

ALL ABOUT  
Sir Edmund  
Hillary



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# *Teacher's Guide*

*Including Common Core Standards, Sample Questions, and Activities*

# *All About Sir Edmund Hillary*

## *Common Core Literacy Scaffolding Questions*

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*Note to teachers and parents:* The standards listed here are taken from the Common Core Standards: *Grades 6-12, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects* from the subset of standards for grades 6-8. The standards listed here are 6-8.1-6.8-10. These Common Core Standards can be viewed in greater detail at this website: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/>

Some states have decided not to adopt the Common Core standards, but the new state standards are uniformly similar. Teachers who choose to use these questions in a state that has not adopted Common Core standards are encouraged to apply their own state standards to these questions. Teachers who choose to use these questions for grades other than 6-8 can find all of the Common Core standards at: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>.

Teachers, please note that these questions are designed only to provide a very basic literacy scaffold and to provide examples. There is plenty of room for you to add your creativity and use your expertise to develop “why” questions and to help students make connections to other texts.

**The questions below should be answered using a complete sentence and with textual evidence from the reading. The questions for the Preface are answered as examples.**

## *Preface*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Based on a modern measurement, how tall is Mount Everest?

**Sample Answer:** Based on modern measurements, Mount Everest is “29,029 feet” tall.

2. What role did the Sherpa play in climbing Mount Everest?

**Sample Answer:** The Sherpa were native peoples who “carried months’ worth of supplies” while acting as porters for the climbers.

## *Chapter One*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Why did Edmund Hillary’s family move to Tuakau when Edmund was young?
2. Give one example of a way in which Edmund Hillary demonstrated his love for the outdoors.
3. What was the first mountain that Edmund Hillary climbed?

## *Chapter Two*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What changed Edmund Hillary’s mind about signing up for military service?
2. Give one example of how Edmund Hillary showed caution and good sense while climbing mountains solo.

3. How was Edmund Hillary injured during the last days of WWII?

### *Chapter Three*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What was one lesson that Edmund Hillary and his climbing partner learned while on Mt. De La Beibe?
2. What was something significant about climbing Aoraki/Mt. Cook for Edmund Hillary?
3. What role did Edmund Hillary play in helping Ruth Adams to survive?

### *Chapter Four*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. What did George Lowe's letter invite Edmund Hillary to do?
2. Study the image on p. 53. What does the gear the climbers wear indicate about the conditions on the mountain? (No textual evidence is necessary but please make reference to the picture.)
3. Describe a challenge associated with the Khumba Icefall.

### *Chapter Five*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Why was climbing Mt. Everest such a sought-after accomplishment?

2. Why did the climbers have to establish several camps on the way up Mount Everest?
3. What other big British event happened at almost the same time as Edmund Hillary and Tenzing's achievement?

## *Chapter Six*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Give an example that indicates the type of relationship that Edmund Hillary and Tenzing had with each other.
2. Study the image on p. 86. From what you have read, why was Tenzing such a celebrity in Nepal?
3. What happened that added the title "Sir" to Edmund Hillary's name?

## *Chapter Seven*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5.

1. Give one example of an achievement in adventure and exploration that Edmund Hillary accomplished after climbing Mt. Everest.
2. Give one example of how Edmund Hillary was honored in one of the following countries: New Zealand, Great Britain, or Nepal.
3. How did Edmund Hillary show his affection and respect for the Sherpa?

## *Text Analysis Questions*

**Standards:** CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8.

In his memoir, *View from the Summit: The Remarkable Memoir from the First Person to Conquer Everest*, Sir Edmund Hillary wrote of a hardship that he suffered while descending a mountain several years after he had climbed Everest:

*I was tied inside my sleeping bag, quite unable to move and suffering from awful claustrophobia. Then followed a long period of semi consciousness, of heat and extreme discomfort, of swinging and bumping.*

*I have had a number of occasions when I suspected I might be close to death but this was the only time I can remember feeling that it might perhaps be easier to die and I simply couldn't make any effort to survive...I was suffering from severe dehydration which caused a swollen tongue with deep cracks across it (p. 122).*

**Prompt:** Sir Edmund Hillary climbed mountains for fun and adventure. Given what you have read in this excerpt and in *All About Sir Edmund Hillary*, how far should people push themselves in pursuit of sporting and adventure achievements? In other words, at what point should someone “turn around and head back?” while on a dangerous adventure? Include a clear thesis in your answer, textual evidence from the book, and a hypothetical or real situation a sport other than mountain climbing in your answer.

