



Name: .....

Form: .....

See pages 20 and 21 of The Mountain Book

# Mountain weather in the Alps

The weather in the Alps can be very severe in winter. In the highest peaks it can remain below freezing all year.

The tables below show the monthly temperature data for two weather stations in the Alps; Disentis is a town in a valley while the Jungfrauoch is one of the highest peaks in Switzerland. The temperatures have been given to the nearest 1°C.

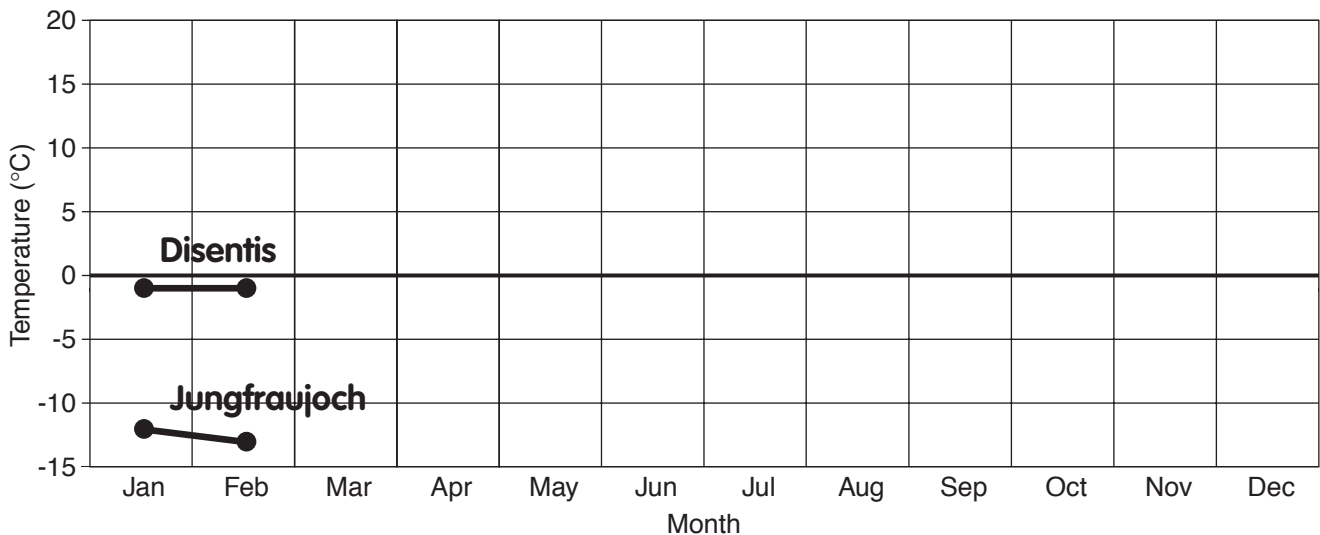
**Disentis, Switzerland: 1190m above sea level.**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (°C)	-1	-1	2	5	10	13	16	15	13	9	3	1

**Jungfrauoch, Switzerland: 3580m above sea level.**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (°C)	-13	-14	-13	-10	-6	-3	0	0	-2	-5	-9	-11

**Q1.** Complete the line chart below for each place to show how the temperature changes through the year. The charts have been started for you.



**Q2.** Based on this chart, do you think the snow ever melts away from the top of the Jungfrauoch?

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**Q3.** Write a sentence comparing the weather in the valley to that on the peak.

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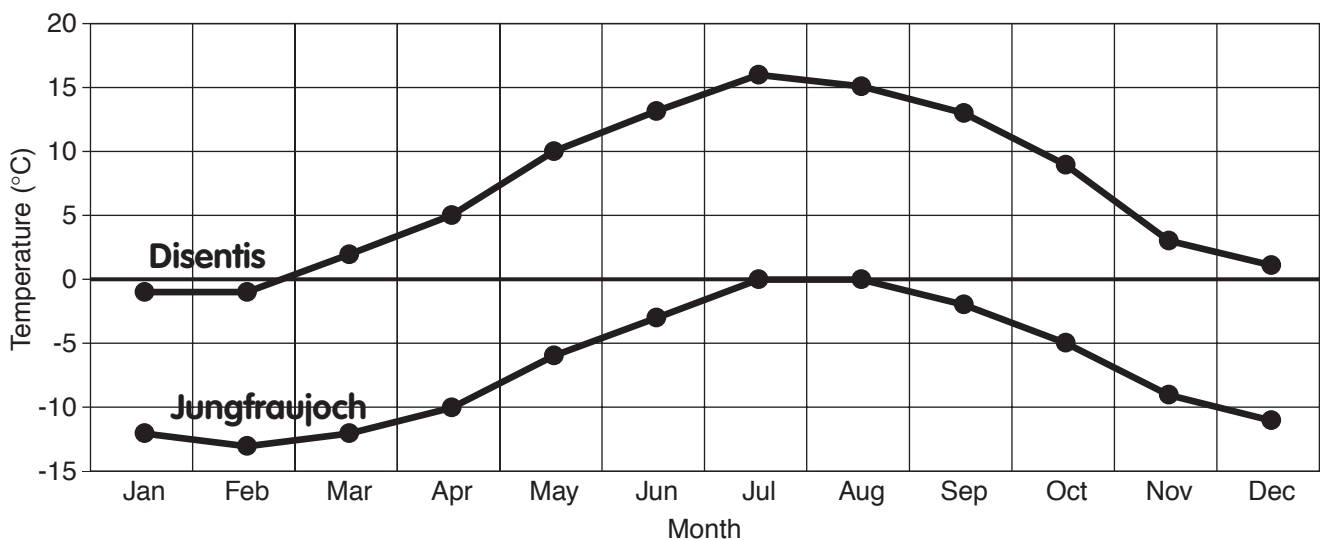
## Answers

## Notes

1. See chart below. The temperatures show a rise in the summer and a fall in the winter. Notice especially, that the higher station has very little of the year above freezing.

*This worksheet allows students to compare data from a weather station in two very different mountain locations in Switzerland. They can then be compared with the locations in the UK if you wish.*

*Some students may have difficulty with minus numbers and will need help to understand that minus means below freezing.*



2. Probably just about, as the average just reaches freezing, meaning that the temperature will be above freezing during the day. But it is fine for students to answer no at this level.

*There is no need to worry too much about accuracy at this stage. Just understanding that it is below freezing for most of the year is quite enough.*

3. It is much warmer in the valley than on the peak. The peak has hardly any of the year above freezing.

*ICT: The data are more fully interpreted on the web site under 'In-depth... for projects' or on The Mountain and Volcano Project CD. Go to Alps and click on Weather.*