

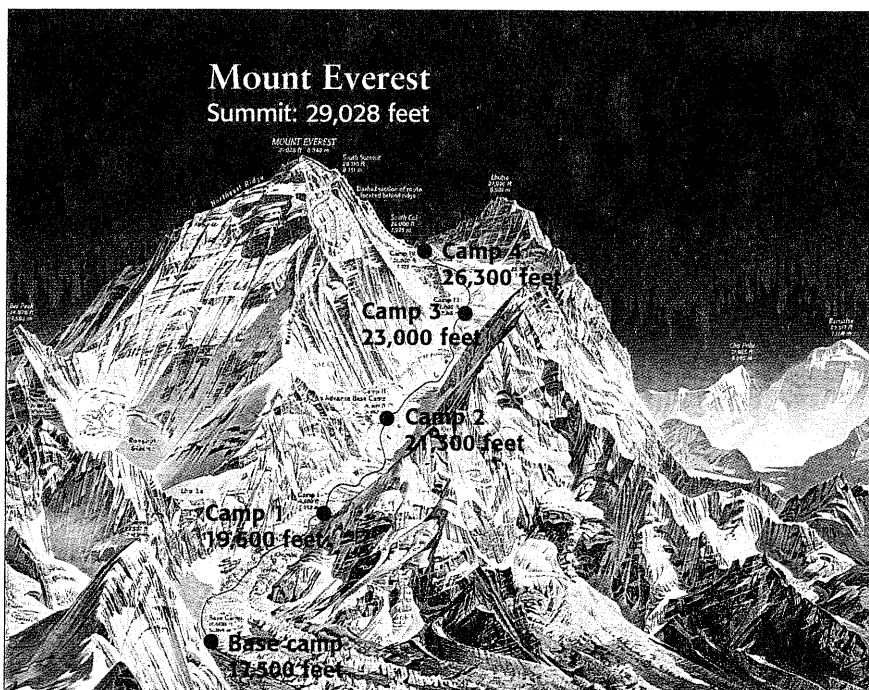
The Summit: Next Stop for Those on Everest

by Tim Friend/USA TODAY

As a reporter with the Everest Extreme Expedition, Tim Friend wrote the following article about the challenges climbers face tackling the world's highest mountain. Before reading the article, read the right-hand column up through the first item.

EVEREST BASE CAMP—The push to the summit of Mount Everest has begun for at least 16 men and women here on the south side of the mountain. The climbers, representing five expeditions, left their camps at 26,000 feet shortly after 11 PM Monday and began the grueling 10- to 12-hour march to Everest's 29,028-foot-high peak.

Wearing headlights to illuminate their ways and crampons on their boots to bite into the ice and snow, the climbers—who have not slept since Sunday night—face perhaps the longest day of their lives. The first of the climbers could begin arriving at the summit as early as 9 AM today. Among those on their way to the summit: three climbers representing the 1998 American Everest Expedition; four members of the first Iranian Everest climbing team; four members of the first Singapore team; and a solo climber from Denmark.



Reading for Information

News accounts of risky events offer readers the thrill of adventure. Such accounts can also overwhelm readers with an avalanche of details. When you research the Everest climb, skimming and scanning can help you find the details you need.

SKIMMING, SCANNING, AND UNDERSTANDING GRAPHICS

To find key information quickly in a newspaper article, try skimming and scanning.

- **Skimming** is reading quickly to get the main idea or an overview of a work.
- **Scanning** is searching through writing for a particular fact or piece of information. Look for **key words** that relate to your topic.

① **Skimming** When you skim, read the headline, the first and last paragraphs, the first sentence of other paragraphs, and any graphics. Before you begin reading this article, **skim** the headlines and the map. What do you know about climbing Mount Everest at this point? Now go on to read the article.

YOUR TURN Use the questions and activities below to help you get the most from both the text and the graphic.

② **Understanding Graphics** On the map shown here, trace the path from the base camp to the summit. Discuss changes in elevation and the possible hazards that climbers could encounter.

Meanwhile, on the north side of Everest in Tibet, 19 people reportedly reached the summit Monday. A growing number of expeditions are being conducted from Tibet because the costs are much less than from Nepal. But the southern route is still the most popular. It is the same route taken by Sir Edmund Hillary, who in 1953 was the first person to climb Everest, the world's highest peak.

Pemba Sherpa, a Nepalese climber with a commercial group called Himalayan Kingdoms, suffered a fractured femur Monday. He was ascending a steep slope just below Camp 3 when he was struck by a large piece of falling ice. At least two doctors, including emergency physician Chuck Huss of Iowa City, Iowa, treated the climber on the scene. He will be brought to base camp today from Camp 3 after Nepalese climbers ascend with a stretcher. Taking wounded climbers down through the Khumbu ice fall is extremely dangerous.

Two Western climbers reported by radio over the weekend that they were suffering from snow blindness, a sunburn of the cornea that is temporary but extremely painful. Both climbers apparently have recovered and will continue their summit attempts.

A second round of summit attempts is planned for Wednesday, although those climbers may be in a race against heavy snows that are predicted to reach Everest by 5 PM that day. At least 30 people spent Monday night at Camp 3 and positioned themselves for their push today.

Base camp, meanwhile, is practically a ghost town. Most of its residents left over the weekend in a long line, resembling pilgrims to Mecca, and began making their ways to Camps 2 and 3. About half the members of our group—the Everest Extreme Expedition, which has been conducting telemedicine experiments—are making their ways back down to thicker air and warmer temperatures.

Seven of us from the original 13 members of that expedition are still here, monitoring the climbers' progress. We've all been at high altitude now for 24 days and at base camp's 17,500 feet for two weeks. The adventure has been priceless, but we miss our loved ones, as well as food, flushing toilets, beds and hot showers.

All of us are ready to go home.

3 Comparing Texts Both Jon Krakauer, author of *Into Thin Air*, and Tim Friend describe the physical problems and injuries climbers experience. How is Friend's account of climbing Everest different from Krakauer's? **Scan** the article by sweeping your eyes across the page to look for key words that may lead you to essential information.

4 Many climbers were inspired by the same challenge that Edmund Hillary met in 1953. Considering the technological advances made since then and expertise that climbers have developed, do you think it is safer to climb Everest today than it was in Hillary's time? Give reasons for your answer.

Inquiry & Research

Activity Link: *from Into Thin Air*, p. 548

Using information from this article and what you recall from reading the excerpt from *Into Thin Air*, devise a web about Everest similar to the one shown below. Discuss your responses with a classmate.

