Mount Kilimanjaro

Mt Kilimanjaro is located in Tanzania, East Africa.

It rises up 4,600m from its base and is the highest peak in Africa.



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The mountain has three volcanic cones called Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira.

The top of the mountain is covered with glacier ice, but in recent years this ice has been melting rapidly.

Mt Kilimanjaro

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The mountain is an inactive volcano, but molten magma has been detected only 400 metres below the summit.

Scientists estimate that the last eruptions on the mountain were between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago.

Kilimanjaro has unique plant life, such as the 'water holding cabbage'.



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Photo courtesy of 'Stig Nygaard' (Flickr.com), under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 licence.

Mount Everest

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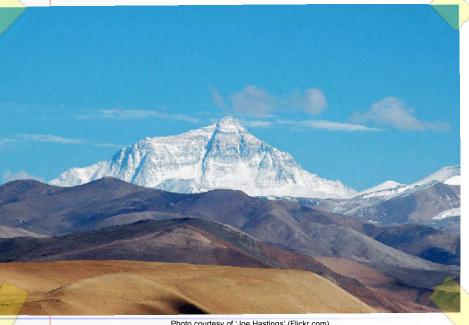


Photo courtesy of 'Joe Hastings' (Flickr.com), under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 licence

It is located between the Sagarmatha Zone,

Nepal and Tibet, China.

Mount Everest is the highest mountain on Earth: 8,848 metres above sea level.

It is part of the Himalaya mountain range in High Asia.



Photo courtesy of 'xiquinhosilva' (Flickr.com), under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 licence.

Nepal makes a lot of money from tourists who have to pay up to \$25,000 for a permit to climb the mountain.

Mt Everest

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In 1996, fifteen people died during a thunderstorm when trying to come down from the summit. In all, Everest has claimed 210 lives.

The biggest dangers are altitude sickness, weather and wind.

'Death Zone'

The 'Death Zone' is reached in altitudes higher than 8,000m.



A Russian helicopter crashed near Base Camp in 2003.

At the top of Everest, oxygen drops by two-thirds, and the temperature is so low it can cause frostbite for climbers.

Oxygen masks are used in the Death Zone.

New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary was the first person to reach the summit of Everest. He got to the top on May 29th, 1953.

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Mt Everest

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The mountain was formed by glaciers over 60 million years ago.

It mostly consists of grey and white limestone rock.

There is little or no wildlife in the higher regions due to the hostile environment.

Location of Mount Everest

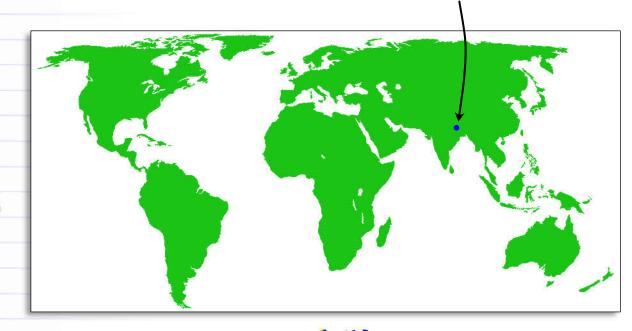


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K2

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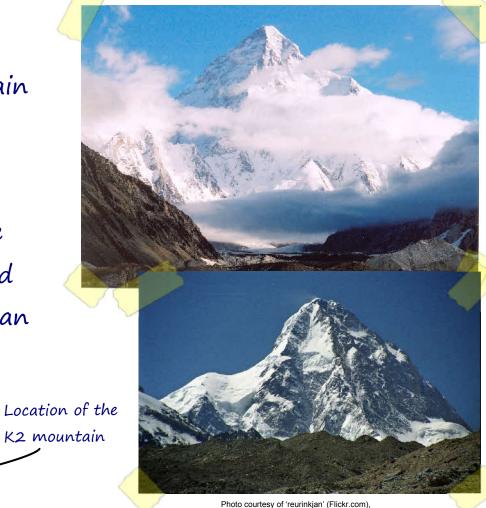
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K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth: 8,611 metres above sea level.

Like Everest, it is also part of the Himalaya range of mountains and is located on the northern Pakistan border with Xinjiang, China.



