

Mount Everest



Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain, making it one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. It sits on the border of Nepal and Tibet in Asia, and it is part of the Himalaya mountain range. Mount Everest is famous for its height: it stands at 29,035 feet and rising. That's right—the mountain actually rises a few millimeters each year because of geological forces. Mount Everest is infamous because it is so difficult to climb.

The climate of Mount Everest is severe at best. At its coldest, the summit of Mount Everest is an average temperature of -33°F , but it can drop as low as -76°F . Even in the summer, the average summit temperature is -2°F . The summit never rises above freezing.

Mount Everest also receives much wind and snow. June to September is Indian monsoon season. During these months, wind and precipitation blow in from the Indian Ocean, causing violent snowstorms. In the winter months, the jet stream moves in from the north and hits Mount Everest with hurricane-force winds of more than 177 mph.

Thousands of people have tried to climb Everest, which is a treacherous expedition. The first people to climb Mount Everest successfully were a man from New Zealand named Edmund Hillary and his regional mountain guide, Tenzing Norgay. They did so in 1953. Since that time, more than 700 people have successfully made it to the top. But sadly, at least 150 have died trying.

Answer the questions about the reading.

1. Who were the first people to climb Mount Everest successfully? _____

2. Where is Mount Everest located? _____
3. How high is Mount Everest? _____
4. What mountain range is Mount Everest a part of? _____
5. How cold does it get on Mount Everest? _____
6. Besides temperature, what else makes Mount Everest difficult to climb? _____
