

Mount Everest

The ancient Sanskrit names for the mountain are Devgiri for 'Holy Mountain', and Devadurga. The Tibetan name is Chomolungma, or 'Mother of the Universe'. The mountain was given its English name in 1865 by Andrew Scott Waugh, the British surveyor-general of India, after his chief, Colonel Sir George Everest. In the early 1960s, the Nepalese government realised that Mount Everest had no Nepalese name and Sagarmatha, Sanskrit for 'Head of the Sky', was invented by Baburam Acharya.

Several attempts to challenge Everest failed before it was finally conquered in 1953. During the first ascent of the mountain in June, 1924, the British adventurer George Mallory disappeared with his climbing partner, Andrew Irvine, on the northeast ridge. They were last seen just a few hundred metres from the summit. Mallory's body was only discovered in 1999.

Several other attempts to climb the mountain were made but in vain. In 1953, a ninth British expedition, led by John Hunt, returned to Nepal. Hunt selected two climbing pairs to attempt to reach the summit. The first pair failed and turned back. The next day, the expedition made its second and final assault on the summit with its fittest and most determined climbing pair. The summit was eventually reached at 11:30 a.m. local time on May 29, 1953 by the New Zealander, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa from Nepal, climbing the South Col Route. They took photographs at the summit and buried a few sweets and a small cross in the snow before descending. On returning to Kathmandu a few days later, Hillary and Hunt found that they had been knighted for their efforts.

In recent years, climbing Everest, approximately 29 000 feet above sea level, has generated controversy as nearly 200 people have died climbing the mountain. As of the end of the 2004 climbing season, 2 238 people had reached the summit and 186 people had died in the attempt. The conditions on the mountain are so difficult that most of the corpses have been left where they fell.

Choose no more than three words and / or a number from the text for each answer.

Mount Everest

One ancient Sanskrit name of mountain	1
Nepalese name of mountain	2
Height of Mount Everest	3
First ascent of mountain in	4
Number of attempts to climb by British teams until 1953	5
Who first conquered Mount Everest?	6
	7
How many climbing deaths by 2004 end?	8