

Located in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain at about 5,895 meters (19,340 feet). It is the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range.

Also called a stratovolcano (a term for a very large volcano made of ash, lava, and rock), Kilimanjaro is made up of three volcanoes: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira. Kibo is the summit of the mountain and the tallest of the three volcanic formations. While Mawenzi and Shira are extinct, Kibo is dormant. Scientists estimate that the last time Kibo erupted was 360,000 years ago; they have noted some activity under the surface that indicates it could erupt again. The highest point on Kibo's crater rim is called Uhuru, the Swahili word for "freedom."

The mountain towers above the surrounding arid plains, where wildebeest and elephants roam. In order to reach the summit, climbers have to trek through rainforests. As they get higher, the land becomes more barren and is covered with large boulders, gullies and ledges which the climbers need to navigate to reach the top. Kilimanjaro is also known for its snow-capped peak; however, the ice cap on top of mount Kilimanjaro has shrunk by as much as 80% over the last hundred years and scientists warn that the snow might disappear within the next 20 years or so.

Kilimanjaro has become a popular hiking spot for locals and tourists. Because mountaineering gear and experience is not needed to reach the peak, tens of thousands of climbers ascend the mountain each year. Some people climb it for charity and some do it just for fun. The climb is still dangerous, however, because of the risk of altitude sickness—a condition climbers experience if they ascend too quickly, which can be deadly if not treated right away.



**Task 1:** Read the text about Kilimanjaro on the first page then answer the questions.

1. Where will you find the highest peak in Africa? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a stratovolcano? \_\_\_\_\_
3. *'The volcanoes that make up Kilimanjaro will never erupt again.'* Is this statement true or false? Support your answer with evidence from the text. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4: Which volcano forms the highest part of Kilimanjaro? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think 'arid' means? Look it up in a dictionary or online to check your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. What is one of the biggest dangers for mountaineers climbing Kilimanjaro? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. In class we learn about Mount Everest, some of the highest peaks in UK including Ben Nevis and Mount Snowdon and now you know some information about Mount Kilimanjaro. Which of these mountains would you like to climb and why?  
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