# *All About Sir Edmund Hillary Word Search*



AIR FORCE

AUCKLAND

CARABINER

CRAMPONS

CREVASSE

DEATH ZONE

EXPEDITION

HILLARY

HIMALAYAS

ICE AXE

KNIGHTHOOD

LOUISE

MOUNT EVEREST

MOUNTAIN

NEPAL

NEW ZEALAND

NORGAY

NORTH POLE

PARKA

ROPES

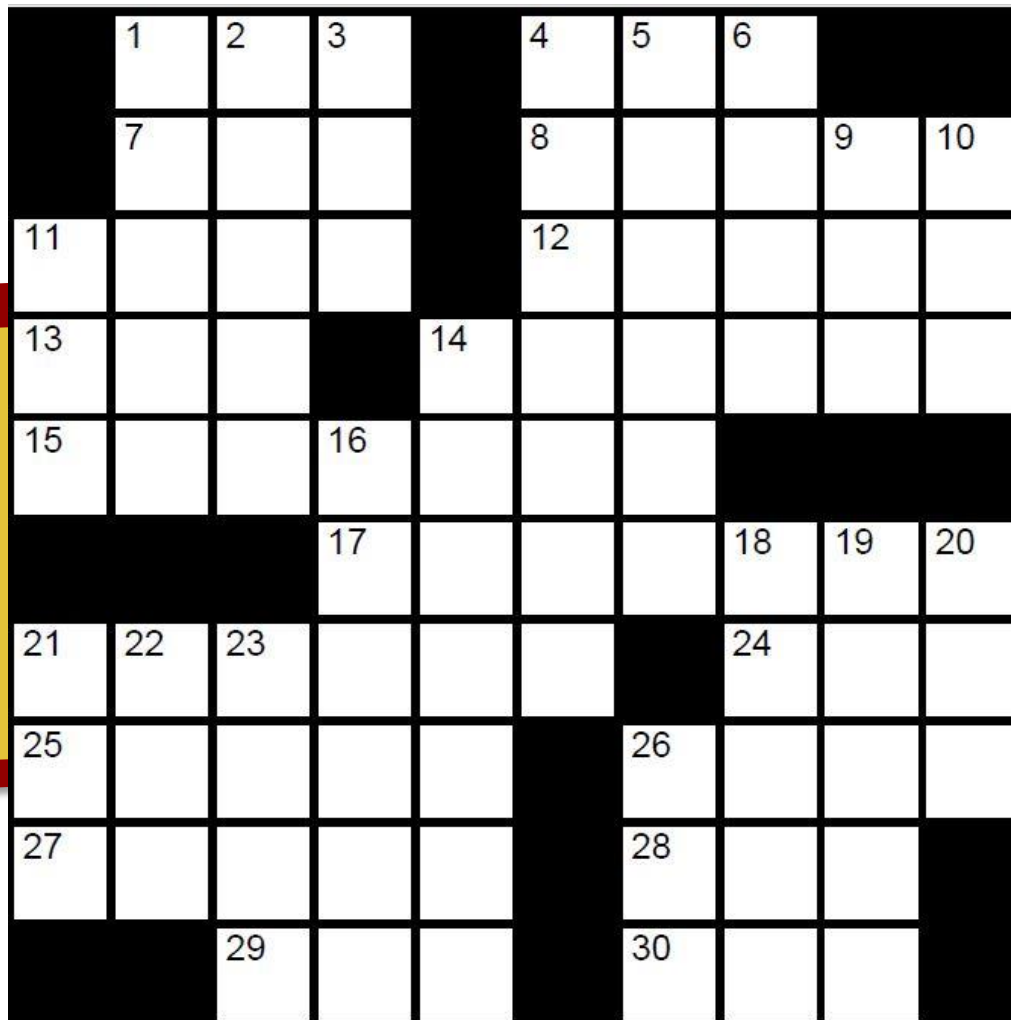
SHERPA

SOUTH POLE

TIBET

TRACTORS

# All About Sir Edmund Hillary Crossword

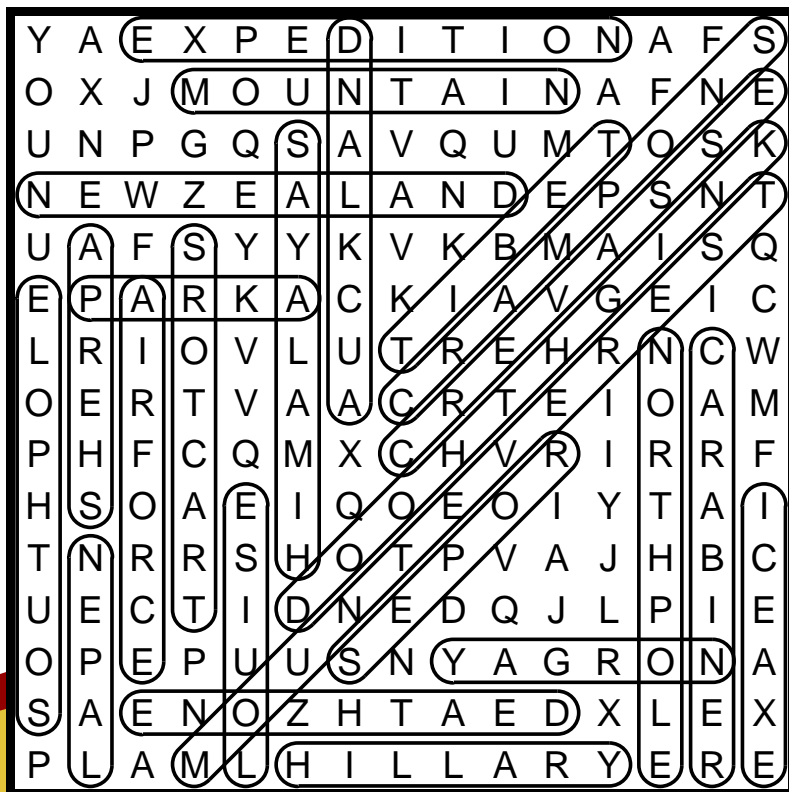


## Across

1. Compass direction opposite of East North East
4. Corn on the \_\_\_\_
7. A gardening tool used to break the ground
8. Month when Hillary was knighted
11. Little rodents
12. Respond to an avalanche
13. Campfire residue
14. Deceived or tricked
15. Stick used while gliding on the snow
17. Mount known as Chomolungma in Tibet
21. Flag planted at the top of the mountain
24. Number of poles visited by Hillary
25. Precise or accurate, like Hillary's expedition plans
26. You'll want these on your feet when in the Artic
27. \_\_\_\_\_ in a bottle
28. Part of MPH on a Ferguson Tractor
29. Over the hill
30. Hillary quote: "Many \_\_\_\_ climbing just to get their name in the paper."

## Down

1. Tool for mixing eggs
2. Winter Olympics site in Russia
3. Hillary, as a young lad
4. A Christmas time singer
5. Swiss Army knife tool
6. Fiber source on the mountainside
9. With 22-Down, pointed climbing tool for the snow and ice
10. British company abbreviation
11. Mothers' names
14. In demand, like Hillary after his ascent
16. A writing utensil
18. Old anesthetic
19. Took an oath or promised
20. A part of the body that can easily catch frost bite on the cold mountains
21. To \_\_\_\_ for mercy
22. See 9-Down
23. One billionth (Pref.)
26. A place you can go to relax and get a massage after a long hike



## *All About Sir Edmund Hillary Answer Key*

