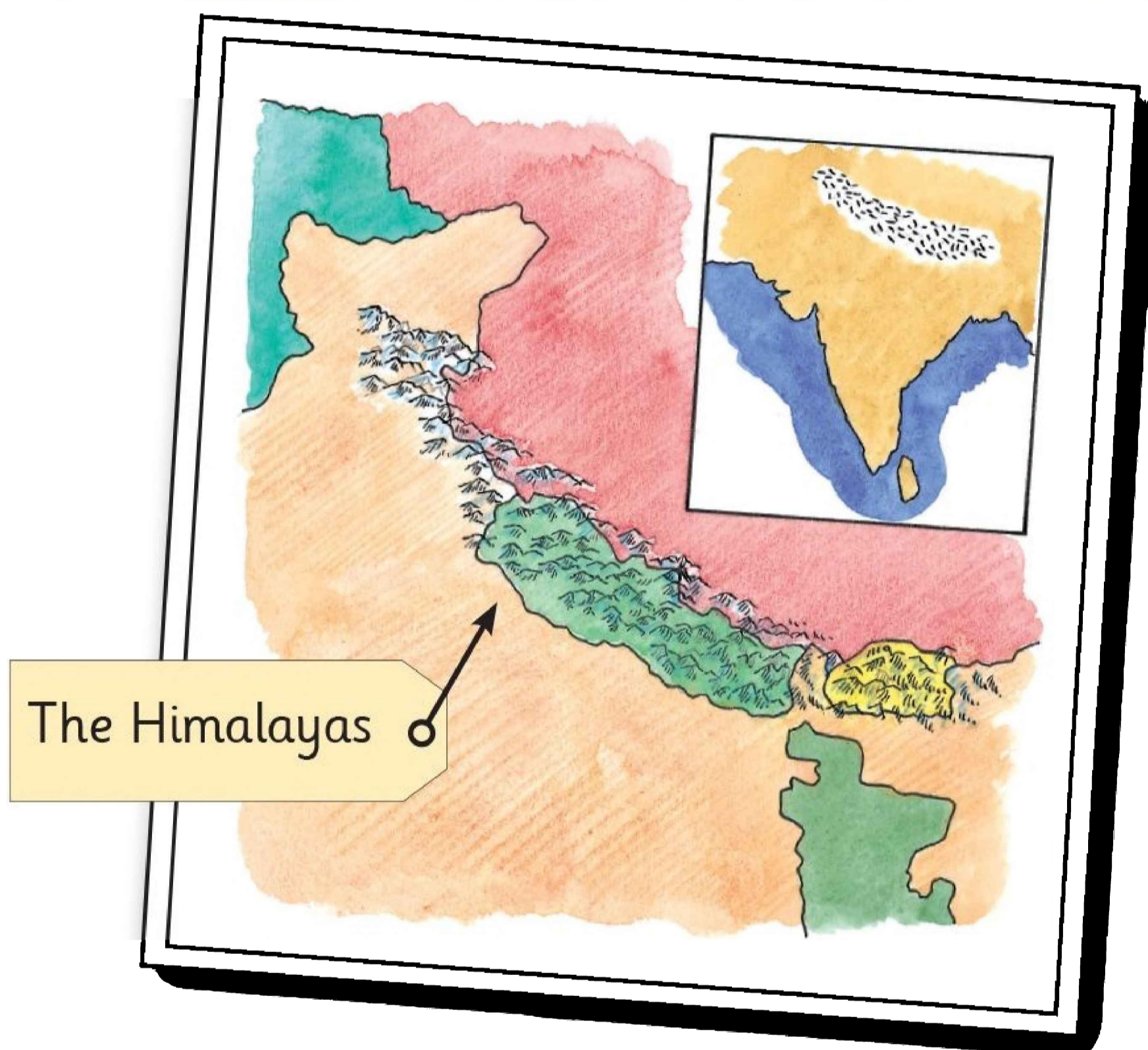


Many mountains are still growing, while some are getting smaller. As soon as a mountain has formed, it starts to be worn away by the weather. Wind, rain, frost, streams and rivers attack the rock. Slowly, the mountain gets smaller and becomes less jagged.





