

HUMAN IMPACT ON NATURE

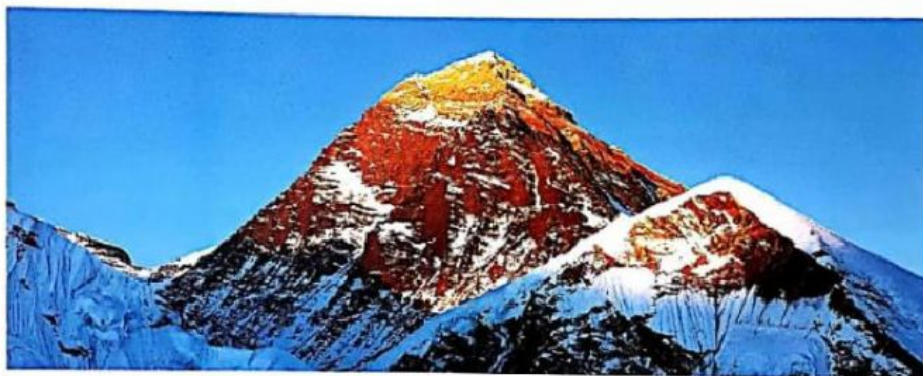
READING COMPREHENSION

■ Pre-reading

- 1 Look at the news article below. What is this text about?

1 [**Himalayan Sherpas lament climate change devastation**

2 [GATI, Nepal | AFP | Sunday 2/26/2012 - 03:24 GMT | 602 words



3 [Evening view of Mount Everest from Kala Patthar, a famous landmark in the Himalayas.

4 [Climate change is altering the face of the Himalayas, devastating farming communities and making Mount Everest increasingly treacherous to climb, some of the world's top mountaineers have warned.

5 [Apa Sherpa, the Nepali climber who has conquered Mount Everest a record 21 times, said he was disturbed by the lack of snow on the world's highest peak, caused by rising temperatures.

"In 1989 when I first climbed Everest there was a lot of snow and ice, but now most of it has just become bare rock. That, as a result, is causing more rockfalls, which is a danger to the climbers," he told AFP.

"Also, climbing is becoming more difficult because when you are on a mountain you can wear crampons, but it's very dangerous and very slippery to walk on bare rock with crampons."

Speaking after completing the first third of a gruelling 1,700-kilometre (1,100-mile) trek across the Himalayas, Apa Sherpa would not rule out the possibility of Everest being unclimbable in the coming years.

"What will happen in the future I cannot say, but this much I can say from my own experiences – it has changed a lot," he said in an interview with AFP in the village of Gati, 16 kilometres from Nepal's border with Tibet.

[...]

HIMALAYAN Sherpas lament climate change devastation. AFP, February, 26, 2012.

Looking at the Text

This text is an example of a **newspaper article** (or **news article**). The communicative purpose of newspaper articles is to inform the reader about events in the world. These texts present one or more points of view about the topic they focus on.

Read "Looking at the text" ↑ and answer:

a- What is the communicative purpose of the newspaper article?

b- How many points of view do this text present?

■ While reading

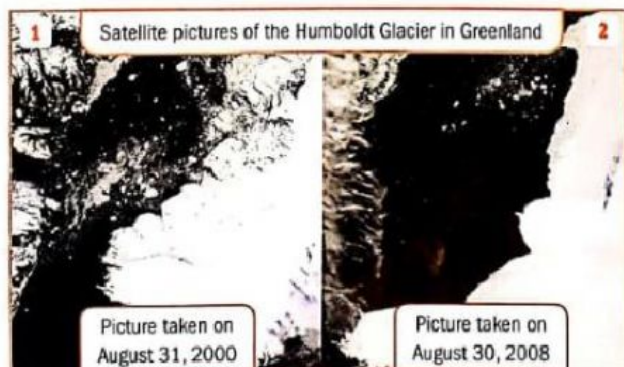
2 Read the news article in Activity 1 carefully and complete the information below.

- a Phenomenon that is changing the Himalayas: _____
- b Who climbed Mount Everest 21 times: _____
- c Consequence of rising temperatures in the Himalayas: _____
- d Two dangerous things for climbers: _____

3 Look at the numbered parts in the article and match them with their function below.

- a ☐ Byline: It says who wrote the article; it also gives the publication date.
- b ☐ Headline: It tells the reader what the story is about in a short and interesting way.
- c ☐ Lead: The first paragraph of the story; it gives the most important information (who, what, when, where) very briefly.
- d ☐ Body: It contains additional details about the story; it is organized into paragraphs.
- e ☐ Caption: It explains the image in the form of a short sentence.

4 Analyze the pictures and captions carefully and discuss the questions with a classmate.



- a What differences do you see between pictures 1 and 2?
- b What consequences do events like the one depicted in the pictures have for the Earth?
- c What similarities do you see between these two pictures and the article on page 20?

■ Post-reading

5 What do you think are some possible causes of the climate change affecting Mount Everest?

Reading Tip

Understanding the organization of a text

Some genres, like newspaper articles, have pre-defined parts which follow conventional sequences and have specific objectives. If you know what these parts are, you can focus your attention on them while reading, which will help you understand the text.