

The Seven Summits

The Seven Summits are the highest **peaks** in each of the seven **continents**. Some **courageous** climbers have climbed all seven **summits**. So far, over 300 climbers have done this. The first person to complete the **challenge** was Richard Bass on the 30th April 1985. The youngest person to climb all these peaks was 15, whilst the oldest person was 71. In 1992, Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb all Seven Summits.

Denali (also known as Mount McKinley)

Continent: North America

Country: U.S.A.

Height: 6,194m

Mountain Range: Alaska Range

Denali means 'The High One'. Denali is extremely cold and so climbers need special equipment to climb this peak. The temperatures can dip to as low as -75.5°F, which is cold enough to flash freeze a human being!

Carstensz Pyramid

Continent: Australasia

Country: Indonesia

Height: 4,884m

Mountain Range: Sudirman Range

The Indonesians call this mountain Puncak Jaya (Victory Peak). The mountain is named after a Dutch **explorer** who was the first **European** to see the peak. You need basic rock climbing skills to climb this peak.

Mount Elbrus

Continent: Europe

Country: Russia

Height: 5,642m

Mountain Range: Caucasus Range

This mountain is a **dormant** volcano. It is also, after Mount Kilimanjaro, one of the easiest of the Seven Summits to climb. Mount Elbrus is always snow-capped. It has 22 glaciers!

Mount Kilimanjaro

Continent: Africa

Country: Tanzania

Height: 5,895m

It stands alone and is not part of a mountain range.

Mount Kilimanjaro is made up of three volcanic cones. Two of the three peaks are **extinct** whilst the highest peak could **erupt** again!

Vinson Massif

Continent: Antarctica

Height: 4,892 m

Mountain Range: Sentinel Range

Vinson was the last discovered, last named and last climbed of the seven summits! This mountain is in extremely cold conditions. It is the most **remote**, most expensive and coldest mountain to climb.

Everest

Continent: Asia

Country: China/Nepal

Height: 8,848m

Mountain Range: The Himalayas

This is the highest mountain in the world. Mount Everest was finally climbed in 1953. Only **experienced** climbers can climb Everest. The rocky summit is covered in deep snow all year round and the summit temperature never rises above freezing. Everest is 60 million years old!

Aconcagua

Continent: South America

Country: Argentina

Height: 6,959m

Mountain Range: The Andes

Aconcagua is not just the highest mountain in South America but also the highest mountain in the western and southern **hemisphere**. The peak lies on the Andes, which is the world's longest mountain **range**. The Andes stretches for 7,000 kilometres and passes through seven countries!

Which of the Seven Summits is the world's tallest mountain?

Which of the Seven Summits is the easiest mountain to climb?

Which mountain do you think would be the hardest to climb? Give a reason from the text to support your answer.

What word tells you what climbers need to be like in order to climb the Seven Summits?

Why have some of the facts been set out in a list?

What words suggest it is hard to climb Everest?

Do you think the class could set out tomorrow to climb the Seven Summits?

What sort of person do you think Richard Bass was?

What do you learn about in the opening paragraph?

Is the text fiction or non-fiction? Why?

In the text, which mountains are said to have two names?

Which mountain would you climb? What in the text made you decide this?

Write down the meaning of each of the highlighted words from the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

peak _____

continent _____

courageous _____

summit _____

challenge _____

explorer _____

European _____

dormant _____

extinct _____

erupt _____

remote _____

experienced _____

hemisphere _____

range _____

Choose seven of the words from the previous page. Write a sentence with each word.

The first one has been done for you.

1. Challenge

It was a challenge to reach the top of the climbing wall.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Can you change these words into superlatives? You will find the superlatives in the text.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
young	
old	
cold	
easy	
high	
remote	
expensive	
long	
<p>Can you think of any other superlatives?</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p>	

The Seven Summits – Oral Teacher Questions

Which of the Seven Summits is the world's tallest mountain? **Everest.**

Which of the Seven Summits is the easiest mountain to climb? **Kilimanjaro.**

Which mountain do you think would be the hardest to climb? Give a reason from the text to support your answer. **Children could say: Everest because it is the tallest mountain. Mount McKinley because it is cold enough to flash-freeze a human being. Vinson because it is the most remote, expensive and coldest to climb.**

What word tells you what climbers need to be like in order to climb the Seven Summits? **The word 'courageous' tells us that climbers need to be brave in order to climb the Seven Summits.**

Why have some of the facts been set out in a list? **This makes the facts stand out. It makes them easier to read and compare.**

What words suggest it is hard to climb Everest? **Experienced, rocky, deep snow, highest.**

Do you think the class could set out tomorrow to climb the Seven Summits? **No, because we would need climbing skills, specialist equipment, money and permission from our parents! You need to be experienced to climb Everest. The children may refer to the text.**

What sort of person do you think Richard Bass was? **Children can share their ideas, perhaps very courageous, innovative, a person who likes a challenge.**

What do you learn about in the opening paragraph? **The author tells us what the Seven Summits are, who climbed them and when they did this.**

Is the text fiction or non-fiction? Why? **The text is non-fiction because it is an information text. It is not a made up story.**

In the text, which mountains are said to have two names? **Carstensz Pyramid and Denali.**

Which mountain would you climb? What in the text made you decide this? **Children can choose a mountain with reasons and reference from the text.**

Write down the meaning of each of the highlighted words from the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

peak – the pointed top of a mountain

continent – one of the great divisions of land on earth (such as North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia and Antarctica)

courageous – very brave, having or showing courage

summit – the highest point of a mountain

challenge – to test ones ability, skill or strength

explorer – someone who travels over or through a place to learn more about it

European – a person born, raised or living in Europe

dormant – not active but able to become active

extinct – no longer active

erupt – to gush out rocks, lava and ash in a sudden explosion

remote – far away from people, towns and cities

experienced – having a skill or knowledge from doing something

hemisphere – half of the earth

range – a series of mountains or hills in a line

Can you change these words into superlatives? You will find the superlatives in the text.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Superlative</u>
young	youngest
old	oldest
cold	coldest
easy	easiest
high	highest
remote	remotest
expensive	most expensive
long	longest
<p>Can you think of any other superlatives?</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p>	