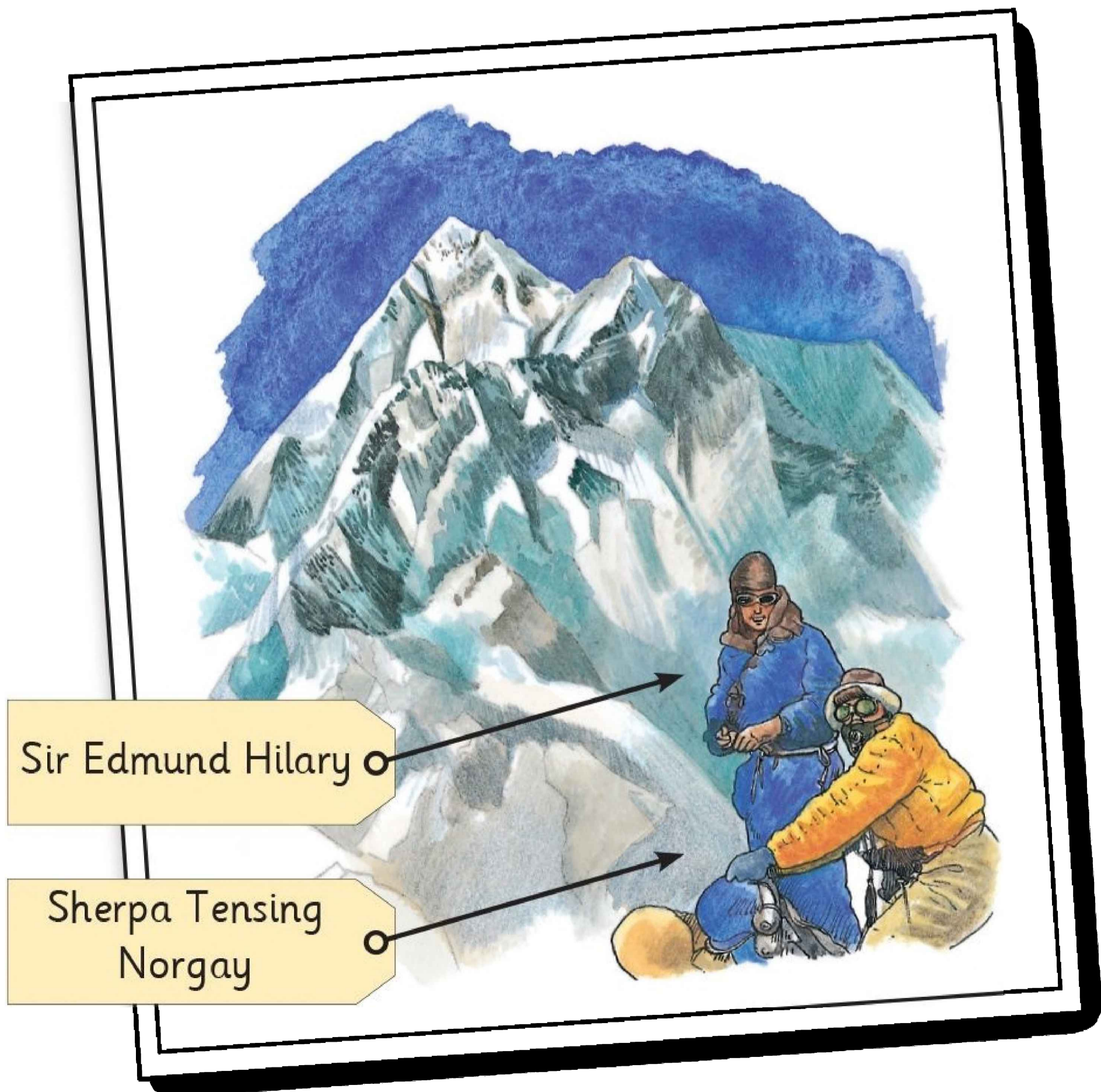
The Himalayan Mountains stretch across four countries. The two highest mountains in the Himalayas are Mount Everest and Kangchenjunga.



The mountains here are so tall because they are quite young and have not been worn down yet.

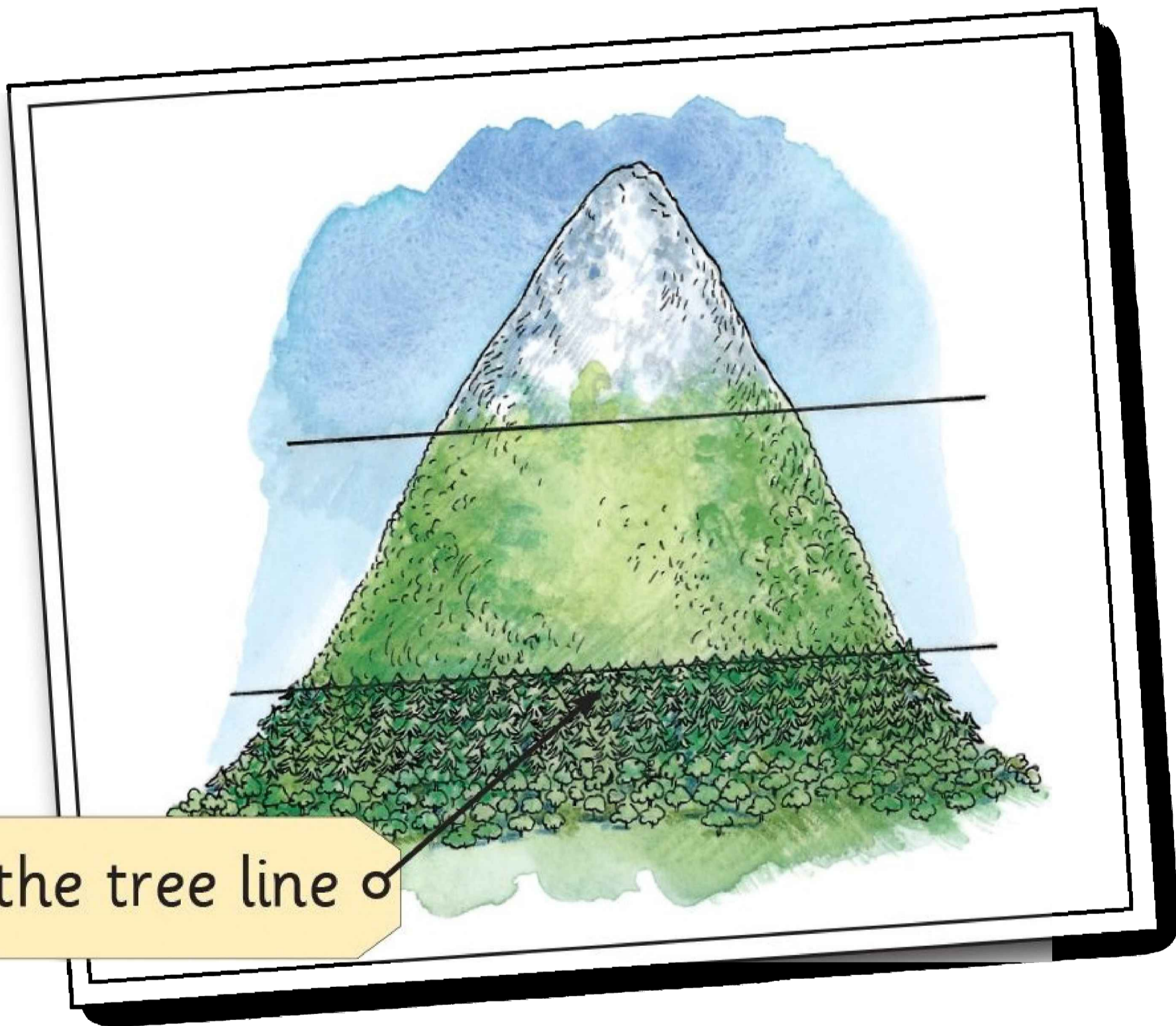


The highest mountain is Mount Everest. Many mountaineers have died trying to reach the top of it. Sir Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tensing Norgay were the first men to reach the top on May 29th, 1953.





