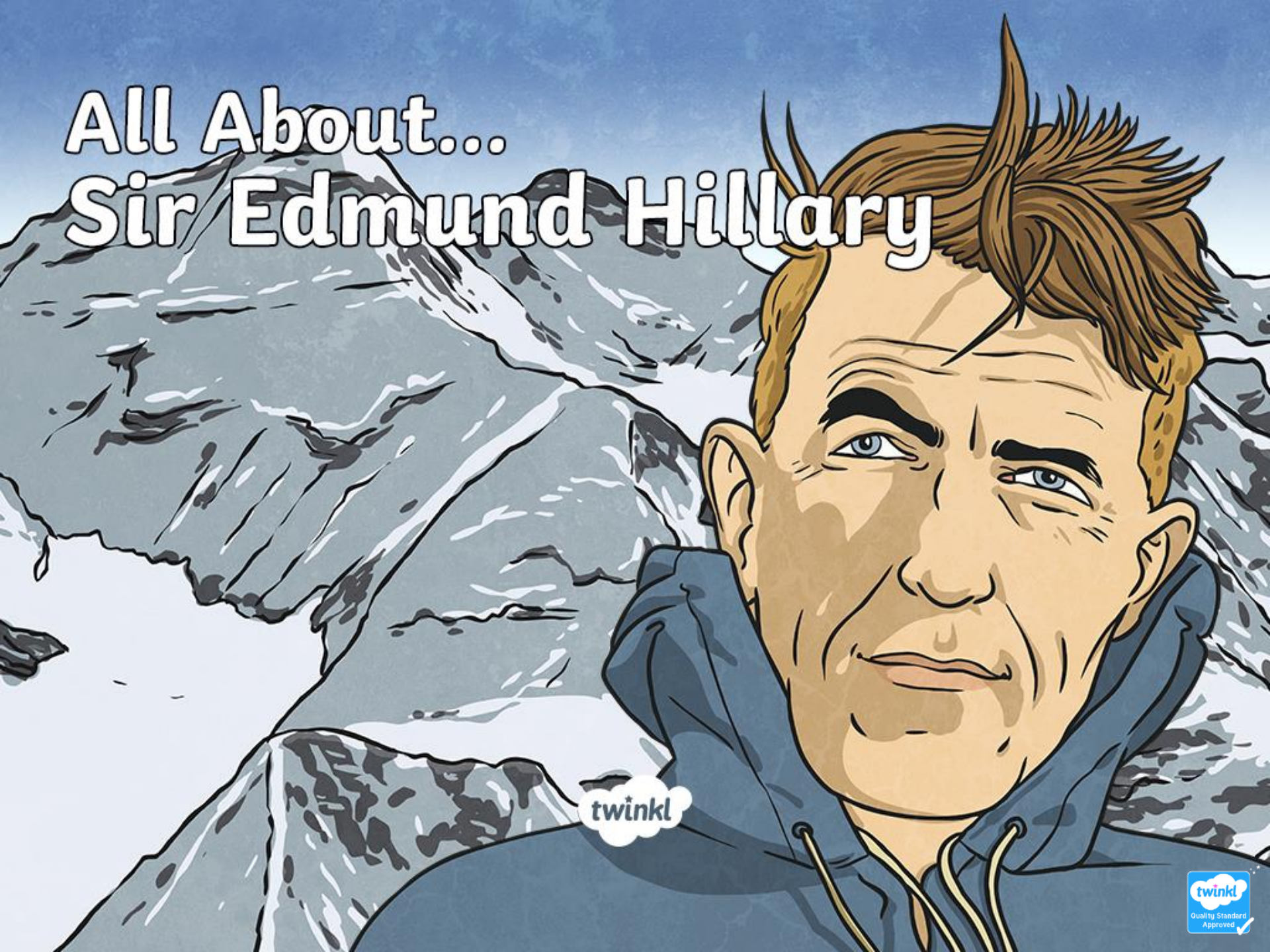


# All About... Sir Edmund Hillary



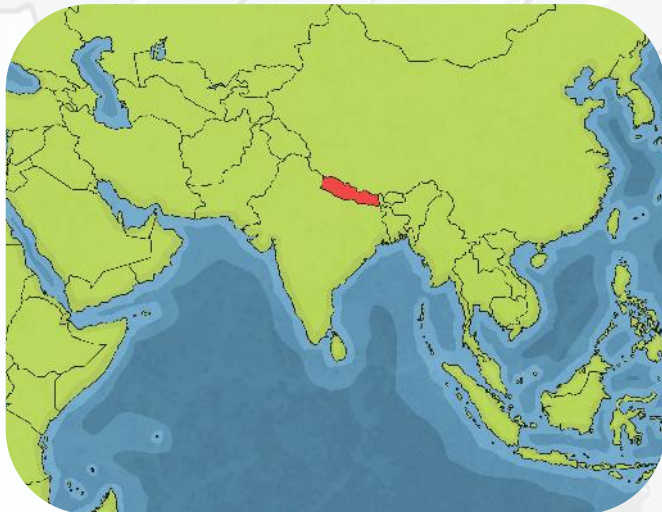
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# Sir Edmund Hillary

Sir Edmund Percival Hillary was born on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1919.

He is best known for being an Antarctic explorer and the mountain climber who, along with Nepalese mountaineer Tenzing Norgay, became one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



Mount Everest is located in Nepal and is the highest mountain in the world.

# Edmund's Childhood

Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand. At school, he spent a lot of time reading books and dreaming about a life of adventure.



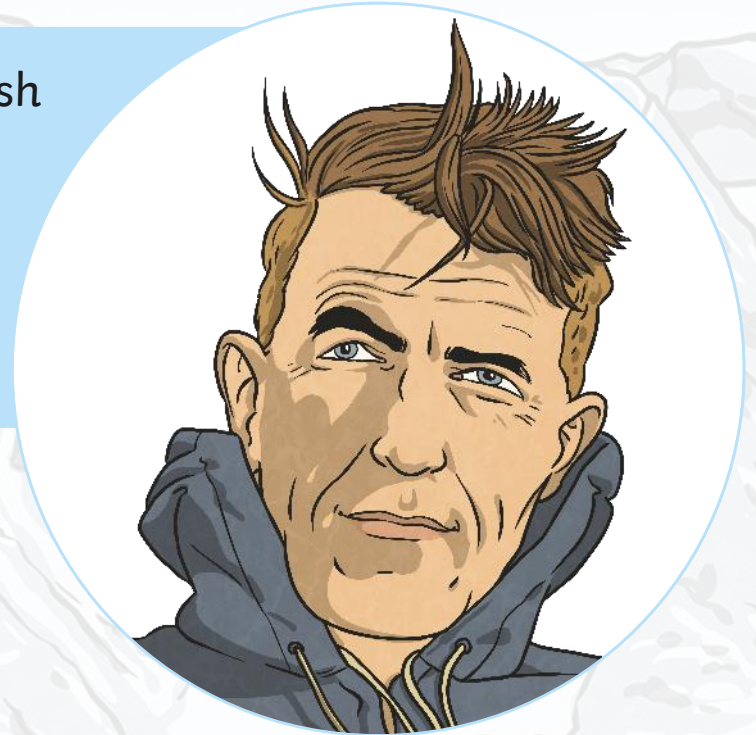
He became interested in climbing during a trip to Mount Ruapehu in New Zealand when he was 16 years old. He then became involved in climbing groups.



# An Invitation to Everest

In 1953, Hillary was invited to join a British climbing expedition to Mount Everest. Only one or two groups were allowed on Everest each year so this was a fantastic opportunity for Hillary. Over 400 people were involved in the expedition.

This was the ninth mountaineering expedition to Mount Everest.



# Climbing the World's Highest Mountain

They had to climb the mountain in stages, moving higher every few weeks. As they got higher and higher, more and more people decided to stay behind.

By the time they got to the final camp, there were only two teams left; one of those was Hillary and his partner, Tenzing Norgay.





# Reaching the Summit

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first people in the world to make it to the summit of Mount Everest. This came just three days after an attempt from the other team had failed to reach the peak.

Without the sophisticated technology of modern-day climbers, the pair could only stay at the top for a short time before turning back. The air at such a high altitude contains less oxygen, making it hard to breathe.

“People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.”

Sir Edmund Hillary

# Other Facts about Sir Edmund Hillary

- He was knighted for having reached the summit of Mount Everest.
- He appears on the New Zealand five-dollar note.
- Hillary also scaled many other Himalayan mountains and took part in expeditions to the South and North Poles (one with the astronaut Neil Armstrong).
- Hillary spent a lot of his life helping the Sherpa people of Nepal with a trust he founded called 'The Himalayan Trust'. Sherpa is the name of a group of people who live in the mountains of Nepal. The word 'Sherpa' is often used to describe someone local to Mount Everest, who supports climbers on their dangerous mission to the summit. Sherpas are paid to prepare the route for climbers to follow, fix ropes in place and carry vital equipment. Many are highly skilled and experienced climbers.
- He died at the age of 88 in 2008.

“It is not the mountain we  
conquer, but ourselves.”

Sir Edmund Hillary





