

Osmo GENIUS

Let's Explore the **Bay of Bengal!**

From here, we're just south of Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain peak.



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Neill's Hogfish







Genius Spotlight: Tenzing Norgay



It takes a village to conquer Mount Everest...or at least one really talented Sherpa! Sherpas are the local people of Tibet who lead the way on most treks up the world's tallest peak. Not only do they know the mountain well, their bodies have developed the strength and endurance needed to complete such a steep, dangerous hike.

In 1953, Tenzing Norgay was the most experienced Sherpa out there. He'd been helping out on mountain expeditions since age 19, including six partial climbs of Mount Everest. Nobody had been able to successfully reach the top yet, but a large group from Great Britain wanted to make an attempt that year. Tenzing was an obvious choice to join them.

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More about: Tenzing Norgay

On May 15, 1953, over 400 people started at Everest base camp, helping to carry 10,000 pounds of supplies. After two weeks of trekking through snow and ice, there were only two people with enough energy left to make it to the top: Tenzing and his climbing partner, Edmund Hillary. The men reached the Everest summit at 11:30am and stayed for 15 minutes, taking pictures and sharing cake.

Although many people have reached Everest's top since then, it took special courage and skills for Tenzing to become the first. Conquering any sort of unknown is an adventure, but especially when it involves a 29,035foot tall mountain!



Sir Edmund Hillary greets Tenzing Norgay, circa 1971



Let's Knot!

When it comes to climbing rocks and mountains, knots are very important. Climbers use a series of ropes, carabiners, and knots to secure their journeys up (and down!) the rocks.

One of the strongest and most frequently used knots is called a **Double Figure 8 Loop**. Here's how to make it:





Grab a rope, paracord, or a bungee cord...something thick!



Fold the rope in half. Bring the folded end over and under the middle of the rope, like a V.



Then, bring the folded end around and into the "eye" of the loop on the left.



Pull on each end to tighten.

Check with an adult before using That's one strong knot! household items.