

On top of the world.

Mount Everest in the Himalayas is every climber's dream . The 8,850-metre mountain is the highest place in the world and a very dangerous mountain. The weather changes all the time and it is often very windy and cold.

In the early 20th century, other expeditions tried to climb Everest but failed, and many people died there . Finally, on 29th May in 1953. Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay from Nepal became the first people to stand on the summit of Mount Everest.

Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland in New Zealand. He wasn't a very sporty young person. But he liked climbing and he had a dream. "Someday I'm going to climb Everest", he told a friend. He was serious. but nobody believed him! In those days, people didn't know if it was possible to climb higher than 8000 metres because there isn't a lot of oxygen.

When he was 33, Hillary joined a British expedition to climb Everest. At 6.30 a.m. on 29th May . Hillary and Norgay left their camp at 8,503 metres and started climbing.

They both carried heavy oxygen bottles. They were lucky because the weather was good. Five hours later, at 11.30 a.m., they were on top of the world! They spent fifteen minutes on the summit of Everest and Hillary took a photo of Norgay, but he didn't take a photo of himself! The news of their climb was in all the newspapers and the two men were heroes before they arrived home.

