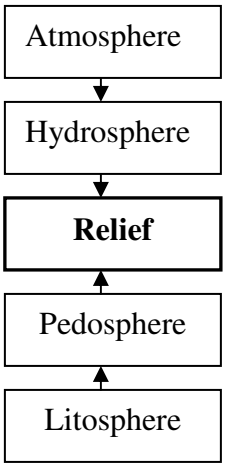
8. Geomorphology

Geomorphology = science about the Earth´s relief. It studies the formation, evolution and character of relief and its forms.
Relief (Georelief) = complex of shapes of the Earth´s surface. Also it is a landmark between solid litosphere + pedosphere and liquid hydrosphere + gaseous atmosphere



Geomorphological processes create relief of the Earth => many forms of georelief
- e.g. slopes, valley, mountains, basins, lowlands, plateaux, plains, etc.

Relief influences other parts of the Earth intensively.
- e.g. flora, fauna, climate, construction of buildings, agriculture, etc.

Many forms of relief can be a *disaster for people*.
- e.g. landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanoes, soil erosion, etc.

Contours = lines which join places of the same altitude.
Besides the most basic feature of the relief – altitude – there are many others:
- *descend (slope) line* – a line perpendicular to countours (contour lines)
- *aspect* – orientation to points of the compass (cardinal points)
  - e.g. southern aspect receives more insolation
- *crest line* – line joining places of a crest, places of the highest altitude upon a crest
- *valley line* – line joining places of a valley, places of the lowest altitude within a valley

Vertical segmentation of relief = vertical difference (meters) between the highest and the smallest point of certain area.

Horizontal segmentation of relief = the number of valley lines

Hierarchy of relief forms
Smaller areas are parts of larger ones =>
riverbed → flat → valley → mountain range → continent

Keywords
geomorphology, forms of (geo)relief, disaster, landslide, avalanche, earthquake, volcano, soil erosion, contour, altitude, descend/crest/valley line, aspect