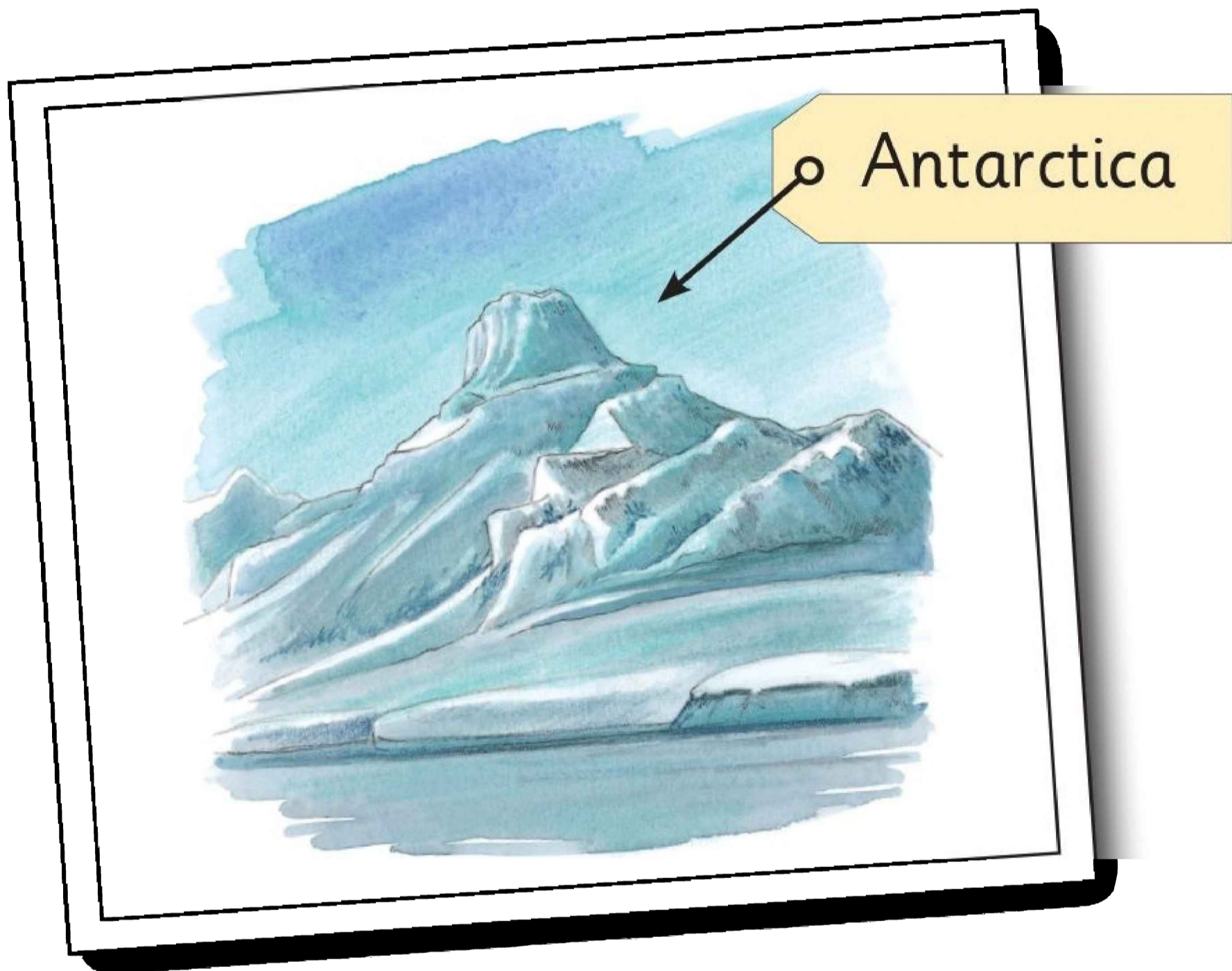
A high mountain has different zones at its top, middle and bottom. Trees grow in the lowest zone at the bottom of the mountain. They cannot grow higher up.



The part around the mountainside where the trees stop growing is called the tree line.



At the top of a mountain is a zone where there is snow all the time. It is very cold and very difficult to survive here.



The part around the mountainside where the zone begins is called the snow line. In Antarctica, the snow line is at the bottom of the mountain!

