

**SECTION**  
**3****Section Focus**  
**Transparency Activity****The Growth of a Mountain**

Did you know that Mount Everest, the world's highest point, is two meters higher than previously thought? Researchers on a 1999 expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society used sophisticated satellite equipment to measure the peak's height. They found the elevation to be 8,850 m (29,035 feet), instead of 8,848 m (29,028 feet)—a measurement that had been accepted since 1954.



1. In general, what do you think conditions are like at the top of Mount Everest compared to the base?
2. What causes the plume coming off the summit of Mount Everest?
3. How do winds affect air travel?