

The Himalayas cover more than
612,000 square kilometres

Asia contains several deserts

Tundra is found in northern
Russia

Temperatures are very low
and most of the ground is
permanently frozen (permafrost)

Also known as Taiga or Boreal
and forms a belt across the
middle of Russia

Parts of the Gobi Desert receive
less than 100mm annual
rainfall

The Himalayas are growing still
growing about 5 centimetres
every year

The West Siberian Plain is
in central Russia. It is one of
the world's largest areas of
continuous flatland

Trees have shallow roots to survive long cold winters (the ground will be frozen for more than six months of the year)

The West Siberian Plain contains some of the world's largest swamps and flood plains

Mount Everest (8,850 metres) is the highest mountain summit in the world

Asia's largest desert is the Gobi Desert found between China and Mongolia

Tall broadleaved evergreen forest

Tree species include fir, spruce and pine

Trees are tall and conical-shaped (to let snow slide off)

Precipitation is low and normally falls as snow

They have five distinct layers of vegetation

Trees reach 30-50 metres tall

A Plateau is an area of relatively high land. However, the land at the top of a plateau is flat, not mountainous

Large areas of flat grassland and scrublands are known as plains or steppes. They have very few trees

The Tibetan Plateau has many important glaciers and about 2 billion people depend on the rivers fed by the plateau's glaciers

Plants are rarely taller than 30cm and consist of moss, lichen and grasses

Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman also have hot desert

The permafrost means that surface water cannot drain away so land can be marshy

Tropical rainforests contain thousands of species of plants, animals, insects and birds

Wet (2000-3000mm rainfall a year) and hot climate (24-28°C)

The largest mountain range in Asia is the Himalaya mountains

Large areas of flat grassland and scrublands are known as plains or steppes. They have very few trees

The Tibetan Plateau has many important glaciers and about 2 billion people depend on the rivers fed by the plateau's glaciers

The Himalayas began forming when the Indian subcontinent collided with the Eurasian continent about 50 million to 55 million years ago

The Tibetan Plateau is the largest and highest plateau in Asia. It is often called the "Rooftop of the World"