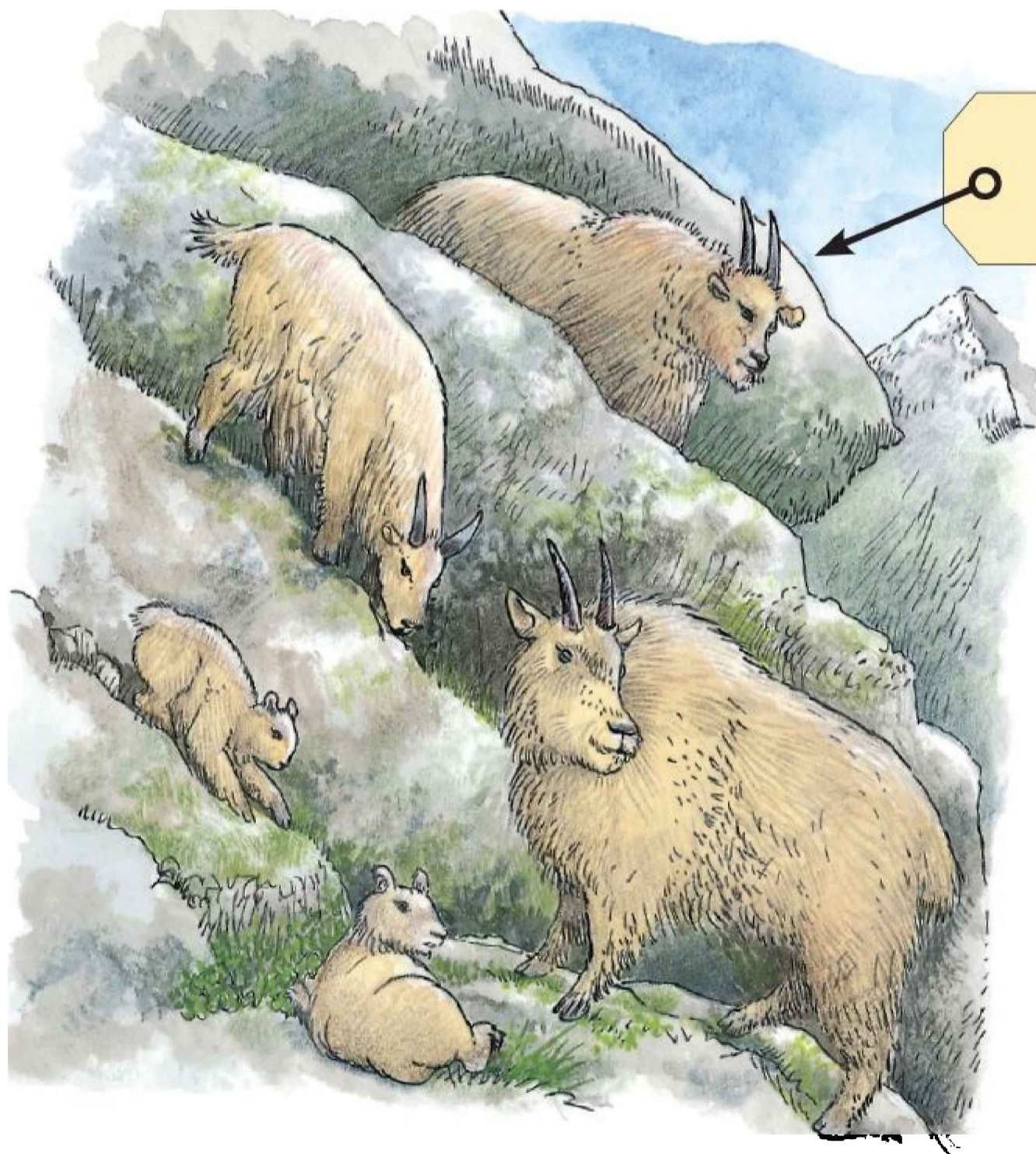




Some flowers can grow between the tree line and the snow line of a mountain. Flowers that grow here are called “alpines”. They tend to be small and keep out of the wind. They have long roots to help them grip and hold on to the mountainside.

