# The World's Tallest Mountains

Many people debate which mountains are the tallest in the world. A challenge known as the Seven Summits is a pursuit to reach the peak of these mountains on each of the seven continents.

## Kilimanjaro (Africa)

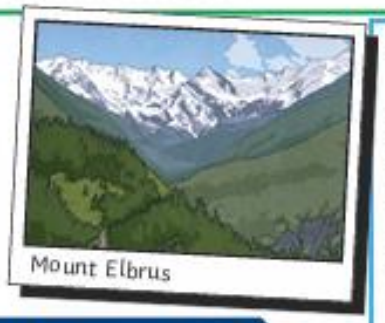
Kilimanjaro is made up of three volcanic cones called Shira, Mawenzi and Kibo. Kibo is the highest **summit** of the three at a height of 5895 metres. Although considered by many to be an easy climb, low oxygen levels can cause some hikers to struggle with **altitude sickness**.




## Mount Elbrus (Europe)

This mountain is part of a **range** called Caucasus and is in Russia. Akhia Sottaiev led a team of British and Swiss explorers to reach the summit in 1874. Nowadays, a cable car helps to take hikers most of the way to make the climb easier.






## Denali (North America)

Denali can be found in North America and is part of the Alaskan **Range**. If you were to climb this mountain, you would have a very steep ascent. At many times of the year, poor weather conditions can make the climb difficult. Walter Harper was the first to reach the summit of this mountain on 7th June 1913. Serious weather conditions and steep climbs make the trek a challenging one.




## Mount Everest (Asia)

The mighty Mount Everest is the highest of the summits at a height of 8850 metres. Explorer Edmund Hillary and his guide Tenzing Norgay reached the top of Mount Everest in 1953.

Many would say that the expensive equipment needed and high altitude can make this immense mountain hard to climb.



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### Mount Vinson (Antarctica)

Only around 1200 climbers have been able to reach the peak of this mountain in Antarctica. This includes Nicholas Clinch, who was the first to reach the summit in 1966. Although it is only 4829 metres in height, it is believed that cold temperatures and the remote location make this a demanding mountain to scale.



Mount Vinson

### Aconcagua (South America)

The second highest mountain in the Seven Summits is Aconcagua, which has a joined north and southern ridge meeting at around 6962 metres. Some believe it is a difficult climb because of the high altitude and the many storms.



Aconcagua

### Carstensz Pyramid (Oceania)

The snow-topped mountain of Carstensz Pyramid stands at 4884 metres tall and is part of the Sudirman Range.



Carstensz Pyramid is also known as Puncak Jaya

### Glossary

**altitude sickess**: An illness caused by a lack of oxygen because of being high above sea level.

**range**: A line or group of mountains or hills.

**summit**: The highest point of something, especially the top of a mountain.

# Questions

1. How high is the highest summit of Kilimanjaro? Tick one.

   - ○ 5895 metres
   - ○ 2228 metres
   - ○ 8850 metres
   - ○ 6930 metres

2. Number the mountains from 1–4 to show the order they are introduced in the text.

   - ☐ Kilimanjaro
   - ☐ Aconcagua
   - ☐ Denali
   - ☐ Mount Everest

3. Draw **four** lines and match each explorer to their mountain.

| | |
|---|---|
| A team of British and Swiss explorers led by Akhia Sottaiev | Mount Vinson |
| Walter Harper | Mount Everest |
| Nicholas Clinch | Denali |
| Edmund Hillary | Mount Elbrus |

4. Look at the section called **Denali (North America)**.
   Underline one word in the sentence below that suggests that the mountain is a challenge to climb.

   If you were to climb this mountain, you would have a very steep ascent.

5. Look in the section called **Mount Everest (Asia)**.
   Find and copy one word that means that the equipment used costs a lot of money.

   _____

6. Fill in the missing words.

   Only around 1200 climbers have been able to reach this _____ in Antarctica, including Nicholas Clinch, who was the _____ to reach the summit in 1966.