



What's going on this week?

A team of climbers from Nepal have become the first ever to summit the world's second highest mountain, K2, in winter. The 10 climbers reached the summit of Pakistan's K2, more than 20 years after the first winter attempt to reach the 8611m summit. K2 is considered incredibly difficult to climb due to the high winds and sub-zero temperatures.

Main question:

Why do people choose to climb mountains?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we can see. Does anyone know where it is or what we think might be happening? Explain that a group of climbers have successfully climbed to the top of the world's second highest mountain, K2, in freezing winter conditions! Why do you think the climbers decided to take part?
- Watch this week's useful video (found overleaf), which shows the climbers talking about the climb. Share anything you find interesting from their responses.
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource about K2 and the climbers' recent ascent to the summit. What do you think would have been the hardest part of the climb? How do you think the climbers would have felt when they reached the summit?
- Have you ever climbed a mountain or completed a similar physical challenge? Why did you want to take part? How did you feel before, during and after the challenge?
- Can you think of a time when you have faced a different type of challenge, what skills did you need to tackle the challenge? E.g. perseverance, confidence, knowledge etc.

Reflection

Over the course of our lives, we will face many mountains that we will need to overcome. Some we may choose, others not but we must always remember to try our best and keep going until we get to the top!



KS1 Focus

Question:

Where is the highest mountain in the world?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'mountain'. Can you describe what a mountain is? Explain that a mountain is like a hill but much higher. In the UK, it is classed as a mountain if it is at least 610m tall.
- Have you ever seen a mountain? Have you ever tried to climb one? Can you name any mountains? Do you know the name of the highest mountain in the world?
- Explain that the highest mountain in the world (above sea level) is called Mount Everest. Have you heard of it before? Do you know where it is?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about Mount Everest. Does any of the information surprise you? Is there anything else you would like to find out?
- Mount Everest is part of the Himalayan mountain range in southern Asia. It is between Nepal and Tibet. Have you heard of these places before? Can you locate them on a world map?
- What words do you associate with mountain e.g. big, hill, high, large? Write 'summit' and 'peak'. What do you think they mean? Explain that peak is the pointed top of a mountain and summit is the highest point of a hill or mountain.

Reflection

The highest mountain in the world is in southern Asia between Nepal and Tibet. It is called Mount Everest and is part of the Himalayas.



KS2 Focus

Question:

Who has climbed the world's highest mountains?

Listen, think, share

- Do you know what the highest mountain in the UK is called? Explain that it is a mountain in Scotland called Ben Nevis. It is 1345m high. Can you record a list of other mountains you have heard of?
- Do you know what the highest mountain (above sea level) is called? Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world and is about 8848m! It is part of the Himalayan mountain range.
- There are many people who have climbed some of the world's highest mountains but it is not an easy task. It requires training, skill and preparation, as it can be dangerous. What type of person do you think chooses to climb the world's highest mountains?
- Do you know the names of anyone who has climbed any of the world's largest mountains? Look at resource 2, which shares information about four people who have. What skills do you think they would need to succeed?
- Joe Simpson said 'If you succeed with one dream, it's not long before you're conjuring up another, slightly harder, a bit more ambitious, a bit more dangerous.' Do you think everyone feels this way? Do you have dreams and ambitions? Would you describe them as dangerous?

Reflection

Climbing any of the world's highest mountains can be tough and dangerous but for some people, it is their goal or dream.



Picture News

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Read and research a mountain of your choice from anywhere in the world! You could include:

- Its name.
- Where it is located.
- Its height.
- Its average temperature.
- What its climate is like.
- Information about any plants and animals that live there.

You could organise the information in a fact file, a poster or a leaflet. If you really want a challenge, create a non-chronological report about your mountain!

Option 2: Mountain maths! Look at the information in the table below.

Mountain	Country	Height (m)
Mont Blanc	France	4808
Mount Wellington	Australia	1271
Mount Everest	Nepal/Tibet (China)	8848
Ben Nevis	Scotland	1345
Galdhøpiggen	Norway	2469
Lion's Head	South Africa	669
Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania (Africa)	5895

- Can you explain what the table shows?
- Which is the highest/lowest mountain?
- Can you record each of the heights in words?
- Which mountains are lower than 4000m?
- Order the mountains lowest to highest.
- What is the difference between the highest and lowest mountains?
- How much taller is Mount Everest than Ben Nevis?
- Challenge - what is the average height of the mountains?



Picture News

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Think about a time when you climbed up something e.g. a mountain, a hill, a tree, a climbing frame.

- How did you feel at the bottom, looking up?
- How did you feel as you climbed?
- How did you feel when you reached the top? What could you see? What could you hear?
- What was it like coming back down?
- Did you feel tired and breathless?
- Did you enjoy the climb? Why?

Use pictures, words and sentences to describe your climbing experience and how it made you feel.

Challenge – can you include the words summit or peak in your work?

Option 2: If possible, look at some examples of mountain sketches and paintings (you can find some online with a quick search). Use them to inspire your own picture of a mountain or a mountain range. Think about:

- Will it be steep?
- Is there a covering of snow?
- Will it cast any shadows?
- What will be at the bottom?

Decide what you will use to create your picture e.g. pencil, crayon, pastel, paints, materials, or use a combination!



Picture News

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-55684149

This Week's Useful Videos

Conquering K2 in winter

www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-asia-55710125

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Ascent – an upward journey, especially when walking or climbing.

Perseverance – continuing with something even though it is difficult.

Recent – having happened, begun or being done only a short while ago.

Sub-zero – lower than 0, below freezing.

Summit – the highest point of a hill or mountain.

Tackle – making determined efforts to deal with a problem or difficult task.