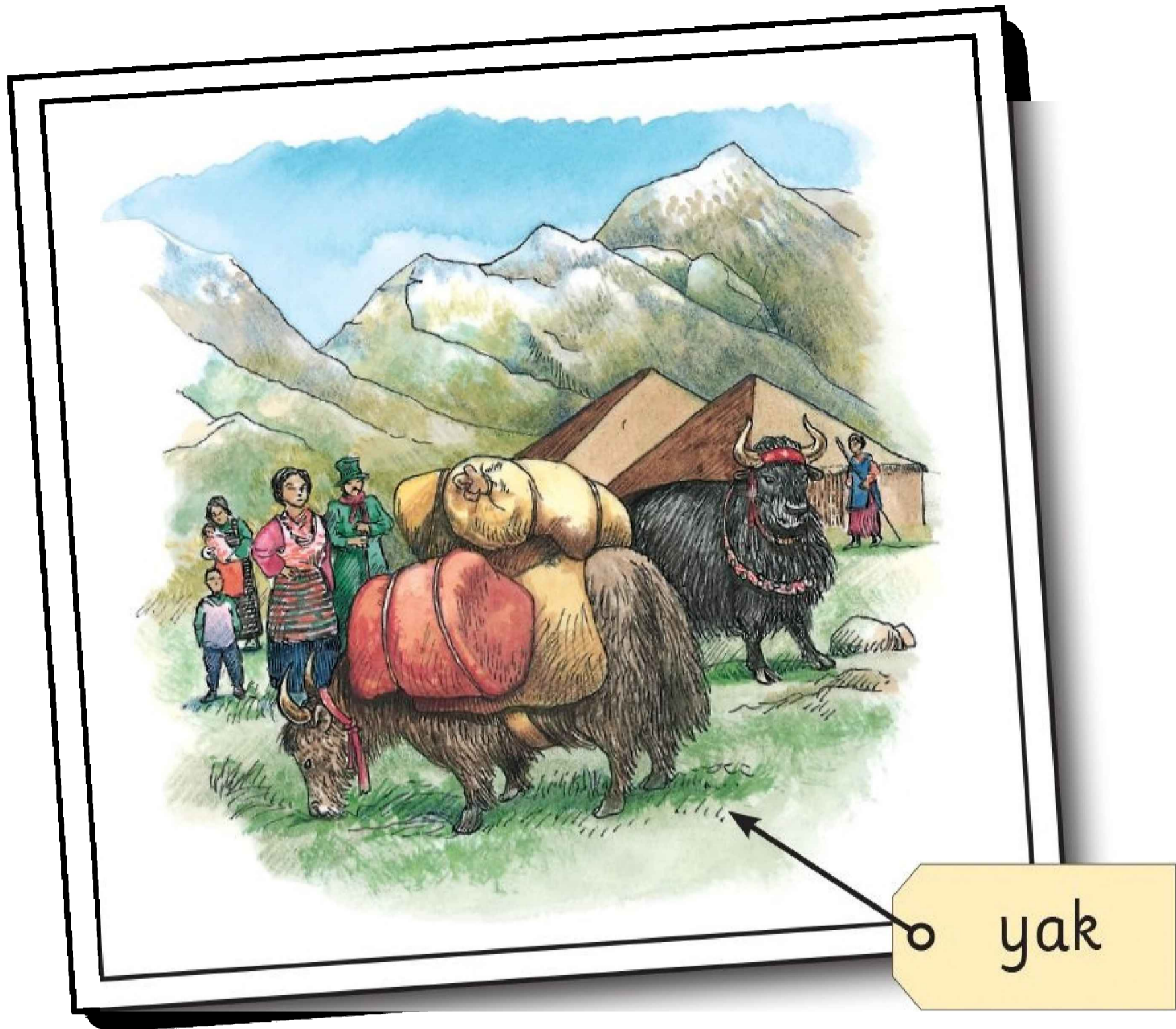


Many animals have adapted so that they can live in the mountains. Sheep and goats can live high up on steep, rocky mountainsides. They have rubbery pads on their hooves to help them on the slopes.



o goat



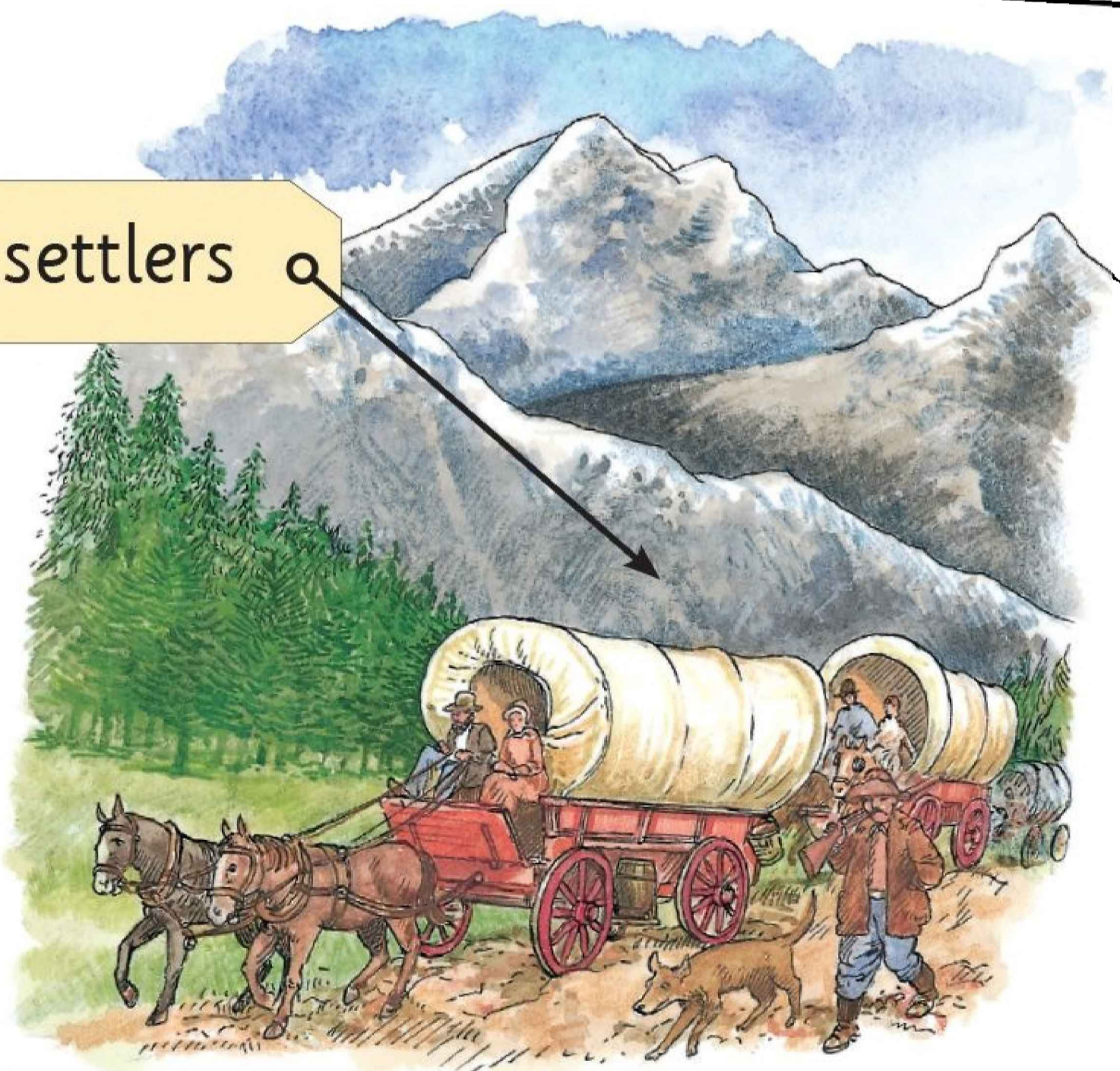


Many animals that live in the mountains have thick fur coats to keep out the cold. A yak is a sort of cow that lives in the Himalayas, mainly in Tibet. The Tibetans use the yaks for meat, milk, clothes and tents. The yaks carry the tents, food and packs across the mountains.



