

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 adventure stories. He had a long train journey to school each day and he spent the time reading and day-dreaming about his own 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 skilful, he did have lots of stamina. He climbed his first real mountain while he was at University in 1939. It was Mt Ollivier in New Zealand.



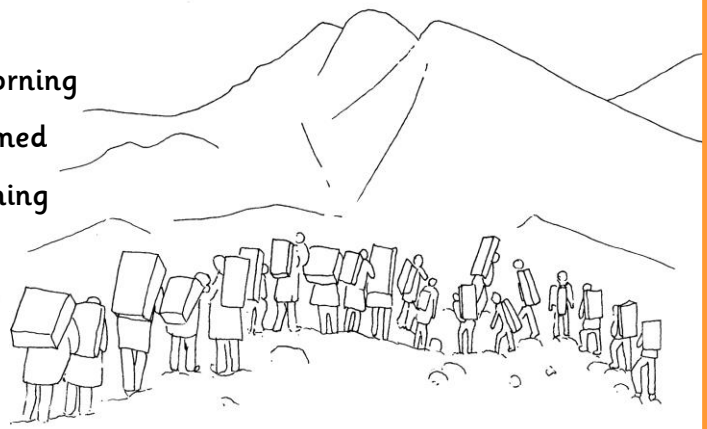
Then World War Two broke out. Edmund Hillary was a pacifist and did not want to fight in the war. However in 1943, the young men in his country were told that they had to join the military. He joined the New Zealand Royal Air Force. He was sent to Fiji and the Solomon Islands, but he was badly burned in an accident so was sent back home.

After the war was over, he climbed the highest mountain in New Zealand, 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 British 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!



However, the news of their triumph did not reach the outside world until 4 days later. This was the day that the Queen was being crowned in England. All the newspapers said that the British team's success was a 'gift' for the new Queen. In return the successful climbers were given a special medal from the Queen.



After reaching the top of Mount Everest, Hillary went home to New Zealand, but he later had many more adventures. He climbed many other mountains. He travelled the whole length of the River Ganges in India. He went to Antarctica several times. He visited both the South and the North Pole.

He always loved Nepal, where he had so many adventures in the mighty Himalaya Mountains. He set up a charity to help the Sherpa people in Nepal by building schools and medical clinics. He always said that these were the most worthwhile things he had done – more than his climbing and expeditions..

However, he never forgot his home. He said that it was always good to be going home to New Zealand, and that he wanted to end his days in Auckland.

Edmund Hillary died in 2008, in Auckland.

Alex Swinton

Edmund Hillary

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

explorer

strength, endurance

stamina

success

pacifist

adventurer

triumph

someone who loves peace

WHEN and WHERE was Edmund Hillary born? (AF2)

What is interesting about the books Hillary liked to read as a child? (AF3)

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

Name THREE mountains that Hillary climbed. (AF2)

“There’s a ridge on this mountain called Hillary Ridge *in honour of him.*”

Underline the phrase below which matches the meaning of “in honour of him.” (AF2)

...to remember his achievements by

...to make him seem clever

...to make people like him

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)

Why did the climbers receive a special medal from the Queen? (AF2)

Find TWO adventures that Hillary had after he’d climbed Mt Everest. (AF2)

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

Do you admire Edmund Hillary? Give ONE reason why (or why not). (AF6)

Edmund Hillary

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

explorer	strength, endurance
stamina	success
pacifist	adventurer
triumph	someone who loves peace

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

What is interesting about the books Hillary liked to read as a child? (AF3) **He liked reading about adventures, and then he became an adventurer.**

Was Edmund Hillary keen to join the air force during World War Two? (AF2) **No – he was a pacifist. He didn't want to fight.**

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

“There's a ridge on this mountain called Hillary Ridge *in honour of him.*”

Underline the phrase below which matches the meaning of “in honour of him.” (AF2)

...to remember his achievements by

...to make him seem clever

...to make people like him

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

Because it would've been an impossible task to get to the summit alone.

Why is there an exclamation mark (!) at the end of the sentence “What an amazing feeling!”? (AF4) **To create a feeling of excitement for the reader.**

Why did the climbers receive a special medal from the Queen? (AF2) **Because news of their success reached England on the day she was crowned and she wanted to reward them.**

Find TWO adventures that Hillary had after he'd climbed Mt Everest. (AF2) **He travelled the length of the River Ganges. He went to the South and North Pole.**

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...”**

Do you admire Edmund Hillary? Give ONE reason why (or why not). (AF6)

Personal response. Readers to select evidence from the text to justify their view.