

INSPIRE OTHERS – WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST?

STUDENT GUIDE

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On May 25, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer was the first blind person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. Even more amazing was the fact that in his group 19 out of 20 summited (a success that has never been duplicated) in spite of predictions that Erik would be a liability and possibly even get him and his teammates killed.



The story of how he and his team (minus one person who had to climb back down due to illness) made it successfully to the summit is worth digging into. Although we may never attempt to climb Mount Everest, are there elements of this story that we might pull into our own challenges?



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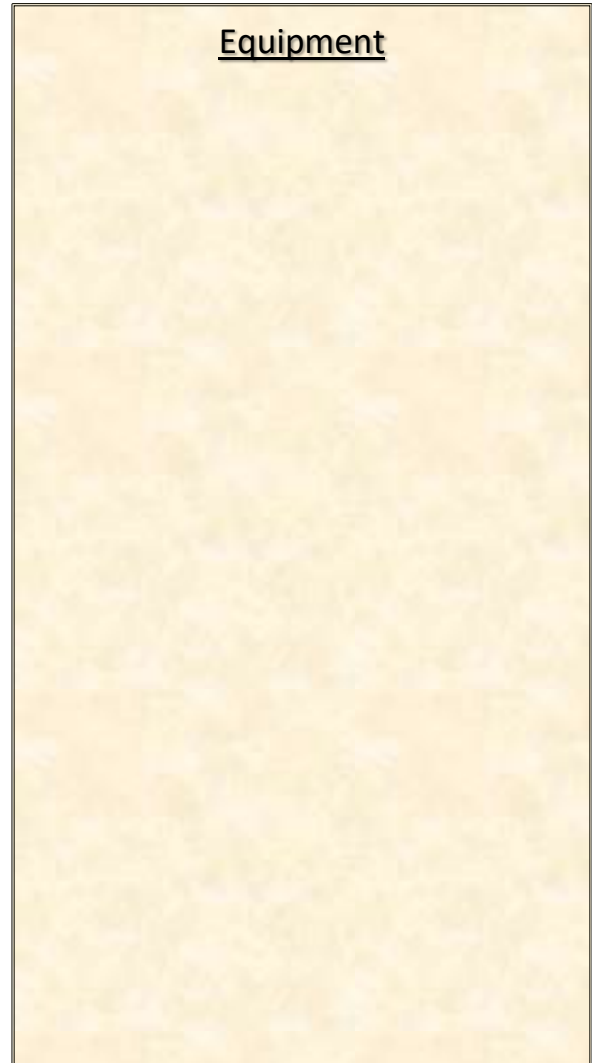
CLIMBING MOUNT EVEREST

Think about the physical skills it requires to climb the tallest peak in the world. Then take that a step further and think about the kinds of equipment you would need. Consider the odds of success even if you possess all of the skills and all of the best equipment that money can buy. Is it 100%? Not even close!

