The tallest mountain in the world loomed in front of 16-year-old Temba Tsheri Sherpa. He had always dreamed of climbing Mount Everest. Now all Temba could think about was surviving the 29,035-foot climb to the top.

One of the youngest people ever to summit Everest, Temba is a Sherpa—a member of an ethnic group that lives mainly in Nepal, in the Himalaya mountains. Living in mountain villages as high as 14,000 feet, with no roads or cars, Sherpas hike everywhere and lug everything on their backs—even TVs and refrigerators. Some kids even climb 1,500-foot slopes to get to school. That's equal to 150 stories!

Without his heritage, Temba might have given up. As he climbed past 26,000 feet, he had never felt so tired. But finally he took the last step and stood on Everest—the top of the world. "I felt like I had won the World Cup!" Temba says. He knew his success was a triumph for his people.

May 2001

Adapted from *National Geographic Kids*

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/peopleplaces/sherpa/>

**Additional information:**

Learn to Speak Sherpa:

Thanks: *thuche* (too-chay)

Fun: *gha* (gah)

Mountain: *ka* (ka)

Snow: *khâ* (kah)

Path: *lam* (lam)

Link to Temba Tsheri Sherpa’s blog:

<http://tembatsherisherpa.blogspot.com/>

Prashant is a 13-year-old from Katmandu, Nepal. His favorite things to do are read and play soccer, and his favorite team is FC Barcelona. He enjoys hanging out with his older brothers and hopes that one day he will have the chance to see Barca play in Camp Nou.

This information was created for the purposes of this prototype. It does not reflect the views or opinions of *National Geographic Kids.*

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/peopleplaces/sherpa/>