



Sir Edmund Hillary

Sir Edmund Hillary who died at the age of 88, made it to the summit of Everest in 1953, and became the first man on the planet to reach its highest point.

As a boy in New Zealand, Edmund Hillary's fragile appearance belied his promising potential. At school, he was in a gym group for those lacking co-ordination and admitted to feeling "a deep sense of inferiority".

But the 40-mile journey to school in Auckland each day gave young Edmund many hours to pore over (1) adventure stories and travel even further in his mind.

At the age of 16, while on a school trip to Mount Ruapehu, he found his vocation. He saw snow for the first time and also learnt to climb (2). Then, a few years later, he joined a local Alpine club to take on (3) all the national peaks (4). This was all with the idea of taking on (3) the ultimate challenge, becoming the first man to climb Everest.

In March 1953, Edmund Hillary joined an expedition to Everest. After a gruelling (5) climb up the southern face, battling the effects of high altitude and bad weather, Edmund and Tenzing Norgay, his Sherpa (6) companion managed to reach the peak at 11:30 local time on 29 May.

As a New Zealander and therefore a citizen of the Commonwealth, British subjects celebrated his achievement as their own and young Queen Elizabeth knighted (7) him.

During the next two decades, he led expeditions to the South Pole, searched for the fabled Yeti, and completed six Himalayan ascents.

He became increasingly concerned by the plight (8) of the Sherpa (6) people he had met on his expeditions. And in 1964, he founded the Himalayan Trust, which helped establish clinics, hospitals and nearly 30 schools.

Although he will always be remembered for reaching Everest, his greatest satisfaction came with the Nepalese people he befriended. He said: "My most worthwhile things have been the building of schools and clinics. That has given me more satisfaction than a footprint on a mountain."

<http://news.bcc.co.uk> (adapted) - 11 January 2008

Vocabulary help:

1) to pore over: *se plonger dans...*

2) to climb: *escalader*

3) to take on: *s'attaquer à*

4) the peak: *le pic, le sommet*

5) gruelling: *épuisant*

6) Sherpa: *sherpa (peuple montagnard du Népal)*

7) to knight: *anoblir*

8) the plight: *la détresse*

COMPREHENSION

I) Lisez le document puis complétez. (2 pts)

The text is an taken from It was published in It is about

II) Cochez la (ou les) bonne(s) réponse(s)

a) Sir Edmund Hillary was

- British
- Nepalese
- a New Zealander

b) He was the first man to climb

- Everest
- Auckland
- Mount Ruapehu

c) He went up the peak

- alone
- with school friends
- with a Nepalese companion

d) He was the founder of

- the Commonwealth
- the Himalayan Trust
- the Alpine Club

e) His foundation developed

- climbing expeditions
- schools
- hospitals

III) Les affirmations suivantes sont-elles vraies (RIGHT) ou fausses (WRONG)? Cochez la bonne case. Justifiez votre réponse en recopiant le passage du texte qui a guidé votre choix.

1) When he was a child Edmund Hillary was very good at sports. right wrong

2) He went to a school near his home. right wrong

3) The expedition to Everest was difficult. right wrong

4) After the expedition to Everest, Edmund Hillary stopped climbing. right wrong

5) The conquest of Everest was Hillary's greatest satisfaction. right wrong

COMPETENCE LINGUISTIQUE

I) Un communiqué de presse annonce au monde l'exploit d'Edmund Hillary. Complétez le texte en mettant les adjectifs entre parenthèses au superlatif de supériorité. (3 pts)

Kathmandu, May 29, 12 a.m.

Edmund Hillary led (good) expedition to the top of Mount Everest, (high) mountain in the world. No doubt this will remain one of (significant) exploits of the century.

II) Un journaliste interviewe Edmund Hillary après son exploit de 1953. Complétez le dialogue à l'aide du mot interrogatif qui convient. (3 pts)

- Sir Hillary, you have reached the top of the highest mountain in the world. high is it?
- 8,320 metres.
- did you reach the summit?
- On May 29.
- members were there in your team?
- 25.
- carried the equipment?
- The Sherpas did.
- did you sleep?
- In tents.
- was it so long and so difficult to climb it up?
- Because we couldn't breathe.
- Thank you Sir, and once again, congratulations.

II) Un journaliste interviewe Edmund Hillary après son exploit de 1953. Complétez le dialogue à l'aide du mot interrogatif qui convient. (3 pts)

EXPRESSION ECRITE

Utilisez les informations suivantes pour écrire en anglais une biographie d'environ 50 mots relatant la vie et la carrière de l'alpiniste français Maurice Herzog, premier homme à avoir atteint un sommet de plus de 8000 mètres. (4 pts)

Place of birth: Lyon

Date of birth: January 15, 1919

Profession: Mountain climber, politician (Member of Parliament) and writer.

Main exploit: Annapurna (altitude: 26,545 feet => 8091 metres) (June 3, 1950)

Companions: Louis Lachenal, Gaston Rebuffat, Lionel Terray

Career: Mayor of Chamonix (1968-1977)

..... Member of Parliament (1962-1978)

..... Secretary of State for Sport (1958-1966)

..... Member of the IOC (International Olympic Committee) (1979-1994)

Writer / Book: "Annapurna, premier 8000"
