

Mt Everest climbers must now keep their poo

22nd February 2024



There is a new rule about going to the toilet on Mount Everest. People climbing the world's highest peak will now have to take their own poo back to Base Camp. There has been an increase in the number of climbers on the mountain. This has led to a problem of

human waste being left on the slopes. Mingma Sherpa, a local official, told the BBC: "Our mountains have begun to stink." He added: "We are getting complaints that human stools are visible on rocks, and some climbers are falling sick. This is not acceptable. It damages our image." The new rule requires climbers to buy a bio-degradable "poo bag". They can dispose of the bag and its contents when they come down from the mountain. It will be "checked" by workers there.

The problem of waste, litter and pollution on Mt Everest has been growing for years. Many people leave camping equipment on the slopes. Thousands of discarded cans of oxygen litter the mountain. An environmental organization estimated that there was around three tons of human poo between Base Camp and the summit of Everest. Much of this freezes and does not degrade. The India Today website said the poo bags will help with the waste problem. It wrote: "It is hoped that this measure, along with ongoing clean-up campaigns, will help restore the dignity of this iconic peak." It added that the waste bags would, "safeguard the health of both climbers and the local environment".

Sources: indiatoday.com / bbc.com / scmp.com

Writing

Climbers should remove all waste of any kind from natural environments. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rules / the toilet / Mount Everest / poo / climbers / mountains / stink / bio-degradable / litter / pollution / camping equipment / oxygen / summit / waste / dignity / health

True / False

- 1) There are new toilets at Base Camp on Mount Everest. T / F
- 2) The number of people climbing Everest has fallen. T / F
- 3) A local official said the mountains are starting to smell really bad. T / F
- 4) Climbers have to put their poop in a special bio-degradable bag. T / F
- 5) Climbers have left thousands of oxygen cans on Mount Everest. T / F
- 6) An environmental group said there are about 3 tons of poo on Everest. T / F
- 7) Most of the poo washes into the rocks when it rains. T / F
- 8) A website said the poo bags would have little effect on the environment. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. rule | a. throw away |
| 2. increase | b. ill |
| 3. stink | c. rise |
| 4. sick | d. action |
| 5. dispose of | e. mountain |
| 6. estimated | f. regulation |
| 7. measure | g. protect |
| 8. campaigns | h. calculated |
| 9. peak | i. drives |
| 10. safeguard | j. smell bad |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Mt. Everest?
- c) Would you like to climb Everest?
- d) How much waste and litter is there in your town?
- e) How can we keep our natural environment clean?
- f) What do you think of fining climbers who leave waste on Everest?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask climbers on Everest?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. There is a new rule about | a. of oxygen |
| 2. People climbing the world's highest | b. the bag and its contents |
| 3. human | c. this iconic peak |
| 4. some climbers are falling | d. equipment |
| 5. They can dispose of | e. peak |
| 6. camping | f. degrade |
| 7. discarded cans | g. going to the toilet |
| 8. Much of this freezes and does not | h. the local environment |
| 9. restore the dignity of | i. sick |
| 10. safeguard the health of both climbers and | j. waste |

Discussion – Student B

- Should there be more toilets on Mt Everest?
- Should climbers take all their waste with them?
- What do you think of people who climb Mount Everest?
- Should there be a limit on the number of climbers on Everest?
- Should climbers respect mountains more?
- How successful do you think the poop bags will be?
- What do you think of public toilets?
- What do you think of using toilets in fast food restaurants?

Spelling

- a problem of human sewta
- We are getting tlonamspci
- This is not aalcctpeeb
- a job-dabagedrel poop bag
- They can sispode of the bag
- its tosnttce
- litter and oulnltopi
- camping eignupetm
- discarded cans of xygoen
- the utmmsj of Everest
- the dignity of this cnicio peak
- regaufdsa the health

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. d	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Mount Everest

You think Mount Everest is the world's greatest sight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Amazon, Antarctica or Sahara.

Role B – The Amazon Rainforest

You think the Amazon is the world's greatest sight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Mount Everest, Antarctica or Sahara.

Role C – Antarctica

You think Antarctica is the world's greatest sight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Amazon, Mount Everest or Sahara.

Role D – The Sahara Desert

You think the Sahara is the world's greatest sight. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Amazon, Antarctica or Mount Everest.

Speaking – World Sights

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sights at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Mount Everest | • Antarctica |
| • Great Barrier Reef | • River Nile |
| • Amazon rainforest | • Uluru |
| • Grand Canyon | • The Sahara Desert |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.