

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Tenzing Norgay: The Sherpa Who Stood on Top of the World

Free · Share

Tenzing Norgay: The Sherpa Who Stood on Top of the World

Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary made Everest's first verified ascent on **29 May 1953**. Tenzing brought years of Himalayan skill to the climb. He later helped train climbers at HMI in Darjeeling.

Summit: a mountain's highest point.
Route survey: exploring a route before a later climbing attempt.
Sirdar: the leader of a group of Sherpa climbers.

The climb to Everest

How did Tenzing gain mountain skill?

Tenzing was born in **1914**. His birthplace is disputed. He lived and worked across Tibet, Nepal and India.

He settled in **Darjeeling** and joined Eric Shipton's Everest route survey expedition in **1935**. He began with demanding work carrying supplies at high altitude.

He returned on later expeditions and developed climbing skills and knowledge of Everest. In 1952, he climbed with Swiss climber **Raymond Lambert**.

They climbed to about 8,600 metres but turned back before reaching the summit. A high point on the mountain is not the summit.

These earlier journeys help explain Tenzing's role in 1953. He joined the expedition as a skilled climber and leader of its Sherpa team.

Sources: himalayanclub.org; hmidarjeeling.com

Quick check 1. Check 1. Tenzing first encountered Everest during the 1953 expedition. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What happened on 29 May 1953?

Tenzing and **Edmund Hillary** reached Everest's summit on **29 May 1953**. They climbed with the British expedition led by **John Hunt**. They reached the summit at **11:30 a.m.** This was the ninth British attempt, following efforts beginning in 1921, about 30 years earlier.

Hillary came from New Zealand. The team's British base did not mean every climber was British. Tenzing's skill came from Himalayan climbing and Sherpa expedition work.

Their route approached Everest from Nepal and followed the southeast side of the mountain. They reached the top as a climbing pair.

The summit pair relied on a much larger team. Other climbers and Sherpas carried food, tents, fuel and oxygen to high camps.

Those supplies supported the final climb and the descent. Reaching the top required both the summit pair's skill and the work of the expedition.

Sources: himalayanclub.org; rgs.org; hmidarjeeling.com

Quick check 2. Check 2. John Hunt led the expedition; Hillary and Tenzing formed its summit pair. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓



Tenzing Norgay. Image credited to Jamling Tenzing Norgay, via Wikimedia Commons. CC BY-SA 3.0. Existing crop; no further changes.

From earlier climbs to a verified summit

1935 — Shipton's expedition Tenzing gained early Everest expedition skill.
1952 — with Raymond Lambert The pair climbed high but did not reach the summit.
29 May 1953 — with Edmund Hillary They completed Everest's first verified ascent.

Earlier attempts built skill before the summit climb.
Sources: himalayanclub.org; hmidarjeeling.com

Honours and teaching

Why is the coronation date also mentioned?

News of the ascent reached Britain in time for the headlines on **2 June 1953**. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation took place that day.

The summit date was **29 May**, four days earlier. The date when news reaches readers need not match the date of the event.

Tenzing received Britain's **George Medal** and Nepal's **Nepal Tara**, also called the Star of Nepal. India awarded him the **Padma Bhushan in 1959**.

These honours came from different countries. Do not use an award's country to settle every question about a person's birthplace, ancestry or legal nationality.

Sources: rsgs.org; himalayanclub.org; padmaawards.gov.in

> **Quick check 3.** Check 3. The coronation-day headlines mean Tenzing climbed Everest on 2 June 1953. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What did Tenzing do at HMI?

The **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute** was founded in Darjeeling in **1954**, with support from Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Tenzing became its first **Director of Field Training**. He taught mountain skills and led a group of Sherpa instructors.

He held the post until **1976** and then remained connected as an adviser. His nephew Nawang Gombu also became Director of Field Training.

Tenzing taught others long after his own summit climb. Students learned from a climber who had spent years planning routes, carrying supplies and climbing.

