



MOUNT EVEREST

Level: Upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2)

Age: Teenagers / Adults

Time: 60 minutes

Summary: This infographic lesson looks at interesting facts and figures about Mount Everest.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; access to a projector or IWB to project the infographic from onestopenglish.

HOW TO USE THE LESSON

1 Ask your students to look at exercise 1 and answer the questions individually. When they have finished they should discuss their answers in pairs or small groups.

2 You could give students the infographic as a printed worksheet or display it on the board from onestopenglish. If the students use a worksheet, ask them to read the text and then turn over their pages when they have finished. If you project the infographic, slowly scroll down allowing everyone to read the information. Then remove the image. The students work in pairs or small groups to discuss the numbers. Let students look at the worksheet (or show the infographic) when they have finished to check their answers.

3 Ask students to look at exercise 3. Do the first one as an example. Ask the students if they can see a word that means *top of a mountain*. Tell them that the words all appear in the text. Students work in pairs or small groups to find the words in the text. Write the answers on the board and drill pronunciation.

4 For an extra challenge, ask students to complete the sentences from the infographic from memory. They then check their answers using the infographic. Explain that these are cleft sentences and they are used to add emphasis to a noun, a person, a time, a phrase or a clause using the structures *One ... is / was* or *What ... is / was*.

5 When they are sure of the structure and the meaning of the sentence beginnings, students complete their sentences with their own ideas. Allow students time to read the phrases and complete them individually.

6 You may want to do an example with students before they do exercise 6. Prepare a sentence before the lesson. Read and explain

your example to them. Encourage them to ask questions to get more information. Students discuss their sentences in pairs or small groups.

Key:

1 *students' own answers*

2 *8,848: the height of Mount Everest in metres*
200: the number of people who have lost their lives on the mountain

150: the number of climbers who have died on Everest and whose bodies are still there
90: breathing rate – possible number of breaths per minute caused by lack of oxygen

80: the oldest person to have climbed Everest

60: temperature on Everest – can reach minus 60 degrees Celsius

10: the number of Burj Khalifa buildings, one on top of the other, needed to reach the height of Everest

4: the number of days it took the Russian parachutist Valery Rozov to reach his jump point

3 *1 summit, crest, peak*

2 to set foot (on/in), reach

3 ascent

4 treacherous

5 terrain

6 corpses

7 slope

8 perish

4 *1 ... a journey into the unknown.*

2 ... that of British mountaineer George Mallory who disappeared in 1924.

3 ... low oxygen levels in the blood, which can cause an increased breathing rate ...

5, **6** *students' own answers*



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RELATED WEBSITES

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

www.gizmag.com/worlds-highest-webcam/20004/

climbing.about.com/od/mountainclimbing/a/EverestFacts.htm

theweek.com/article/index/244854/mt-everests-filthy-secret-its-a-dump

www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/activityandadventure/10079261/Everest-Sixty-fascinating-facts.html

ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/06/125-everest-maxed-out/jenkins-text



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1 Make a list of three dangerous leisure pursuits. Why are they dangerous? Would you be prepared to try any of them? Why? Discuss your answers with a partner.

- _____
- _____
- _____

2 Read the infographic about Mount Everest. Turn the text over when you have finished. What do the following numbers refer to?

8,848	200	150	90	80	60	10	4
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3 Find words in the infographic that mean the following.

1. the top of a mountain or mountain range _____ / _____ / _____
2. to arrive at _____ / _____
3. a climb upwards _____
4. dangerous _____
5. an area of land with a particular feature _____
6. dead bodies _____
7. a side of a mountain _____
8. to die _____

4 Complete the following sentences from the infographic.

1. *What does face those who dare take on the long expedition to the top is* _____.
2. *One famous case was* _____.
3. *One such danger is* _____.

5 Complete the following sentences with your own ideas.

- One dangerous pursuit I would never do is _____.
- The person who has achieved the most for the human race is _____.
- What really surprises me about Mount Everest is _____.
- The place I would most like to visit is _____.
- What I loved about my last trip was _____.

6 Discuss your sentences with a partner. Give reasons for your answers.



MOUNT EVEREST

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With its summit standing at 8,848 metres above sea level, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain. It was first identified as the highest point on earth in 1852 and no man would set foot on the top until over 100 years later.

Everest lies on the crest of the Himalayas in southern Asia on the border between Nepal and Tibet.

Since the first successful ascent in 1953 by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, over 4,000 people have reached its peak and over 200 have lost their lives attempting to do so.

What does face those who dare take on the long expedition to the top is a journey into the unknown. Harsh weather conditions, avalanches and treacherous terrain can all contribute to Everest's increasing death toll.

EVEREST IN NUMBERS

150

Climbers who die during the ascent and descent are normally left behind. Because of the dangers associated with recovering corpses from the upper slopes, over 150 dead climbers remain where they perished. One famous case was that of British mountaineer George Mallory who disappeared in 1924. His body was discovered 75 years later in 1999.

90

On their way to the summit climbers spend considerable time in the "death zone". This is the area above 8,000 metres in which they face major challenges of survival. One such danger is low oxygen levels in the blood, which can cause an increased breathing rate, sometimes between 80 and 90 breaths per minute. Exhaustion can occur when merely attempting to breathe.

80

The oldest person to climb Everest was 80 years old. Japanese alpinist Yuichiro Miura has climbed to the peak 3 times, once when he was 70, another when he was 75 and the final time at the age of 80.

60

Mount Everest has an extreme climate with temperatures at the summit never rising above freezing point. The average temperature in January is minus 30 degrees Celsius, although it can drop to around minus 60. The average July temperature is minus 2.

10

The tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which stands at 828 metres. It would take more than 10 Burj Khalifas standing on top of one another to reach the same height as Mount Everest.

4

Russian parachutist Valery Rozov recorded the world's highest base jump from the north face of Everest - 7,220 metres above sea level. It took Rozov 4 days to reach his jump point.