Physical Skills



Equipment



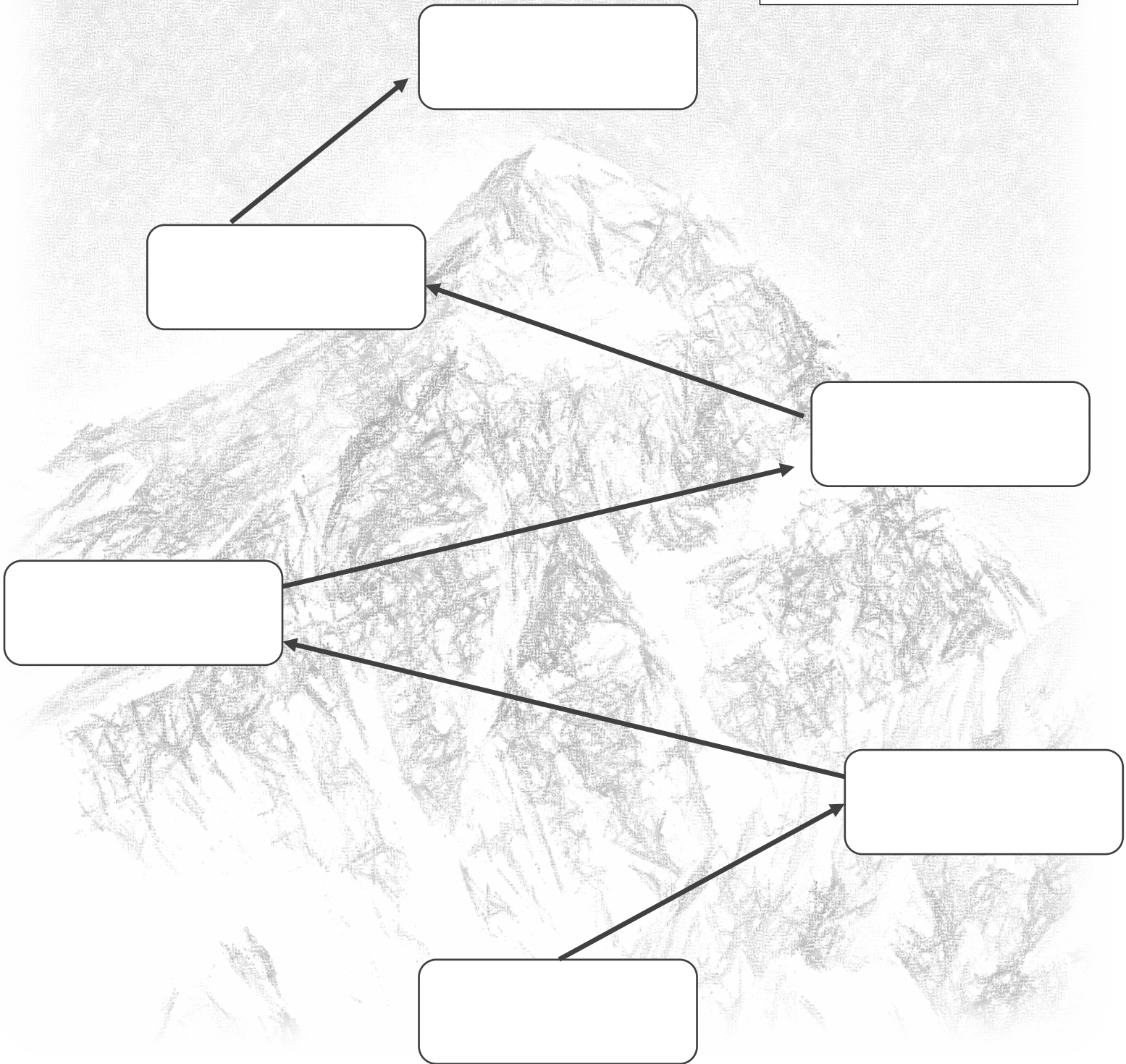
If the success rate of climbing Mount Everest isn't directly related to physical skills and specific equipment, then how can we predict possible success? And what about the team of Erik Weihenmayer who were "burdened" by his blindness? Certainly, sight would seem to be a necessary physical skill to climb the world's tallest mountain!

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“One man’s mission to reach the top of the world is actually the story of his whole team.”

Graphic – the Mount Everest infographic framework from the Teacher’s Guide (no text)



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4 ESSENTIAL ROLES OF LEADERSHIP

“One man’s mission to reach the top of the world is actually the story of his whole team.”

Erik’s journey is the perfect story to start our journey on the path to becoming a more successful leader, in part because it reminds us that to be a leader, one must have a team. It also offers us the opportunity to examine how one team took on a seemingly insurmountable challenge using the *4 Essential Roles of Leadership*.

As you fill in the labels on the graphic below, consider what the central role is and how the other roles both depend on that and also lead to each other.