Sources: hmidarjeeling.com; himalayanclub.org

> **Quick check 4.** Check 4. Tenzing became HMI's first Director of Field Training in 1954. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Shared feat

Was the order of arrival secret until 1986?

No. Tenzing's life story appeared in **1955**, written with **James Ramsey Ullman**. It was published as *Man of Everest* and *Tiger of the Snows*.

The book identified Hillary as stepping onto the summit first. A TIME review discussed that detail in 1955, during Tenzing's lifetime.

Therefore, the answer was already public before Tenzing's death in **1986**. It was not a secret kept for 33 years.

The final steps do not change their shared feat. Both climbers completed the first verified ascent, supported by the wider expedition.

For revision, separate three facts: the expedition leader, the summit pair and the date. Hunt led; Hillary and Tenzing summited; the date was 29 May 1953.

Sources: time.com; paperspast.natlib.govt.nz; himalayanclub.org

Three roles within Himalayan climbing

John Hunt — expedition leader Led the British Everest expedition in 1953.
Hillary and Tenzing — summit pair Reached Everest's summit on 29 May 1953.
Tenzing at HMI — field training Passed mountain skills to later climbers from 1954.

Leading an expedition, summiting and teaching are different roles.
Sources: hmidarjeeling.com; himalayanclub.org

> **Quick check 5.** Check 5. The order of arrival was already discussed publicly in 1955. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

How does Gombu's later record connect?

Tenzing's nephew Nawang Gombu joined the 1953 expedition but did not summit that year. Gombu reached the summit in **1963** and **1965**.

Those two ascents made Gombu the first person to climb Everest twice. The 1965 Indian expedition, led by M. S. Kohli, put **nine climbers** on the summit.

Keep that repeat-ascent record separate from Hillary and Tenzing's first verified ascent. The first summit and the first double ascent answer different questions.

Sources: himalayanclub.org

Questions and answers

What is the summit date?

Remember 29 May 1953. The coronation-day news date, 2 June, came four days later.

Was Tenzing only a porter in 1953?

No. He joined as a skilled climber and led the Sherpa team. He and Hillary formed the summit pair.

What is his teaching connection?

He became HMI's first Director of Field Training in 1954. HMI is in Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Why correct the story about 1986?

Reviews from 1955 already discussed Hillary stepping onto the summit first. The earlier claim placed that disclosure decades too late.

5 practice MCQs

Check the first ascent, HMI teaching and connected Everest records.