The Rocky Mountains run down from northern Canada to the southern USA. They are sometimes called “America’s backbone”. When the settlers were going across America, they found the Rocky Mountains very difficult to cross.

the settlers





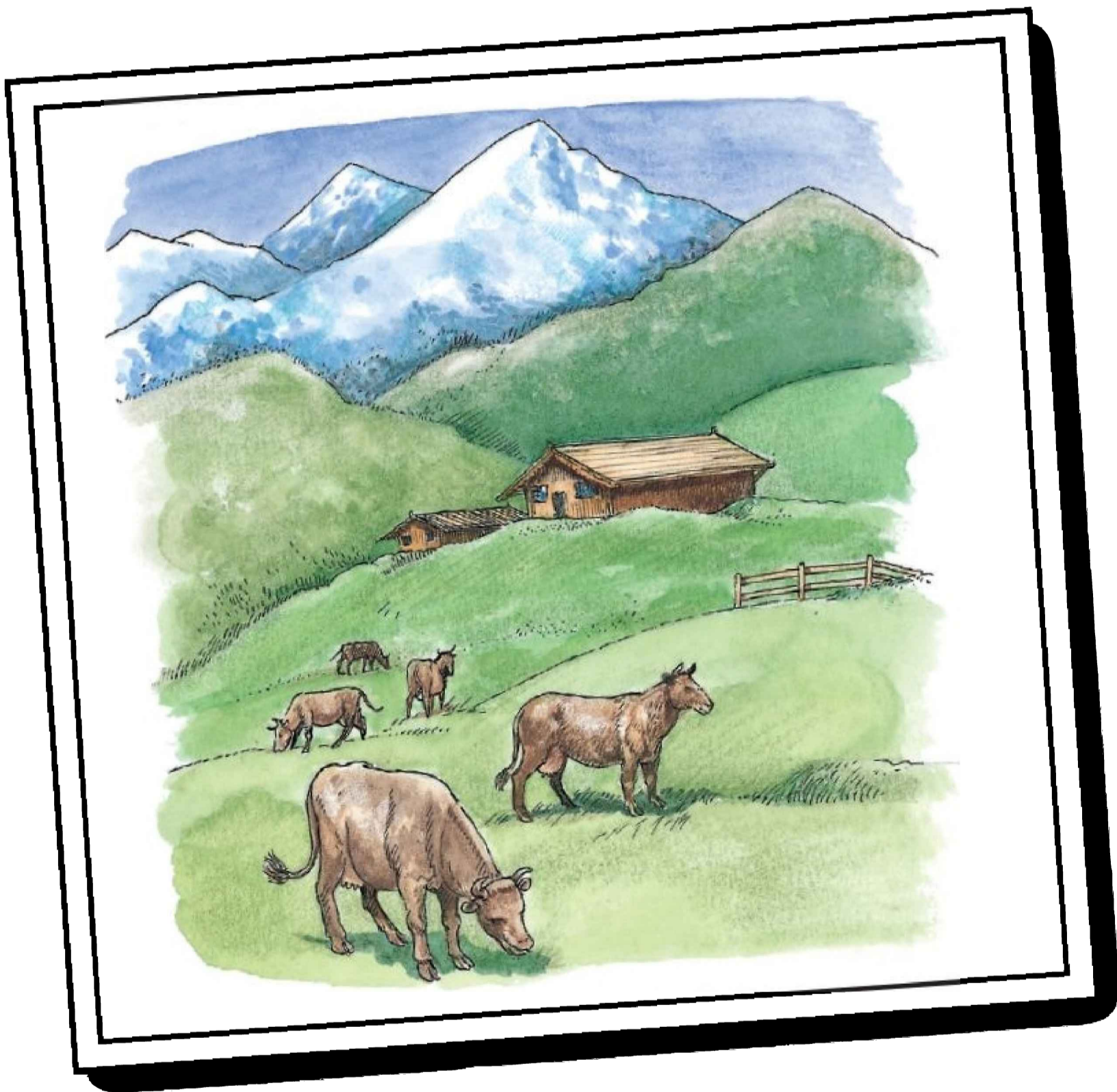
The Matterhorn is a mountain in Switzerland. It is easy to recognise because of its shape. The chain of mountains that runs across Switzerland is called the Alps.



In the Alps, farmers live in the valleys between the mountains and grow crops there in the summer.



Also in the summer, they send their cows up the mountainside to graze. In the winter, they bring the cows back down into the valleys.



The milk from cows is used to make cheese and chocolate. Swiss cheese and chocolate are very well known.



