

SECTION 1 GEOGRAPHY

GeoActivity

Use with South Asia Geography & History, Section 1.2, in your textbook.

Go to Interactive Whiteboard GeoActivities at myNGconnect.com to complete this activity online.

1.2 EXPLORING THE HIMALAYAS

Explore South Asia's Mountains

Learn more about the terms and tools that geographers use to explore mountainous areas by studying the graphics and map shown here.

Elevation and Altitude The terms *elevation* and *altitude* both describe a distance above sea level. The graphic below shows the difference between the terms. Study the graphic and answer the questions.

Elevation: distance above sea level to a point on Earth's surface

Elevation Ranges:

Extreme: 18,000 feet and above

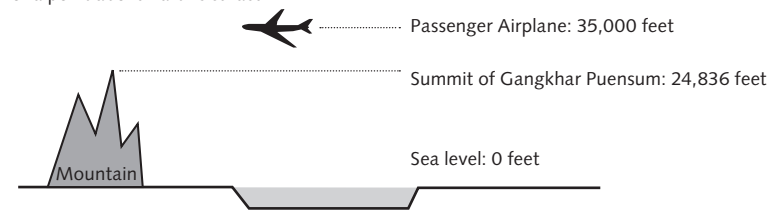
Very High: 11,500-18,000 feet

High: 5,000-11,500 feet

Altitude: height above sea level of a point above Earth's surface

Facts about Gangkhar Puensum

- Its name means, "White Peak of the Three Spiritual Brothers."
- It is the highest mountain in Bhutan and the highest unclimbed mountain in the world.
- In 2004, all mountaineering was banned in Bhutan out of respect for spiritual beliefs.



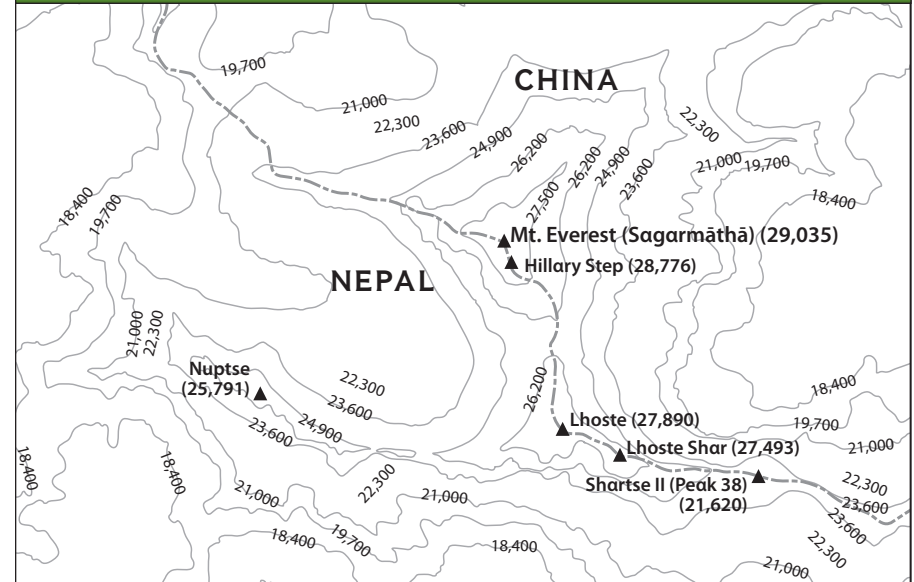
1. What elevation is shown for Gangkhar Puensum?

2. Into which elevation range does this mountain fall?

3. How far is the airplane flying above the land surface?

4. How far is the airplane flying above the peak of the mountain?

ELEVATIONS OF MOUNT EVEREST



Contour Map A contour map uses lines and numbers to show the shape of a land surface and its slope. Points along a contour line are of equal elevation. An interval is the difference in elevation between two contour lines.

5. Mark the contour line at 22,300 feet. Now look at the contour line just below that line. What interval is shown between these two contour lines?

6. Closely spaced contour lines show the steepest route up Mount Everest. Circle the areas on the map that show the steepest routes.

7. Pick a site on the map for your base camp. Then draw your proposed route up Mount Everest.