

Edmund Hillary

Edmund Hillary was an explorer and mountaineer. He was born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1919. His grandparents came from Yorkshire.

At school, he was small for his age, and very shy. He liked reading. His favourite books were about adventures.



When he was 16 years old, he became interested in climbing. By then, he had grown very tall and strong, although he wasn't very good at climbing. He climbed his first real mountain while he was at University in 1939. It was Mt Ollivier in New Zealand.

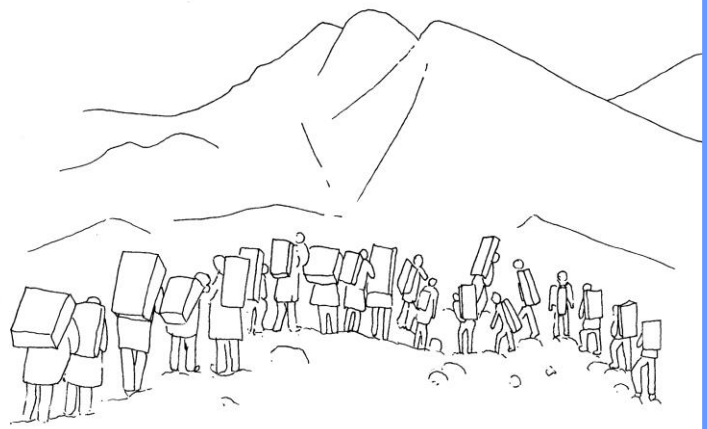


Then World War Two broke out. Edmund Hillary did not want to fight in the war but he was told that he had to join the military. He joined the New Zealand Royal Air Force but he was badly burned in an accident so was sent back home.

After the war was over, he climbed the highest mountain in New Zealand. This is called Mount Cook. It is 3,724 metres high. There's a ridge on this mountain which has been named Hillary Ridge in honour of him.

In 1953 he joined a big expedition to climb Mount Everest in Nepal. This is the highest mountain in the world. There were over 400 people in the expedition team. There were other climbers and also 362 porters who carried equipment and luggage. The porters were Sherpas – the people who live in the region of Mount

Everest. The team made a base camp in March, and by May they made a final camp high up on the mountain. Two climbers – Hillary and Tenzing – were chosen to go even further and get to the top. The next morning Hillary's boots were completely frozen. He



warmed them up, and they set off. At 11.30 in the morning on May 29th 1953, he was standing at the highest point on our planet. What an amazing feeling!



After reaching the top of Mount Everest, Hillary went home to New Zealand, but he had many more adventures. He climbed many other mountains. He married and had three children. He travelled to the South Pole.

He also set up a charity to help the Sherpa people by building schools and medical clinics. He always said that these were the most worthwhile things he had done.

Edmund Hillary died in 2008.

Alex Swinton

Edmund Hillary

What do these words mean? Match them with the correct definition. (AF2)

explorer

timid

shy

important, good

equipment

adventurer

worthwhile

tools, kit

WHEN and WHERE was Edmund Hillary born? (AF2)

Was Edmund Hillary keen to join the air force during World War Two? (AF2)

Name THREE mountains that Hillary climbed. (AF2)

Why do you think there were so many people in the expedition team? (AF3)

Why is there an exclamation mark (!) at the end of the sentence “What an amazing feeling!”? (AF4)

Find and copy a phrase which proves that Hillary was a kind man as well as a good mountaineer. (AF3)

Edmund Hillary

What do these words mean? Match them with the correct definition. (AF2)

explorer	timid
shy	important, good
equipment	adventurer
worthwhile	tools, kit

WHEN and WHERE was Edmund Hillary born? (AF2) **In New Zealand in 1919**

Was Edmund Hillary keen to join the air force during World War Two? (AF2) **No – he didn't want to fight and only joined up when he was told that he had to.**

Name THREE mountains that Hillary climbed. (AF2) **Mount Ollivier, Mount Cook, Mount Everest.**

Why do you think there were so many people in the expedition team? (AF3)
Because it was such an enormous task it needed to be a team effort. Two men alone couldn't have carried all the equipment and food etc. that they needed.

Why is there an exclamation mark (!) at the end of the sentence "What an amazing feeling!"? (AF4) **To try to make the reader feel excited.**

Find and copy a phrase which proves that Hillary was a kind man as well as a good mountaineer? (AF3) **"He set up a charity..."**