Enrich your learning with movies and documentaries in conjunction with this DVD Learning Guide! Simply rent or purchase the media, then use this guide to teach this film’s topics!

Each DVD Learning Guide Includes:
- Vocabulary from the Film
- Discussion Questions based on Film Content
- Lesson Plans and Activities
- Related Books and Online Resources

Links to Netflix and Amazon included!
Into Thin Air: Death on Everest (1999)
A Homeschool Learning Network® Learning Guide

Format: DVD
Age Levels: Middle School, High School
Genre: Adventure
Category: Entertainment
Rating: NR
Length: 90 Minutes
Producer: Columbia Tri-Star Television
Warnings: This DVD contains images of hikers with altitude sickness and frostbite, and hikers who have frozen to death or have fallen to their death.

Summary
This film is based on journalist Jon Krakauer’s best-selling book of the same name, and is a first-hand account of the 1996 tragedy on Mount Everest that claimed five lives. Two experienced guides, Scott Fischer and Rob Hall, set out with opposing novice teams of hikers to reach the summit of Mount Everest. When a storm approaches quickly as they reach the summit, they are faced with unbeatable odds as they try to descend back to Base Camp IV. How do two diminished teams band together to survive? The movie balances the personalities of the climbers—arrogant, humble, enlightened, and heroic, and viewers witness the suspenseful struggle for life and rescue at 28,000 feet.

Vocabulary (Grades 1-12)
Try the following activities with the vocabulary words to the right. Depending on the age and ability of your students, they may be able to complete assignments from multiple grade levels.

1-2: Ask your students to copy the following words in alphabetical order, and to describe each of the words verbally. Practice spelling.

3-5: Look up each word in a dictionary, and write down its definition. Write each word in a sentence, or write a paragraph using the words.

6-8: Write a description or review about this DVD using the vocabulary words. Above each vocabulary word, write N if it is a noun, V if it is a verb; ADJ if it is an adjective; ADV if it is an adverb.

9-12: Write down words you hear in the video you don’t understand. Break the words into parts and see if you can determine the meanings. Look

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
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<td>Frostbite</td>
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up the meanings.
Discussion Questions

Ask students to read through their questions carefully before watching the film, and take notes during the film. After watching it, ask students to write their answers to the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

Learning Styles: Auditory, Verbal  
Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic, Interpersonal

Intermediate

1. Who was Rob Hall? Write three facts or thoughts you have about him after viewing the film.
2. Who was Scott Fischer? Write three facts or thoughts you have about him after viewing the film.
3. Who was Jon Krakauer? Write three facts or thoughts you have about him after viewing the film.
4. Name two other hikers in the expedition, their personalities, and what happened to them by the end of the film.
5. Do you think that the storm that came was the sole reason why the expedition was so fatal? Explain.
6. Andy believes that the six oxygen tanks were empty. Do you think that is true or false? Why?

Advanced

1. Name and explain two elements of the film that could be seen as foreshadowing of the events that follow.
2. When the novice teams arrived at base camp, what did they find? How does it affect the safety of climbing at Mount Everest?
3. Discuss the 2:00 PM Turn Around Time. What was it, and how is it portrayed as affecting the outcome of this fatal expedition?
4. Jon Krakauer changes his opinion about his expedition on Mount Everest, both why he came, and the power of the mountain. Explain those changes.
5. Discuss the various personality traits of the Sherpas on the expedition. How do their personalities and actions affect the outcome of the expedition?
6. At the summit, Scott Fischer says, “I am invincible”. Do you think he knows he is about to die? How is this statement related to his situation, his personality, and his beliefs about himself and the mountain?
Lessons & Activities

Design a Survival Kit for Mount Everest

Subjects: Science, Physical Education, Math
Grades: 6-12
Style: Visual/Experiential/Kinesthetic

Concepts:
Students will learn about hiking, climbing, and survival gear, and calculate the costs of the equipment.

