

MOUNT EVEREST



At an elevation of 29,028 feet (8848 meters) above sea level, Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain. Mount Everest is relatively young, having been formed only 60 million years ago, and it is still growing a few millimeters every year!

Mount Everest is in the mountain range called the Himalayas. The summit ridge of Mount Everest separates Nepal and Tibet. Each place has a special name for this giant mountain. The Nepalese name is *Sagarmatha*, which means "goddess of the sky". The Tibetan name is *Chomolungma*, which means "mother goddess of the universe". In English, Mount Everest is named after Sir George Everest, the first person to record the height and location of the mountain.

A climb to the summit was attempted by George Mallory in 1922, who famously gave his reason for wanting to climb Everest as "because it's there." He attempted to reach the summit again in the company of Andrew Irvine in 1924, but on this trip both climbers disappeared.

The first successful ascent (and descent) of Mount Everest was accomplished by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on May 29th, 1953. The first ascent by a woman was on May 16th, 1975, by Junko Tabei from Japan.

Between 1921 and 2007, over two thousand people have climbed Mount Everest, some more than once. Since the first ascent in 1953, more than 600 climbers from 20 different countries have reached the summit. However, over two hundred climbers have died attempting to climb Mount Everest, most commonly from avalanches, but also from falls in crevasses, cold, or high-altitude sicknesses.

Choose the best answer for each question on this page

1. How high is Mount Everest?

- a) 8848 feet
- b) 29,028 meters
- c) 29,028 feet
- d) 8848 meters

2. In what way does Mount Everest change annually?

- a) It is shrinking a very small amount.
- b) It is getting a little wider.
- c) It is shifting slightly to the north.
- d) It is growing a very small amount taller.

3. Mount Everest is in the mountain range called the _____.

- a) Rocky Mountains
- b) Andes
- c) Himalayas
- d) Alps

4. Who wanted to climb Mount Everest “because it’s there”?

- a) George Mallory
- b) Edmund Hillary
- c) Tenzing Norgay
- d) Junko Tabei

5. The first team to **successfully** reach the summit was _____.

- a) George Mallory and Andrew Irvine
- b) Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay
- c) George Mallory and Edmund Hillary
- d) Tenzing Norgay and Andrew Irvine

6. Since 1953, how many people have reached the summit?

- a) about 20
- b) fewer than 600
- c) exactly 600
- d) more than 600

Name _____ Date _____

Write complete sentences to answer the questions below.

1. Imagine being the first person to climb to the top of Mt. Everest. Describe.

2. Tell how George Mallory trying to climb Mt. Everest “because it’s there” reminds you of an experience you have had.

3. After reading the story what do you think is meant by crevasses?

4. What did you learn about Mt. Everest that you did not know? How will you use that new information?

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to Mount Everest

Multiple-choice

1. c
2. d
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. d

Short-answer

1. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
2. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. Crevass = large, deep crack in the upper surface of a glacier
4. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)