

**Sample Paper 11****Score for Voice** _____**Annapurna: One of the 14**

There are fourteen mountain peaks, each over 8,000 meters tall, in the Himalayan mountains on the border between China and India. Annapurna is one of those fourteen. At 26,545 feet, it is the tenth highest mountain in the world. It was first climbed in 1950 by Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal.

The name *Annapurna*, translated from Sanskrit, means Goddess of the Harvests. The literal translation is “full of food.” It is a very dangerous mountain to climb with the highest mortality (death) rate of any of the 8,000 meter peaks. There have been 130 successful climbs and 53 deaths. Actually, Annapurna is made up of several peaks, with six of them higher than 7,000 meters.

Mountain climbing is exciting and dangerous. You can suffer a fatal fall or die of hypothermia. According to one study, mountain climbers can also lose brain cells and weaken their motor skills if they climb at high elevations.

Annapurna continues to attract climbers because of its mystery and beauty and danger.

Sources

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Messner, Reinhold. 2000. *Annapurna: 50 Years of Expeditions in the Death Zone*. Published in Seattle, WA by The Mountaineers Books, 2000.

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/mountain-climbing-bad-for-the-brain/> New York Times on-line Oct. 20, 2008 Mountain Climbing Bad for the Brain by Tara Parker-Pope