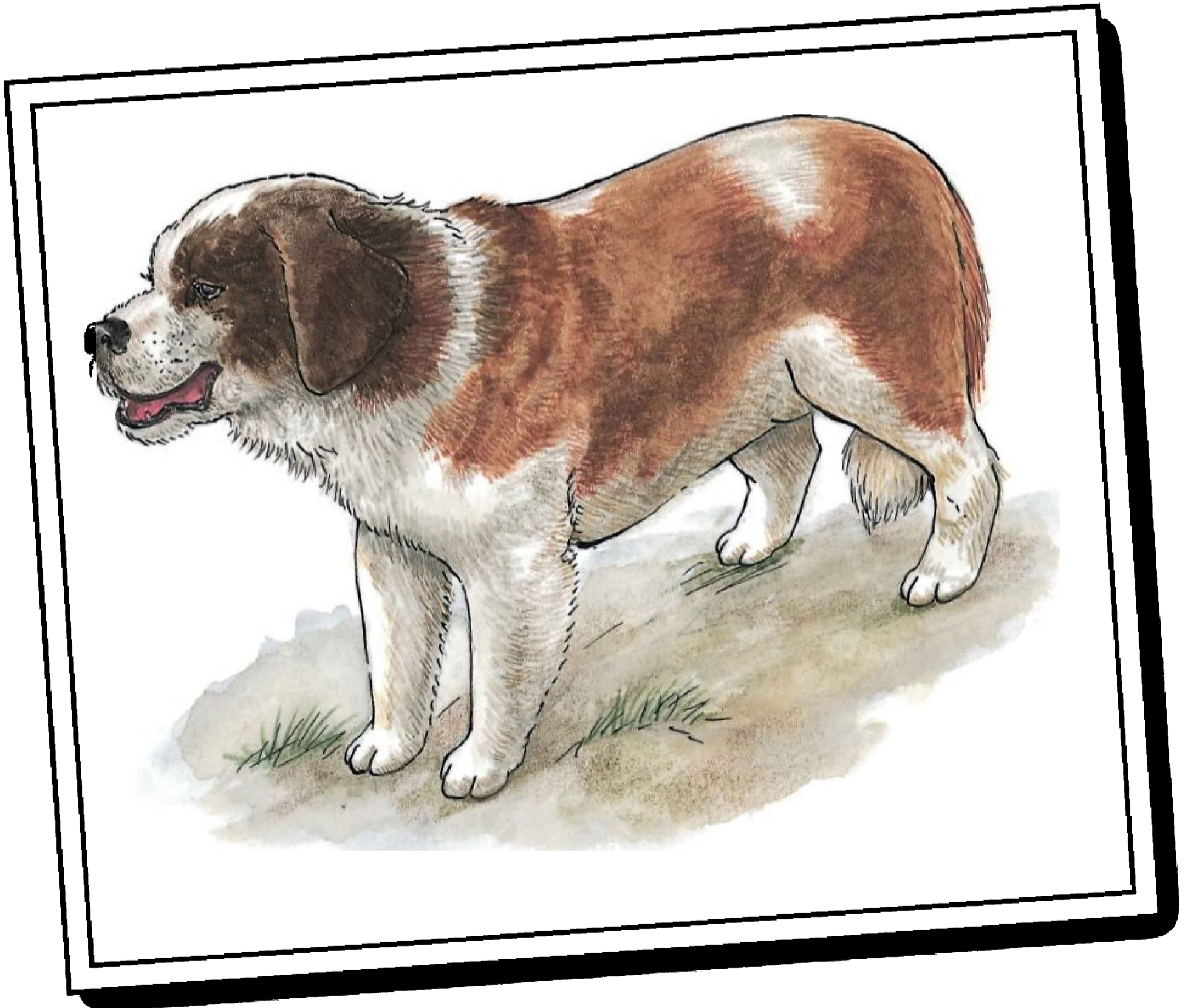


o Saint Bernard

A long time ago, Saint Bernard lived in the mountains between Switzerland and Italy. He set up a hostel where anyone could rest as they went across the mountains. He gave them free food and shelter. Sometimes, they would get lost in the snow.

