

Mountaineering as Exploration, Recreation, and Vocation

EXAMPLE

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Collect evidence of ways exploration, recreation, and vocation inspire mountaineers to climb. Be sure to cite your sources.

Exploration, Recreation, or Vocation?	Summary	Evidence	Source
Exploration	George Mallory was an example of a mountaineering explorer because he was searching for a path to the base of Everest that had never been discovered before.	"There were no maps. No one knew the terrain there. In this first trip, the trip of 1921, it was imperative that the team find the route that would lead them to the summit."	Video: National Geographic: George Mallory's Route to Everest (0:00-0:13)
Vocation	Sherpas are Nepalese ethnic group that live at high-altitude. They often assist mountaineers on expedition as guides, cooks, and other support roles necessary for many climbers to make it up Everest.	"It also deeply touched the community of local workers who are the backbone of Himalayan expeditions, carrying out tasks such as establishing climbing routes, hauling loads, cooking, cleaning, and guiding clients, who pay an average of more than \$50,000 for the help."	<i>A Year After Everest Disaster, This Sherpa Isn't Going Back</i> by Molly Loomis/National Geographic
Vocation	Some Sherpa have lead guide positions. They are known as sirdars.	"seasoned Sirdar, or lead guide"	<i>A Year After Everest Disaster, This Sherpa Isn't Going Back</i> by Molly Loomis/National Geographic
Vocation	Business owners and guides who organize treks on safer ground are found in Nepal and many other countries where climbing is popular.	"As his family's youngest son, Sange Dorje worked in the safer trekking business, which sticks to hiking trails and lower peaks, instead of the riskier high-altitude climbing industry."	<i>A Year After Everest Disaster, This Sherpa Isn't Going Back</i> by Molly Loomis/National Geographic
Vocation	Conservationists and founders of conservation organizations such as EarthFirst! and Wilderness Watch have chosen a vocation in stewardship and conservationism.	"...Veteran wilderness advocate Howie Wolke, the fiery co-founder of EarthFirst!..." "the last thing wilderness needs is to be invaded by mountain bikes and other machines," wrote George Nickas, executive director of Wilderness Watch, a national organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of wilderness area, in a statement."	<i>Wilderness Was</i> by Aaron Teasdale/National Geographic

Exploration, Recreation, or Vocation?	Summary	Evidence	Source
Recreation	Hiking, canoeing, skiing, paddling, climbing, running, and mountain biking are all examples of recreations that people enjoy in the mountains and other natural environments.	"On one side are traditional environmentalists, generally older Americans who seek to protect the natural world from humanity's ever increasing impact, but who also enjoy hiking, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. On the other side are new-school adventurers who probably enjoy hiking but can also be found chasing adrenaline while mountain biking, paddling, climbing, trail running, and backcountry skiing wild mountains."	<i>Wilderness Was</i> by Aaron Teasdale/National Geographic
Vocation	Some people work as certified wireless engineers, bringing Wi-Fi to remote natural areas, like Everest.	"Suresh Lama, Everest Link's certified wireless engineer at basecamp, stands with his partner, Pasang Wongde. The pair spend two months on the mountain ensuring climbers and support teams can stay connected to the rest of the world."	<i>Meet the Sherpa Bringing Wi-Fi to Everest</i> by Freddie Wilkinson/National Geographic
Recreation	Conquest of personal challenges	"And that remains one of the primary motivations for mountain climbers—conquering your own internal challenges, whether that means overcoming fears, pushing your limits, or trying to create a personal best in terms of physical and mental accomplishments."	<i>Why People Risk Their Lives Mountain Climbing</i> by Bill Fink/New York Post
Vocation	Climate scientists and weather station engineers work to study weather and climate in high-altitude areas like mountain peaks.	"Just after dawn on May 23, 2019, two climate scientists, Tom Matthews and Baker Perry, stood on the Southeast Ridge of Mount Everest at 8,428 m (27,650 ft), on the verge of making history. They had spent months preparing for this moment: the installation of the highest weather station in the world." "Their team had worked closely with a crew of engineers to meticulously construct the seven-foot-tall, 110-pound structure to withstand the extreme cold and hurricane-force winds it would face on the highest point of the planet."	<i>Inside the Everest Expedition that Built the World's Highest Weather Station</i> by Freddie Wilkinson/National Geographic



Vocabulary

exploration (ehks-plor-AY-shun) noun. study and investigation of unknown places, concepts, or issues.

recreation (reh-kree-Ay-shun-ul adjective. activities done for enjoyment.

vocation (voh-KAY-shun-nul) adjective. instruction or guidance in an occupation or career.