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The local name of K2 is 'Chogori' which means 'king of the mountains' in Balti language.

The Vinson Massif



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Vinson Massif is the highest mountain in Antarctica.

The mountain is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide.

The highest point is 4,892 metres and was named 'Mount Vinson' in 2006.

The summit was first reached in December 1966 by a group of climbers from the USA.

Mount McKinley

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Mt McKinley is also known as 'Denali', meaning 'The Great One'.

It is located in Alaska, and is the highest mountain in North America.

The mountain experiences incredibly cold weather. Temperatures can go as low as -60°C and, with windchill, down to -83°C.

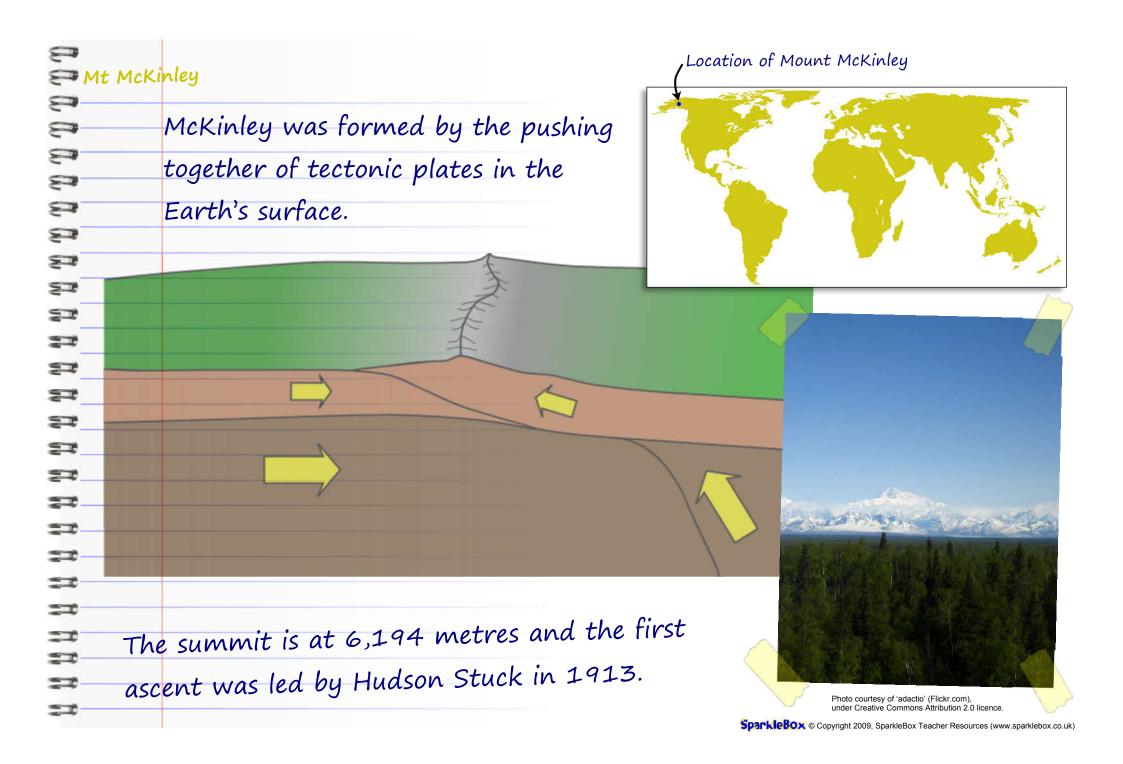


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Five large glaciers flow from the mountain slopes. A glacier is a large, slow-moving flow of ice.





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Aconcagua is the highest mountain outside Asia, at 6,962 metres.



Photo courtesy of 'aaepstein' (Flickr.com), under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 licence.

It is part of the Andes mountain range in Argentina, South America.

The mountain has several glaciers. The largest is the Ventisquero Horcones Inferior which is about 6.5 miles long.

Aconcagua

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The mountain is not volcanic and was formed by the movement of tectonic plates in the Earth's crust.

Aconcagua is fairly easy to climb, but most climbers will suffer some effects of altitude sickness.

The first recorded ascent was made on a British expedition led by

Edward Fitzgerald in 1897

Location of Aconcagua



