

Why are mountains so important?

Vocabulary

- Sherpa** – a person native to the most mountainous regions of Nepal and the Himalayas.
- Fold mountain** – mountains that form mainly by the effects of folding on layers within the upper part of the Earth's crust
- Cambrian Mountains** - a series of mountain ranges in Wales
- Tectonic plate**- are pieces of Earth's crust around 100 km (62 mi) thick.
- Relief** - difference in height from the surrounding terrain
- Peak** – highest point of the mountain
- Tourism**- travelling for pleasure or business
- Climate** – weather generally in the region

FACT FILE

Most geographers agree that a mountain is a large mass of earth or rock taller than 304.8 m (1000 ft.) that rises up above the surrounding land.

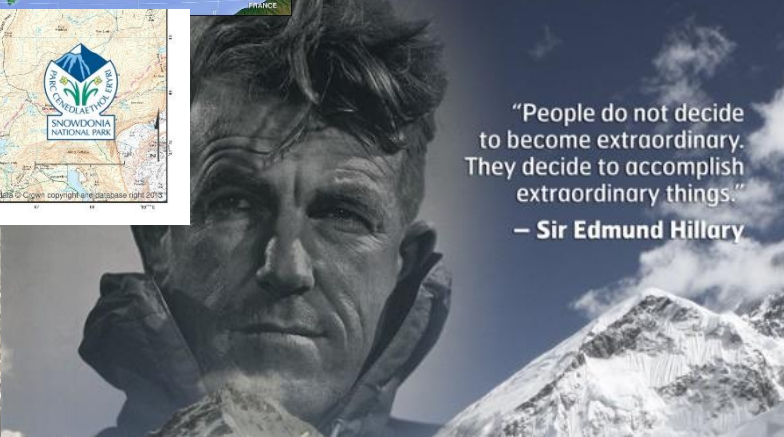
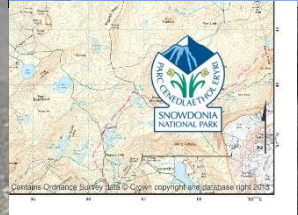
Sir Edmund Hillary was a New Zealand mountaineer. On 29 May 1953, Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers to have reached the summit of Mount Everest - the highest mountain on the planet above sea level.

The first woman to climb Mount Everest was a Japanese climber named Junko Tabei who reached the summit at the age of 35 in 1975.

About one-fifth (20 per cent) of the surface of Earth is covered by mountain ranges. A mountain range is a large area where many mountains can be found close together. Among the greatest are the Himalaya, Andes, Rockies, Alps, Urals and Atlas.

When two tectonic plates move towards each other, all of the layers of rock that lie in between them become crumpled or 'folded' up into the air to form mountain ranges.

The mountains of the north and west of the United Kingdom have a much wetter and colder climate than southern and eastern areas. Tourists and holiday makers come to these areas. Farms providing bed and breakfast is an example of diversification.



"People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things."
 – Sir Edmund Hillary