

## Lesson 2: THE ASCENT OF EVEREST

### Part 1: Quick Quiz

1. Mount Everest is part of which mountain range:
  - a) The Alps
  - b) The Urals
  - c) The Himalayas
  - d) The Cairngorms
2. Mount Everest is in the continent of:
  - a) Europe
  - b) Asia
  - c) Nepal
  - d) India

### Part 2: The Ascent of Everest



The summit of Mount Everest was first reached in 1953 by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. Norgay (whose name means "lucky one") grew up in Tibet, within sight of Mount Everest. Edmund Hillary was a mountaineer from New Zealand.

The 1953 expedition team had 400 people in it - including 350 porters (people to carry the 8333kg equipment) and 12 people to carry the money to pay them. The team was led by Colonel John Hunt, a British army officer.



By April the team had arrived and set up Base Camp. From there teams set up other camps higher and higher up the mountain, dropping off tents, food and oxygen. One day Hillary jumped over a crevasse but it crumbled under his weight and he fell into the chasm. At the last minute there was a tug on his waist and Tenzing Norgay held onto the other end of the rope.

The first attempt (which Norgay and Hillary were not part of) to reach the summit ended in failure when the 4 climbers ran out of oxygen. Then Hunt sent Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to try.

At 6.30am on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953 they awoke to clear skies. Hillary's boots froze because he had forgotten to put them inside his sleeping bag and they had to be thawed on a stove. Slowly, the men trudged to the summit. Before they reached it they found a 12m high rock face. Hillary wedged himself in a small crack and climbed, heaved and squirmed his way up. Norgay followed and by 11.30am they had reached it.

At the summit Hillary took a photograph of Tenzing with the flags on his ice axe. Tenzing said a silent prayer of thanks and buried gifts to the gods in the snow – including sweets given to him by his daughter. Hillary buried a small cross given to him by Colonel John Hunt.



Put the events in order:

The 2 explorers buried gifts in the snow.	
The team of 400 people set off.	
The first team of 4 mountaineers ran out of oxygen and had to return to base camp.	
Colonel John Hunt, a British army officer, put together a plan to climb Mount Everest.	I
At 11:30 am on 29th May 1953, Norgay and Hillary reached the summit.	
Norgay saved Hillary's life when Hillary fell down a crevasse.	
In April 1953, they arrived and set up Base Camp.	
Hillary's boots froze because he left them outside his tent	

### Part 3: The Dangers of Mount Everest



Imagine you are Edmund Hillary or Tenzing Norgay. Write a diary entry about the day that you conquered Everest. Remember:

- to recount the events in order
- to explain some of the dangers
- to express how you felt

