

Comprehension-The Himalayas

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Remember to write a whole sentence for your answers.

The Himalayas are the highest range of mountains in the world. The name 'Himalaya' means 'land of snow' and this is a suitable description as these high mountains are always covered in snow. These mountains run from Pakistan in the west to Tibet in the east, a distance of 2,500 kilometres (1,500 miles). The highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, is in the Himalayan range. It is 8,863 metres (29,079 feet) high.



Before the invention of the aeroplane few visitors had ever been to the Himalayas. There are no roads or railways. For this reason, the summit of Mount Everest was not conquered until 1953. In that year the British Everest Expedition set off to climb to the summit. The final assault was undertaken by Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa tribesman. They reached the summit and were the first people to stand on the 'roof of the world'. News of their success reached Britain on the day of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, 2 June 1953.

1. What are the Himalayas?
2. What does the name Himalaya mean?
3. What is the name of the highest mountain in the world?
4. How high is the mountain?
5. Who were the first people to climb Mount Everest?
6. What happened on June 2nd, 1953?

Now read this passage to answer the following questions

Sherpas are the mountain guides from India and Nepal who have led summiteers to the top of the Everest. Seldom in the limelight, they are the people who enable others to capture headlines. Without them, not many would have made it to the top of the world. Media has not focused on them - yet there are among them many who are a class apart, who hold world records that few can dream of breaking. Of the 1500 Everest summiteers, more than 500 are Sherpas. Sherpa Appa holds the record of 12 Everest ascents. Messner made headlines when he climbed Everest without oxygen in 1978. Sherpa Ang Rita has done so 10 times and he is also the only person to have climbed the Everest without oxygen in winter. Sherpa Tenzing Norgay [1914-1986], together with Edmund Hillary, was the first to step on the Everest. He was the first Sherpa who climbed to fame

9. Who are Sherpas?
13. Who has climbed Everest the most times?
14. Leyland made a van called the Sherpa. Here is a picture used to advertise the original Sherpa van. Why do you think they used this image?

