

Maya's MYSTERIES

"The beloved of the Lord must stand fixed as the mountains . . . and depend on the care and protection of the generous Lord." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

I DID IT!



MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS

Have you ever climbed a mountain, or even a steep hill? It's tough—but also fun—to hike up high slopes. When you reach the peak, the view is awesome. You feel like you're on top of the world. No wonder some cultures say mountains are sacred. About 10% of our human family lives in them. Mount Everest, in the Himalayas of Asia, stretches up for five and a half miles (8.9 km). It's

the tallest on land. And there are mountains everywhere—at the bottom of the ocean, on the moon, on other planets, and even on asteroids.

Just like climbing a mountain, reaching a big goal takes determination. Encouragement from friends and family helps. If you want to reach the summit of your dreams, you can do it! Just start with one step at a time.

THE MOUNTAIN QUIZ

Quiz yourself on the wonders of mountains.

- 1 Mountains provide fresh water for over half of the people on our planet.
 - True False
- 2 Olympus Mons, an extinct volcano on Jupiter, is the tallest known mountain in the solar system. It's 16 miles (25.7 km) tall!
 - True False
- 3 Mountains may affect weather by blocking clouds, making one side rainy and the other side a desert.
 - True False
- 4 The Andes is Earth's longest mountain range on land, stretching 4,500 miles (7,242 km) along the entire west coast of South America.
 - True False
- 5 Thirteen-year-olds Malavath Poorna, of India, and Jordan Romero, of the U.S., are the youngest people to climb Mount Everest.
 - True False
- 6 Mountain habitats cover about one-tenth of Earth's land.
 - True False
- 7 Mountainous New Guinea is the highest tropical island. It covers less than .5% of Earth's surface, but has 5-10% of global biodiversity.
 - True False
- 8 One of Jupiter's moons, Io, has hundreds of active volcanoes. Eruptions reach an estimated 190 miles (300 km) into space!
 - True False
- 9 Mauna Kea, in the Hawaiian Islands, is the tallest active volcano on Earth.
 - True False
- 10 There are about 26 potentially active volcanoes on Earth.
 - True False
- 11 There are hundreds of mountains that no one on Earth has ever climbed! The tallest is Gangkhar Puensum, in Bhutan, at 24,836 ft (7,570 m).
 - True False
- 12 Mountain ecosystems and species are threatened by climate change, tourism, pollution, and deforestation.
 - True False