

Mount Everest

Statistics:

Height: 8848 metres high

Location: The Himalayas

Bordering countries: Nepal, Tibet, Pakistan, Bhutan and China

Age: over 60 million years!



How was Everest formed?

Everest was formed when the Indian and Asian tectonic plates pushed against each other. It is one of 30 peaks in the Himalayan range. It is the highest mountain on Earth!



Weather:

Wind can blow up to 200 miles per hour.

The temperatures can get as low as -65°C and as high as 38°C . Even when it's really cold you still need suncream, otherwise you will burn!

The best time to climb Mount Everest is in May because it isn't quite so cold

The summit (top) is covered with snow all year around.

Landscape:

Everest is located in Sagarmatha National Park. The mountain is covered in rocks, snow and ice. There is no visible vegetation –the conditions are too harsh for plants to grow at the top of

Everest grows about half a centimetre each year!

the mountain. In the foothills, at the bottom of the mountain, farmers grow potatoes, barley, lentils and rice. Some people called Sherpas live on the mountain. They collect wood from the forest to heat their homes and keep animals, mostly Yaks, in the fields. Tourism (people travelling to climb the mountain) has created lots of jobs, but has also caused pollution and deforestation of the area.

Wildlife:

Yaks are very important near Mount Everest. They are tough, hairy animals that are well suited to living at high altitude. Their milk is used to make butter, which is burnt in lamps. Yak milk is even used to make cups of tea! Their dung (poo) is used to make walls for houses, or can be burnt in fires. They also sometimes carry climbers' equipment up the mountain and carry their rubbish back down.



Dangers:

Climbing Mount Everest can be very dangerous. This is because you could get frostbite from the cold, or could struggle due to lack of oxygen. You could also suffer from sunburn or altitude sickness. There aren't many buildings on the mountain, so if you did get sick you wouldn't have anywhere to go to stay safe and get better. There's also no phone signal on the mountain so you couldn't call for help!

The word 'Himalaya' is a Sanskrit word that means 'home of snow'.

The first people to climb Mount Everest were Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. Hillary took the photo because Norgay didn't know how to use the camera!