

Video summary	Before watching the video	During the video
<p><b>Wildlife presenter Ferne Corrigan explores the Alpine mountains around La Thuile in Italy to see how people, plants and animals have adapted to live here.</b></p> <p>Ferne starts by locating the alpine mountain ranges around the world before describing the climate and landscape.</p> <p>She explains traditional alpine farming and land use in the valleys as well as the adaptations of trees and plants, before describing how the ibex and alpine marmot have adapted to the conditions.</p>	<p>Look at a map of the Italian Alps. Ask students to give a locational description of the mountain range. Where in Europe is it located?</p> <p>Ask students about the types of animals that they think might live in the Italian Alps and what type of climate they live in. Students could make predictions, which they could then add to once they have watched the film.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as:  <b>Altitude:</b> The height above sea level.  <b>Deciduous:</b> Trees that lose their leaves in winter.  <b>U-shaped valley:</b> A wide flat-bottomed valley carved out by a glacier.  <b>Vineyards:</b> An area where grapes are grown.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which areas are similar to the Italian Alps?</li> <li>• What is the climate like in the Italian Alps?</li> <li>• What is a U-shaped valley?</li> <li>• How is the U-shaped valley used?</li> <li>• What plants grown in the Italian Alps?</li> <li>• What is the difference between deciduous and coniferous trees?</li> <li>• What happens to the vegetation as you move up the slopes?</li> <li>• How is the ibex adapted to survive in the Italian Alps?</li> </ul>
<b>After watching</b>		
<p>Ask students to look back at their predictions, were they right about what they thought they would see in the Italian Alps? Students could complete a spider diagram to note down the basic information about each of the Italian Alps: vegetation, climate, animals and human uses.</p> <p>Give students an image of the ibex and ask them to annotate it with the adaptation, for example their very strong legs. Discuss with students how the adaptations enable it to survive in the climate of the Italian Alps. Students could carry out the same activity with the Alpine marmot. This could then lead students to designing their own plant or animal that could live in the Italian Alps.</p>		

Discuss the human uses of the Italian Alps. Ask students whether they think those uses are good for the biome or if they will cause issues. Students could then rank the uses from most damaging to least damaging using their opinion and then writing up their decision.

Curriculum notes	Where next?	Links
<p>This clip will be relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 and GCSE.</p> <p>This topic appears in OCR, Edexcel, AQA, WJEC KS4/GCSE in England and Wales, CCEA GCSE in Northern Ireland and SOA National 4/5 in Scotland.</p>	<p>Compare the Italian Alps to a contrasting ecosystem such the Arabian Desert.</p> <p>Students could compare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Vegetation</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Human uses</li> </ul> <p>Students could also compare the wildlife to similar mountainous areas such as the Rockies.</p>	<p>Distribution of ecosystems:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3</a></p> <p>Climate:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqqvf82#z4vh6q8">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zqqvf82#z4vh6q8</a></p>