

• CHOLITA CLIMBERS •

MOUNTAINEERS

Once upon a time, at the foot of a beautiful mountain in Bolivia, there lived a woman called Lydia Huayllas.

All her life, Lydia and her friends had cooked for mountaineers before they set off from base camps to climb the mountain. She used to watch them put on their helmets, strap on their backpacks, tighten their boots, and fill their water bottles. She saw the excited looks in their eyes.

Lydia and the other women did not know what it was like on top of the mountain. Their husbands did and their sons did. It was their job to act as mountain guides and porters, taking groups of climbers safely up to the peaks and back down again while the women stayed at camp, in the valley.

One day, Lydia said: "Let's go up and see for ourselves."

As the women pulled on their boots and crampons under their colorful skirts (cholitas), the men laughed. "You can't wear cholitas," they said. "You have to wear proper climbing gear."

"Nonsense," Lydia said, strapping on her hardhat. "We can wear what we like. We are the cholita climbers!"

Through snowstorms and high winds, the women climbed peak after peak. "We are strong. We want to climb eight mountains," they said.

As you read this, they are probably tramping through the snow, the wind swirling their multi-colored skirts, filled with the excitement of seeing the world from yet another peak.

BORN CA. 1968
BOLIVIA



CHOLITA CLIMBERS

1. Primero observá todo el paratexto (títulos, subtítulos, imágenes), las palabras transparentes y el vocabulario que está a continuación:



CLIMB A MOUNTAIN



HELMET
STRAPS
BOOTS
CRAMPONS
BACKPACK

CLIMBING GEAR





PEAK / TOP OF A MOUNTAIN

2. Ahora leé el texto y completá el siguiente cuadro:

