

PEAK
Before You Read: Building Background Knowledge

Stage I - Meet the Author

Before you do anything with the novel, help get to know Roland Smith. It won't take more than 30 minutes as he has an informative biography, pictures, and other interesting information right on his web site, www.rolandsmith.com

You can also email him questions.

1. Where is Roland Smith originally from? _____

2. Where does he live now and how does he spend his time?

3. How many books has he written? _____

4. Which of his books do you think might be the most interesting to read? Why?

5. Which of his no-fiction books do you think might be the most interesting to read? Why?

6. What is his novel PEAK about?

Stage 2 – Meet the Geography: The majority of the book, *Peak*, will take place in Nepal. Study the maps, then answer the questions.



On which continent is Nepal located?

Which countries border Nepal?

What famous mountain is found in Nepal?

Stage 2 Meet Nepal: Use the "Facts and Photos" tab on the website below to answer the questions in complete sentences. - <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/nepal/>

7. Which major mountain range can be found in Nepal? _____

8. How was this mountain range formed? _____

9. What natural resource is important to them? Why? _____

10. How is deforestation affecting Nepal? _____

11. Name the four animals that are endangered. _____

12. What famous legend is said to be from Nepal? _____

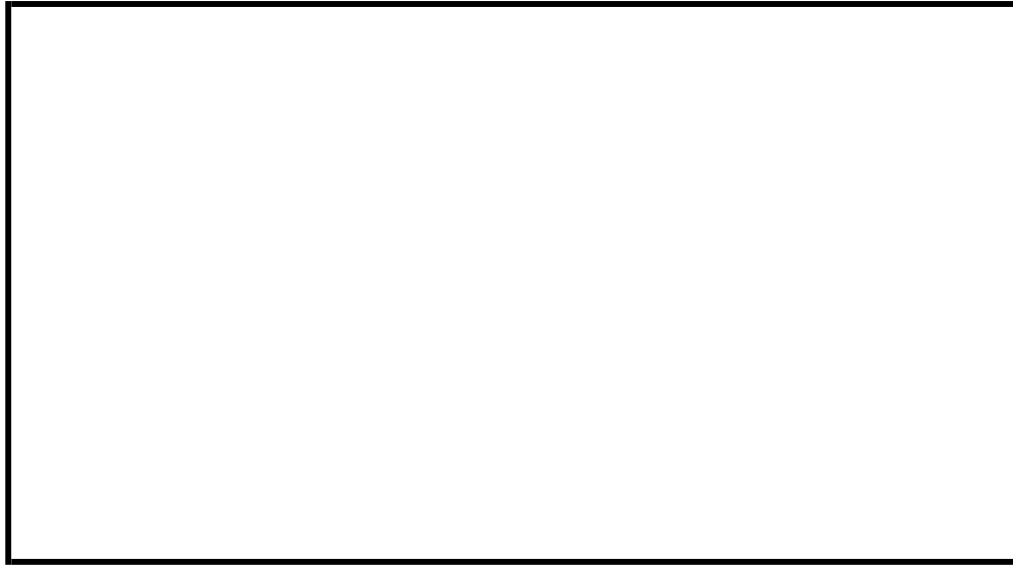
13. Name the two religions that most people practice. _____

14. What are the four groups that make up the Nepalese population? _____

15. What kind of government does Nepal have today? _____

16. What languages are spoken in Nepal? _____

Stage 2 Meet the Flag: Use the website below to draw and color the Nepalese flag. (needs to be accurate and colored) <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/nepal/>



Stage 3 – Meet Mount Everest Vocabulary: Use the website below to find the word that matches each definition. Then, draw a small picture for each word.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hillary/archive/glossary.htm>

<hr/> <p>A central setup of tents where food, equipment, and medical supplies are stored; a relay site for climbers.</p>	<hr/> <p>The highest point.</p>	<hr/> <p>A person who carries supplies.</p>
<hr/> <p>A clan of people originally from Tibet who live along Nepal's mountainous eastern border with Tibet.</p>	<hr/> <p>Height above sea level.</p>	<hr/> <p>Metal frame with spikes worn on hiking boots for ice climbs.</p>

Stage 4/Part 1 – Meet the Sherpas: Use the following websites to answer the questions in complete sentences.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hillary/archive/sherpas.htm>

1. Why did the Sherpas move closer to Mount Everest? _____

2. Why are Sherpas helpful in climbing expeditions? _____

3. What fraction of the people who climb Mount Everest are Sherpas? _____

Stage 4/Part 2 – Meet Sir Edmund Hillary & Co.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hillary/archive/evefacts.htm>

4. Where did Mount Everest get its name? _____

5. How tall is it? _____

6. Why is Mount Everest famous? _____

7. Who were the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest? _____

8. How many people have successfully climbed Mount Everest? _____

Stage 4/Part 1 – Meet Jordan Romero

http://www.kidsnewsinc.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96:jordan-romero-reaching-the-top-the-youngest-kid-to-climb-mount-everest

9. Who was one of the youngest people to summit Mount Everest? _____

10. How old was he? _____

11. How did his lifestyle prepare him for climbing the mountain? _____