Lesson:
How expensive is it to gear up for a hiking or climbing trip, and how important to your survival is that gear? Let's do some calculations as we learn about your equipment. Spend some time visiting the following Web site:

- Interactive Gear Guy, Alpine Tools 101
  http://web.outsidemag.com/outsidestore/gearguy/alpinetools/lesson1.html

Read all five lessons to learn about the complete set of equipment needed for hiking, climbing and camping. After reading about all the gear, shop around! Use the site above, and the additional sites below to create a complete climbing and camping kit for yourself. Your budget is $3,000!

Make sure you have under garments, over garments, tents, cooking equipment and some basic climbing equipment. Decide on what you need, and keep a list of what you are purchasing. Make price comparisons between sites, and chart them. Whenever possible, print out images of your final decisions, and track the prices.

- Mountain Gear http://www.mgear.com/
- REI http://www.rei.com/rei/gearshop/
- Bent Gate Mountaineering http://www.bentgate.net/

Answer the following questions

- Was your $3,000 budget successful? Why or why not?
- What was the biggest price difference that you ran across between manufacturers?
- What item cost the most money?
- What surprised you in your research?

Now, think about accidents, emergencies and injuries by viewing the following two sites:

- Outdoor Action Guide to Hypothermia And Cold Weather Injuries
  http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/safety/hypocold.shtml
- Arctic Medical Kit http://www.netcore.ca/~gibsonjs/g0e6-1d.htm

What do you need to add to your gear and equipment to prepare for an emergency?
Learn More!  Books and Online Resources

BOOKS


ONLINE RESOURCES

**Outside Online: A Look Back at Everest**
http://web.outsidemag.com/places/features/everest.html
Links to several articles, journals and interviews surrounding the 1996 tragedy.

**Outside Online: Into Thin Air**
http://web.outsidemag.com/magazine/0996/9609feev.html
A survivor of the mountain’s worst disaster examines the “business” of Mount Everest and the steep price of ambition.

**Everest: Roof of the World**
http://www.mos.org/Everest/home.htm
Interactive site about Mount Everest from the Museum of Science in Boston, Massachusetts.

**National Geographic: Everest and the Himalaya**
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/everest/
This site is full of information, forums, photos, and even a full set of lessons for teaching about the Himalayas and Mount Everest. Read recent news articles, past travel journals, and more!

**Mount Everest WebQuest**
http://aliceswebpage.homestead.com/everestwebquest1.html
Designed for grade 8, this exciting WebQuest can easily be scaled to reach grades 6-12.

**Mount Everest Database**
Over 300 links to Web sites related to Mount Everest history, learning and current events.
Finding Mount Everest: An Interactive Tutorial
http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/education/Everest/default.htm
Explore images of Mount Everest

EverestQuest Educational Web Site
http://www.everestquest.com/
The official Web site for the 2001 American-Canadian Mt. Everest Expedition, this educational Web site is designed for teachers and students in elementary and middle school grades.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY:

Intermediate

1. Rob Hall was leader of the New Zealand novice expedition.
2. Scott Fischer was the leader of the American novice expedition.
3. Jon Krakauer is the narrator of this film, and was present on the expedition as a journalist.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary. However, one person was killed prior to the storm, and prior to reaching the summit. Students may answer with discussion on the inherent dangers of Mount Everest, and discussion about the storm making the death toll of that expedition rise.
6. Answers will vary, however, the film infers that he was starting to show signs of delusion from lack of oxygen, and in fact, Jon Krakauer realized this when he found that the oxygen tanks were not empty.

