

MYSTERY ON EVEREST

- 1 Were Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay really the first people to reach the top of Mount Everest? Some believe British climbers George Mallory and Andrew Irvine reached the summit before them in June 1924. Unfortunately, this is
5 hard to **prove** because both men vanished on the mountain.

1 If you **solve** a problem, you find an answer to it.

A Body in the Snow

- In 1999, a team of climbers visited Everest, hoping to solve¹ this mystery. Near Everest's First Step, on the way to the summit, the team found Mallory's oxygen tank—**evidence**
10 that he and Irvine were near the top. Close by, a member of the team, Conrad Anker, discovered Mallory's body.

- In addition, when the team examined Mallory's body, they found items like a knife and matches, but no photos. Why is this **significant**? Mallory carried a photo of his wife
15 with him. He planned to leave it at the top of Everest, if he reached the summit.

First to the Top?

Did Mallory and Irvine **achieve** their goal and reach the top? Probably not, says Anker. Here's why:

20 **Difficult path/Poor equipment:** Mallory and Irvine were last seen near Everest's Second Step. This is a 27-meter (90-foot) wall of rock. Climbing this **section** of Everest is extremely difficult, even with modern climbing equipment. Without the right tools, it is **doubtful** Mallory and Irvine were able to **proceed** to the top.

25 **No frostbite:** Mallory and Irvine were near the summit late in the day. Climbers who reach the summit at this time need to camp at the top. If you do this, it is common to **suffer** from frostbite. But Mallory's body had no sign of frostbite.

30 So what happened to Mallory and Irvine? Anker thinks they probably turned back just after the First Step. When Mallory was going down, perhaps he accidentally fell. Irvine's body has never been found. **Whatever** happened, they will always be remembered as early Everest heroes.²



George Mallory photographed in 1909

2 A **hero** is a brave person, someone who does something great.

✓ The frozen remains of Mallory's body were discovered in 1999.



Reading Comprehension

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Gist | 1. The reading is mainly about two climbers who _____.
a. solved a mystery about Everest
b. vanished on Everest
c. recreated Hillary and Norgay's climb
d. invented new climbing tools |
| Detail | 2. Which statement is true?
a. Mallory's body showed signs of frostbite.
b. Conrad Anker's team found two bodies on Everest.
c. Mallory and Irvine were near the top of Everest in the morning.
d. Anker's team found some of Mallory's items on the mountain. |
| Purpose | 3. The purpose of the second and third paragraphs is to give reasons why _____.
a. Mallory may have reached the top
b. Mallory probably didn't reach the top
c. Mallory brought an oxygen tank
d. the body was not Mallory's |
| Reference | 4. In line 15, what does <i>it</i> refer to?
a. the body
b. the oxygen tank
c. the summit
d. the picture |
| Detail | 5. Where were Mallory and Irvine last seen?
a. at a camp near the bottom of the mountain
b. at the top of Everest
c. just below the First Step
d. just below the Second Step |
| Vocabulary | 6. If Mallory and Irvine <i>turned back</i> (line 30), they _____ the mountain.
a. stopped and went down
b. went around
c. tried to walk up
d. stayed in one place on |
| Inference | 7. Which statement would Conrad Anker probably agree with?
a. Mallory and Irvine definitely reached the top of Everest.
b. Mallory and Irvine never got close to the summit.
c. Mallory and Irvine got close, but didn't reach the top.
d. Irvine probably reached the top, but not Mallory. |



Did You Know?

Mallory took a camera like this on his climb. Finding the camera could confirm whether Mallory and Irvine reached the top of Everest; however, the camera has never been found.

Vocabulary Practice

A. Completion. Complete the information with the correct form of words from the box. One word is extra.

achieve doubtful path prove significant suffer

Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary reached the summit of Everest in 1953. But there have been other 1. _____ "firsts." On May 25, 2001, blind American climber Erik Weihenmeyer reached Everest's summit. With this 2. _____, Weihenmeyer 3. _____ it is possible for people who cannot see to climb the world's highest mountain. Three years later, he climbed Everest again with a group of blind teenagers from Tibet. The 4. _____ to the top of Lhakpa Ri (one of Everest's summits) was difficult. Because of lack of oxygen, some teens 5. _____ from extreme headaches. Their amazing journey became a movie called *Blindsight*.

B. Words in Context. Complete each sentence with the correct answer.

1. An example of **evidence** at a crime scene is a _____.
a. dead body b. police officer
2. A newspaper has different **sections**. This means it has different _____.
a. colors b. parts
3. If you **proceed** in a direction, you _____.
a. continue in that direction b. avoid that direction
4. If you can buy **whatever** you want, you can buy _____.
a. anything b. only certain things
5. If you are **doubtful** about something, you are _____ about it.
a. certain b. uncertain

✓ Erik Weihenmeyer became the first blind man to reach the summit of Everest.

Word Link We can add **-ever** (meaning *any* or *every*) to certain question words (*who*, *what*, *where*, *when*) to form new words. For example, *whenever* means "at any time."