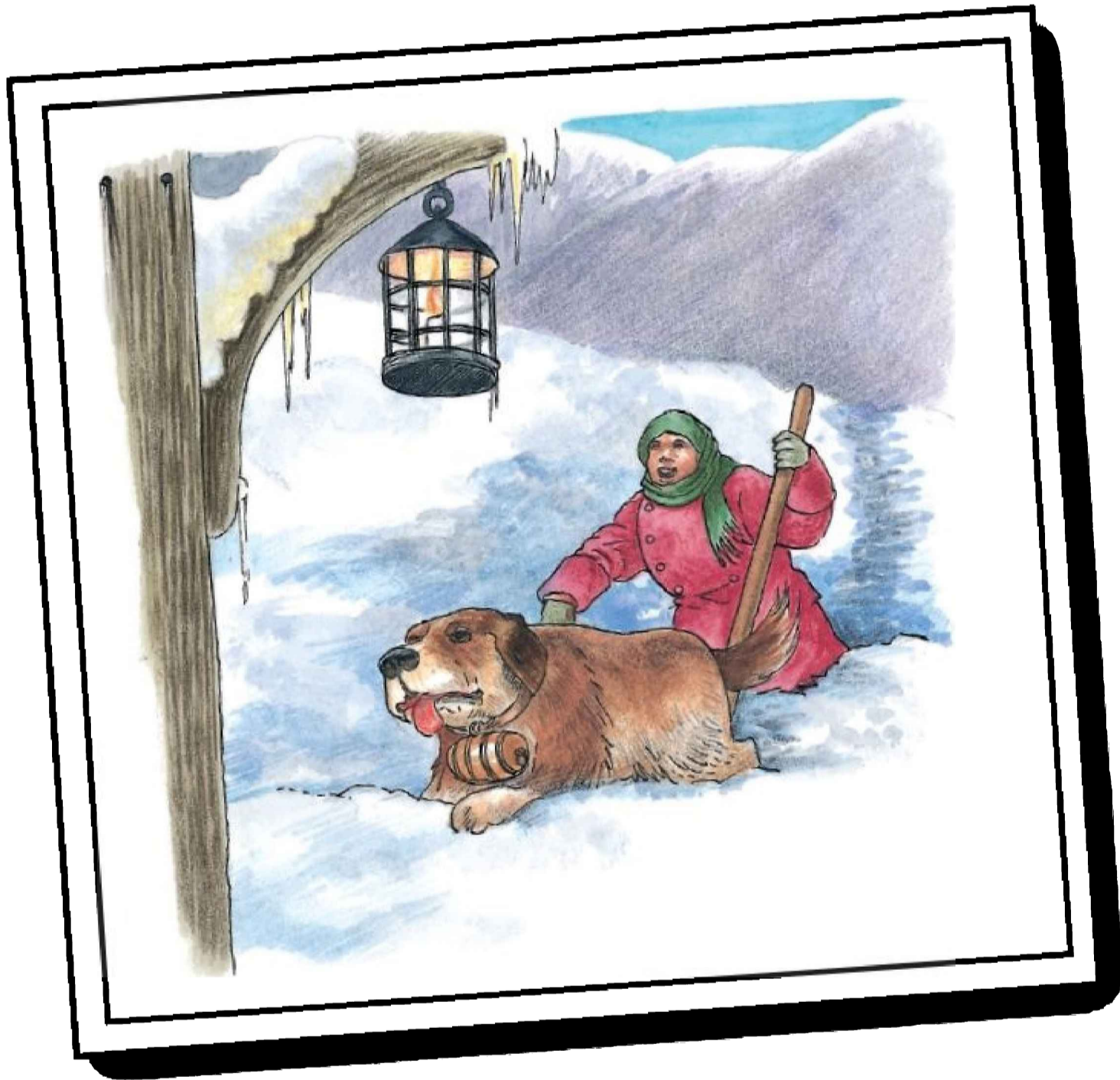


Saint Bernard trained some dogs to help him go out and rescue those who had got lost. The dogs were big and had thick fur coats. They were strong and could dig out anyone who had got trapped in the snow.





Little barrels were hung from the dogs' collars. Inside the barrels was something to drink for those who had been lost or trapped.



The dogs were so big that they could help those they had rescued back to the hostel and safety. This sort of dog is still called a Saint Bernard today.



## Reading Comprehension

### Teachers and parents

An important part of becoming a confident, fluent reader is a child's ability to understand what they are reading. Below are some suggestions on how to develop a child's reading comprehension.

- Make reading this book a shared experience between you and the child. Try to avoid leaving it until the whole book is read before talking about it. Occasionally stop at various intervals throughout the book.
- Ask questions about the characters, the setting, the action and the meaning.
- Encourage the child to think about what might happen next. It does not matter if the answer is right or wrong, so long as the suggestion makes sense and demonstrates understanding.
- Ask the child to describe what is happening in the illustrations.

Relate what is happening in the book to any real-life experiences the child may have.

- Pick out any vocabulary that may be new to the child and ask what they think it means. If they don't know, explain it and relate it to what is happening in the book.

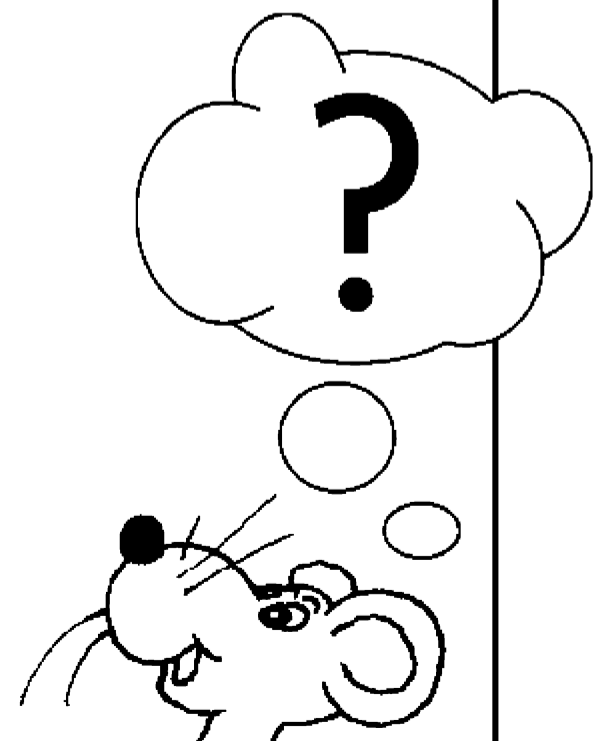
Encourage the child to summarise, in their own words, what they have read.

### What's in the book?

- What is the highest mountain in the world?
- What is a yak?
- What does a Saint Bernard dog do to help people?

### What do you think?

- Why have people died trying to climb Mount Everest?
- Why are the Rocky Mountains difficult to cross?







## Jolly Phonics Readers are fully decodable books for new readers.

These Readers have been written with a **carefully controlled vocabulary**, and are specifically designed for children who are learning to read and write with *Jolly Phonics*.

- The text in these Blue Level Books (fourth level) uses only **decodable regular words** that use the letter-sound knowledge taught so far: the 42 main letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, and the main alternative vowel spellings (the 'hop-over <e>' spellings of the long vowel sounds, <ay> as in *day*, <ea> as in *seat*, <y> and <igh> as in *fly* and *high*, <ow> as in *low* and *now*, <ew> as in *dew*, <oy> as in *joy*, <ir> and <ur> as in *bird* and *turn*, and <al>, <au> and <aw> as in *talk*, *pause* and *saw*), and a small number of **'tricky' words** (frequently used words that are not fully decodable at this stage).
- All new tricky words and alternative vowel spellings used are shown on the front inside cover; these can be used as a quick practice activity before starting the book.
- **Faint type** is used for silent letters, like the <b> in 'lamb'.
- **Comprehension questions** and discussion topics are included at the end of the book. These ensure that children are not only able to read the text, but also get meaning from the stories.

### Blue Level Readers



Inky Mouse & Friends	General Fiction	Nonfiction
The Bird House	The Enormous Turnip	Soccer
Daisy and Buttercup	Rumpelstiltskin	<b>Mountains</b>
The New Kitten	Puppets	Henry Ford
An Inter-Hive Match	Many More Monsters	Sharks
The Maize Maze	The Pumpkin Party	The Moon
Beach Rescue	Town Mouse and Country Mouse	The Nile



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[www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk) [info@jollylearning.co.uk](mailto:info@jollylearning.co.uk)

Tailours House, High Road, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6DL, UK. Tel: +44 20 8501 0405  
82 Winter Sport Lane, Williston, VT 05495, USA. Tel: +1-800-488-2665

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