

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, as well as very shy. He enjoyed reading and his favourite books were adventure stories. He had a long train journey to school each day so 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, but by 1943 there was such a threat to his country's safety that young men were told that they had no choice. 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 over 4500 kilograms of equipment and luggage.

Alex Swinton

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.

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)

Underline the connectives in this paragraph: (AF4)

At school, he was small for his age, as well as very shy. He enjoyed reading and his favourite books were adventure stories. He had a long train journey to school each day so he spent the time reading and day-dreaming about his own adventures.

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 most closely 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)

Find three FACTS in the text about the Everest expedition of 1953. (AF2)

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)

How do we know that he loved his home town of Auckland, New Zealand? (AF3)

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) **Auckland, New Zealand**

What is interesting about the books Hillary liked to read as a child? (AF3) **He liked to read adventure stories and he would eventually become an adventurer/explorer.**

Underline the connectives in this paragraph: (AF4)

At school, he was small for his age, **as well as** very shy. He enjoyed reading **and** his favourite books were adventure stories. He had a long train journey to school each day **so** he spent the time reading and day-dreaming about his own adventures.

Was Edmund Hillary keen to join the air force during World War Two? (AF2) **No – he was a pacifist**

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

“There’s a ridge on this mountain called Hillary Ridge *in honour of him.*” (AF2)

Underline the phrase below which most closely matches the meaning of “in honour of him.”

...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 was such a difficult task and they needed lots of equipment, support etc.**

Find three FACTS in the text about the Everest expedition of 1953. (AF2) **There were 362 porters on the expedition. There was 4500kg of luggage. They reached the summit at 11.30 in the morning.**

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

Why did the climbers receive a special medal from the Queen? (AF2) **Because news of their success arrived on the day she was crowned Queen, and she wanted to reward them. Maybe some comment on the fact that it was seen as a triumph for Britain as a whole?**

How do we know that he loved his home town of Auckland, New Zealand? (AF3) **It says ‘he never forgot’ his home, and that he wanted to die there. So he must have loved it.**

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, but must be supported by evidence from the text to justify their view.**