Climbing Mount Everest

WebQuest Description: An adventure that takes you from the base of the mountain to the 29,028 foot summit; the highest place on earth.

Grade Level: 6-8
Curriculum: Social Studies

Introduction

In life, and sometimes in death, Mount Everest has had a lasting effect on all of those who have challenged its heights. It can defeat those who disrespect it, and mercilessly test those who honor it. You've taken your mountaineering classes. You've passed your physical. You've raised at least $25,000.00. You've packed everything you need that will fit on a Yak. Your passport is in order and your plane reservations have been made. Are you ready for the challenge?

Tasks

Trek from Lukla to Base Camp at 17,600 feet. Leave Base Camp and scale the Khumbu Icefall up to 19,500 feet. Rest at Camp I in the Valley of Silence. Push on to Camp II at 21,300 feet. Scale the Lhotse Face and climb to Camp III at 23,500 feet. Rest and acclimatize for the trip to Camp IV, which at 26,300 feet is the only camp located in the ‘death zone.’ From Camp IV begin your climb to the summit, starting early in the morning. Reach your final destination and sit atop the 29,028-foot summit and know that you are at the highest point on earth.

Process

You are just beginning your adventure. Open worksheet #1 and review the assignment. Read a firsthand account of a trek from Lukla to Base Camp. Complete worksheet #1, parts 1 and 2.

Is the climb more challenging than you anticipated? Open worksheet #2, review the assignment and complete part 1. The icefall is your next test. Click on the location to get a 360 degree view of that area. You may use the mouse cursor to direct the view. Then watch Icefall by Sherpa Cam to see the most dangerous part of the Mt. Everest climb. Still not sure why it is so dangerous? Check out the website Explorersweb and read about the icefall. Complete worksheet #2, part 2. However, you can't complete this climb alone! Who are the Sherpas and why are they important to the success of your climb? Watch the video Sherpas' Burden. Pause the video as needed to complete worksheet #2, part 3.

The final ascent is in sight...the summit. Open worksheet #3. Review the assignment and complete part 1. Use the following website PBS Everest Climb Link. You will see a picture of Mt. Everest with the South route drawn in yellow. Each dot on the map represents a place on the route. Click on each location to get a 360 degree view of that area. Use the mouse cursor to direct the view. Need more information? Look one more time at the website Explorersweb and read about the Valley of Silence and the Lhotse wall. Complete worksheet #3, part 2.

Evaluation

You have just successfully climbed to Mt. Everest's summit. Reflect on your climb by completing four journal entries; one for each leg of your journey. Use Penzu as your online writing source. Fill out the form and the press Submit.
Login into the site. A sheet of lined paper will appear. At the top of the page is a set of ten icons. You will need to use the save, insert photo, and share icons for this activity. Create a title and begin to journal. Each journal entry is a short paragraph describing your experience. Use geographically accurate words in your entries. Locate a picture to illustrate each journal entry. You can add pictures by clicking on the camera icon. Looking for some good sites to use? Try these: Site #1, Site #2, Site #3, and Site #4. Add a short caption to each picture. Your caption cannot exceed 50 characters. Each caption must describe how the picture relates to that part of the climb. Be sure to refer to the rubric at the bottom of the page to ensure a good grade on this evaluation.

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<th>Points: 4</th>
<th>Points: 3</th>
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### Conclusion

Each year hundreds of people attempt to climb Mt. Everest. These are people from all walks of life with their own reasons for attempting this feat. These are extraordinary people; yet only a few successfully reach the summit. You now know what it takes to survive the challenge.

### Teacher Page

This is my first attempt at creating a webquest. The concepts for the webquest were developed from the standarized program Geography Alive! Regions and People. I did not incorporate all of ideas from the textbook because I wanted to explore and use a variety of Web 2.0 tools to further engage my students. I look forward to feedback in order to improve this webquest.

### Standards