Advanced

1. Answers will vary. Some foreshadowing examples include the tension built around the 2:00 turnaround time; the near fall of the Japanese businesswoman; the Sherpa worry that the unmarried couple will make the mountain angry; and the first death.
2. They found an overcrowded camp. The insinuation is that there are more and more climbers, including novice climbers, attempting to climb Mount Everest. This might infer more fatalities, and raise the question of whom and how many should be allowed to climb the mountain.
3. While it was clear that the impending storm was a major factor in the film, the 2:00PM turnaround time was introduced at the beginning of the film—indicating that it was an important element to come. Douglas Hansen convinced Rob Hall to push past the turnaround time to reach the summit, but in doing so, both ended up dead.
4. Jon Krakauer believes, in the beginning, that he is only going on a journalist mission. But even at the beginning, he begins to feel the pull of the mountain, the power and fear of it. Far into the movie, he decides he hates the mountain, and states that its power has gotten a hold of him, rather than he being in control of himself. He acknowledges this, and then it seems that by knowing that, he has a better chance of survival.
5. The Sherpa believe that climbing the mountain is climbing into the house of God, and are very serious about respecting this. The Sherpa guides are also dedicated to their leader and to their clients, and risk their lives for them. Throughout the expedition, they balance their decisions based on bravery, strength, and wisdom.
6. Answers will vary.
More SOCIAL SCIENCE DVD Learning Guides available at www.hlfnfamily-estore.com:

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- Ancient Secrets of the Bible: Battle of David and Goliath | Samson
- Ancient Secrets of the Bible:
  - Moses' 10 Commandments/Red Sea Miracle
  - Noah's Ark | Ark of the Covenant
  - Sodom and Gomorrah | Walls of Jericho
  - Tower of Babel | Shroud of Turin
  - Battle of David and Goliath / Samson
- Christianity: The First Thousand Years
- Christianity: The Second Thousand Years
- Heritage: Civilization and the Jews - Disc 1, 2, 3
- In the Footsteps of the Holy Family
- Inside the Vatican
- Jesus and His Times (Disc 1, 2)
- Mysteries of the Bible: The Bible's Greatest Heroes - Disc 1
- Mysteries of the Bible: The Bible's Greatest Heroes - Disc 2
- Mysteries of the Bible: The Greatest Stories (Movie Disc 1)
- Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World
- The End Times: In the Words of Jesus
- The Exodus Revealed: Search for the Red Sea Crossing
- The Face: Jesus in Art
- The Gates of Jerusalem: A History of the Holy City
- The Greatest Story Ever Told Disc 1
- The Last Days
- The Message: The Story of Islam
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- Africa: Volume 1, 2, 3, 4
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  - The California Trail and El Camino Real
  - The Great Wagon Road and Wilderness Trail
  - Mormon Trail and California's Mission Trail
  - The Old Post Road
  - The River Road and The Natchez Trace
  - The Yukon Gold Rush Trail
- America's National Parks Disc 1, 2
- Best of Travels in Europe: British Isles
- Best of Travels in Europe: Italy
- Best of Travels in Europe: Spain & Portugal
- Big Sur: California Coast
- Bryce & Zion National Parks
- Discovering Egypt
- Discovering England
- Discovering France
- Discovering Hawaii
- Discovering Ireland
- Discovering Italy
- Discovering Spain
- Ends of the Earth: Death Valley
- Everest: The Death Zone
- Galapagos
- Glacier National Park
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Hail Columbia!
- Imax: Amazing Journeys
- Imax: Hidden Hawaii
- Imax: India Kingdom of the Tiger
- Imax: The Great Barrier Reef
- Imax: Zion Canyon - Treasure of the Gods
- Into Thin Air: Death on Everest
- Learn World Geography
- Adventures in Wild California
- Journey into Amazing Caves
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- Super Cities: Florence
- Super Cities: Hong Kong
- Super Cities: Istanbul
- Super Cities: London
- Super Cities: Madrid
- Super Cities: Mexico City
- Super Cities: Paris
- Super Cities: Rome
- Super Cities: Venice
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- The Secret Abyss of Movie Cave
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- Travel the World by Train: South America
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- Yosemite National Park
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- Election 2000
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- National Geographic: Inside the Pentagon
- The American President