

At an elevation of 29,028 feet (8,848 meters) above sea level, Mount Everest is the world's tallest mountain. Mount Everest is relatively young, having been formed only 60 million years ago, and it is still growing a few millimeters every year!

Mount Everest is in the mountain range called the Himalayas. The summit ridge of Mount Everest separates Nepal and Tibet. Each place has a special name for this giant mountain. The Nepalese name is Sagarmatha, which means "goddess of the sky". The Tibetan name is Chomolungma, which means "mother goddess of the universe". In English, Mount Everest is named after Sir George Everest, the first person to record the height and location of the mountain.

A climb to the summit was attempted by George Mallory in 1922, who famously gave his reason for wanting to climb Everest as "because it's there." He attempted to reach the summit again in the company of Andrew Irvine in 1924, but on this trip both climbers disappeared.

The first successful ascent (and descent) of Mount Everest was accomplished by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on May 29th, 1953. The first ascent by a woman was on May 16th, 1975, by Junko Tabei from Japan.

Between 1921 and 2007, over two thousand people have climbed Mount Everest, some more than once. Since the first ascent in 1953, more than 600 climbers from 20 different countries have reached the summit. However, over two hundred climbers have died attempting to climb Mount Everest, most commonly from avalanches, but also from falls in crevasses, cold, or high-altitude sicknesses.