Practice MCQs

1. On which date did Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary summit Mount Everest?

A. 2 June 1953

B. 29 May 1953

C. 15 May 1952

D. 29 May 1954

See answer ↓

2. What position did Tenzing Norgay take up in 1954, at the newly founded Himalayan Mountaineering Institute?

A. Chairman

B. Chief Patron

C. Honorary President

D. First Director of Field Training

See answer ↓

3. Nawang Gombu was the nephew of which famous mountaineer?

A. Edmund Hillary

B. Tenzing Norgay

C. Jim Whittaker

D. Raymond Lambert

See answer ↓

4. On 20 May 1965, Nawang Gombu summited Everest for the second time. What record did this make him hold?

A. The youngest person to summit Everest

B. The first American to summit Everest

C. The first person in history to summit Everest twice

D. The first Sherpa to summit Everest alone

See answer ↓

5. How many climbers reached Everest's summit under M.S. Kohli's leadership in 1965?

A. 5

B. 9

C. 7

D. 11

See answer ↓

6. Who became the first person to reach Everest's summit twice during the 1965 Indian expedition?

A. M.S. Kohli

B. Nawang Gombu

C. Avtar Singh Cheema

D. Sonam Wangyal

See answer ↓

7. Which statement correctly describes the successful summit teams of India's 1965 Everest expedition?

A. One team of nine climbers reached the summit.

B. Three teams of three climbers reached the summit.

C. Four teams produced a combined total of nine summiters.

D. Nine teams each produced one summiter.

See answer ↓

8. What was the objective of the covert 1965 Nanda Devi mission associated with M.S. Kohli?

A. To measure Everest's height

B. To monitor Chinese nuclear and missile activities

C. To establish a permanent tourist hotel

D. To award medals to Everest climbers

See answer ↓

9. Which organisation did M.S. Kohli establish in 1989 with support from Edmund Hillary and other mountaineers?

A. Himalayan Environment Trust

B. Indian Mountaineering Foundation

C. Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

D. Indian Navy

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **B.**
   Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary reached Everest's summit on 29 May 1953. The news appeared on coronation day, 2 June, after the climb. The 1952 Swiss attempts did not reach the summit. The year 1954 concerns the founding of HMI.
   Review Tenzing Norgay: Everest and HMI.
   ↑ Q1
2. **D.**
   Tenzing became HMI's first Director of Field Training in 1954. He led practical mountain training at the institute in Darjeeling. Chairman, Chief Patron and Honorary President do not identify that field-training role.
   Review Tenzing Norgay: Everest and HMI.
   ↑ Q2
3. **B.**
   Tenzing Norgay was Gombu's uncle. Gombu joined the 1953 expedition that put Tenzing and Hillary on Everest's summit. Hillary was Tenzing's summit partner. Whittaker became Gombu's summit partner in 1963. Lambert climbed with Tenzing in 1952.
   Review Nawang Gombu: Everest ascents and HMI teaching.
   ↑ Q3
4. **C.**
   Gombu became the first person to climb Everest twice. His summits were in 1963 and 1965. He climbed with Cheema in 1965, so the ascent was not solo. The record concerns repeat ascents, rather than youth or American nationality.
   Review Nawang Gombu: Everest ascents and HMI teaching.
   ↑ Q4
5. **B.**
   Nine climbers reached Everest's summit under Kohli's leadership in 1965. They climbed in four teams between 20 and 29 May. Three teams had two summiters each; the last had three. Four is therefore the number of summit teams, rather than the number of climbers. Kohli led the operation but was not one of the nine summiters.
   ↑ Q5

6. **B.**
   Nawang Gombu became the first person to summit Everest twice. He had climbed with the American expedition in 1963. He returned with Cheema in 1965. Cheema's ascent was his first. Kohli was the expedition leader, rather than a member of its summit teams.
   ↑ Q6
7. **C.**
   Four teams produced nine successful summiters between 20 and 29 May 1965. Their sizes were two, two, two and three. A team count and a climber count answer different questions. Treating nine climbers as nine separate teams confuses those two totals.
   ↑ Q7
8. **B.**
   The Nanda Devi mission sought intelligence about China's nuclear and missile activities. Climbers were needed to carry spy gear to a high Himalayan location. The Everest climb was a separate expedition in the same year. Tourism, medal distribution and measuring Everest were not the surveillance mission's purpose.
   ↑ Q8
9. **A.**
   Kohli established the Himalayan Environment Trust to promote mountain conservation. Hillary and other mountaineers supported the trust. Kohli also served as President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. Holding that office does not mean he founded the Foundation. The Navy and Himalayan Mountaineering Institute were separate institutions in his career.
   ↑ Q9

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** He had already joined Everest expeditions, beginning with Shipton's reconnaissance in 1935. ↑ 1
2. **True.** Expedition leadership and the final summit pair were different roles. ↑ 2
3. **False.** The summit was reached on 29 May. The coronation-day news appeared on 2 June. ↑ 3
4. **True.** His HMI role linked practical climbing experience with the training of later mountaineers. ↑ 4
5. **True.** Contemporary reviews of Tenzing's autobiography identified Hillary as stepping onto the summit first. ↑ 5

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com



Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/tenzing-norgay-the-sherpa-who-stood-on-top-of-the-world/