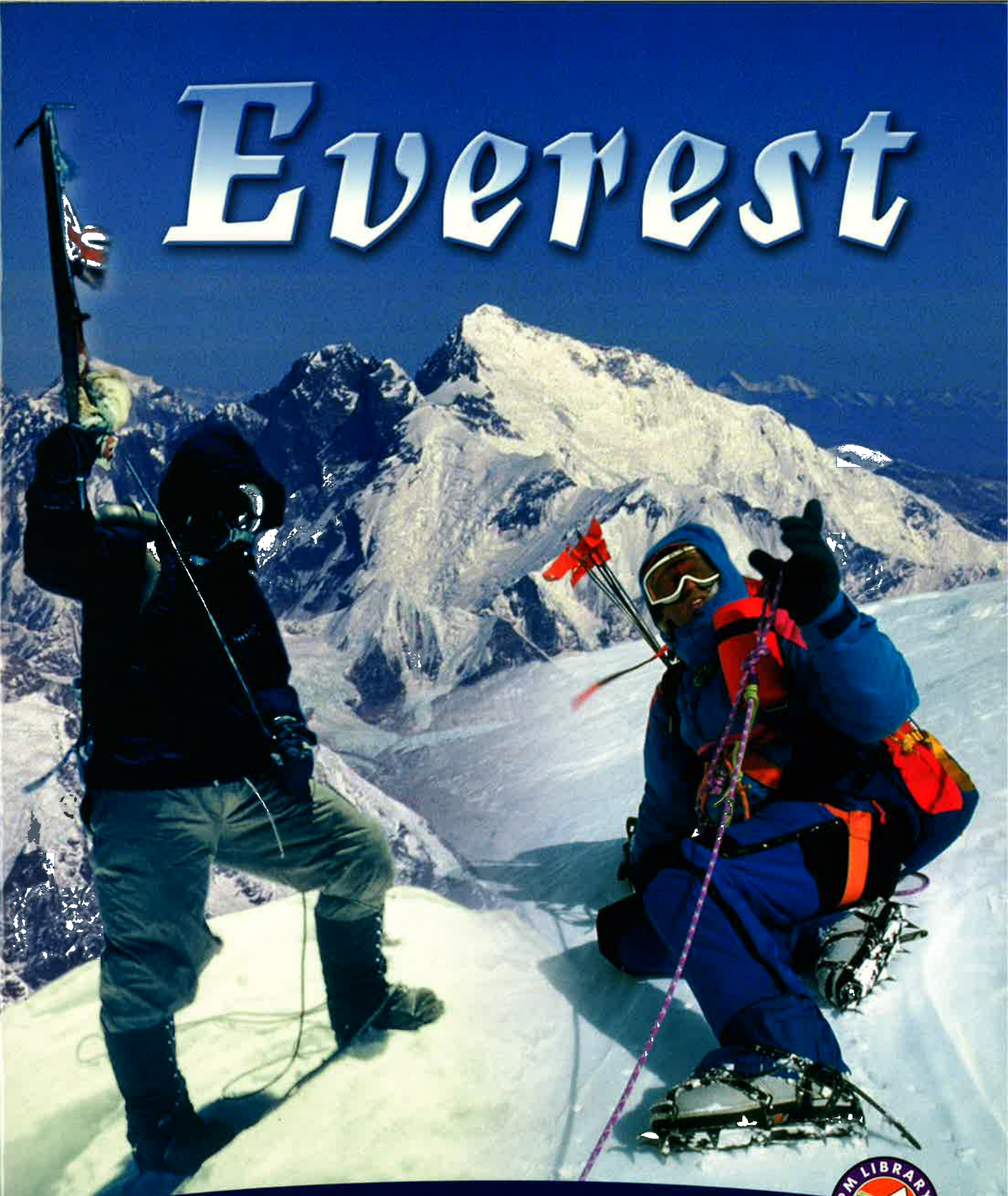
Everest



Jim Howes

PM LIBRARY

Contents

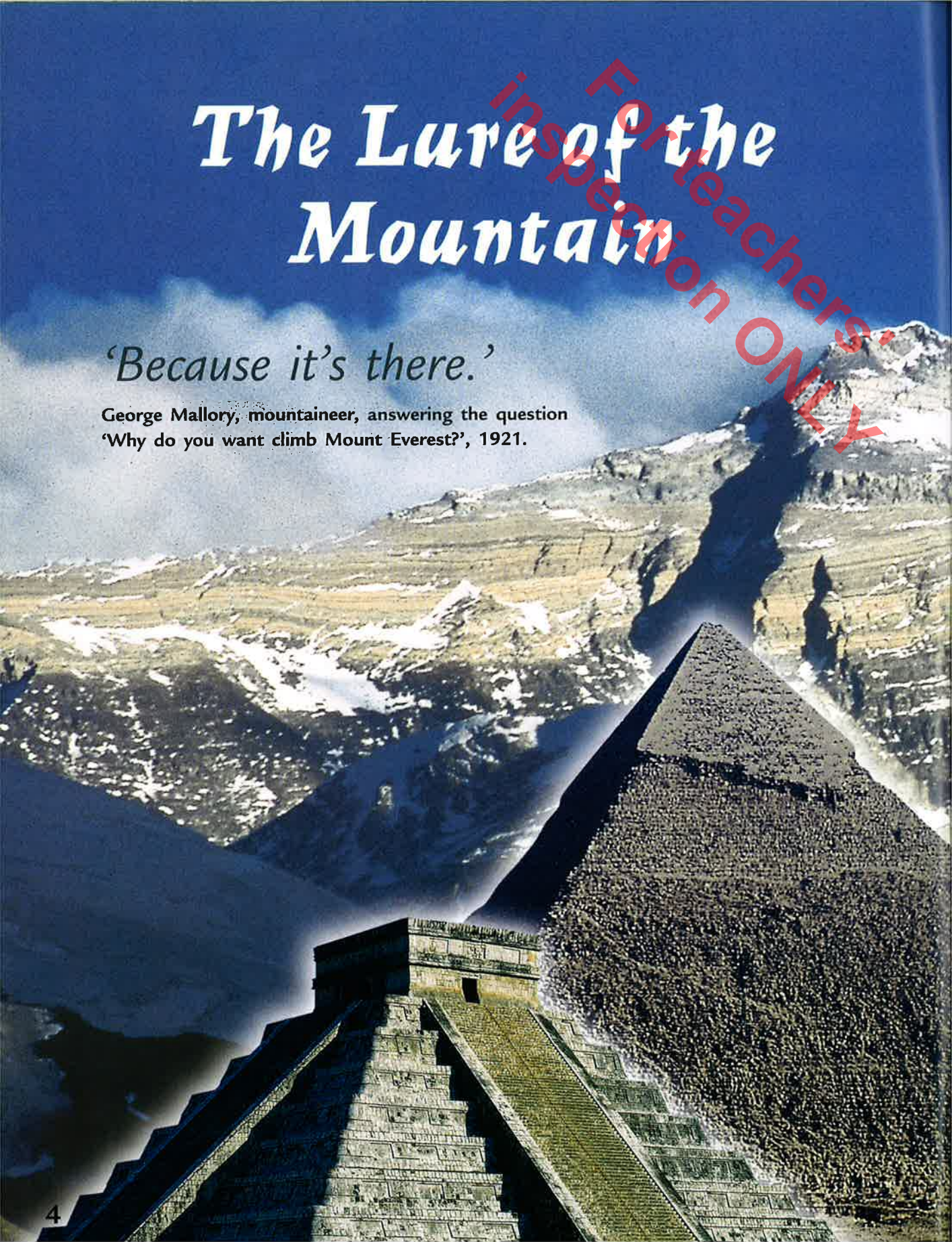
The Lure of the Mountain	4
The 60 Million-Year-Old Challenge	6
The Culture of the Mountain	8
Mapping the Mountain	12
Early Climbing on Everest	16
An Extreme World	20
Off the Mountain, Into Legend	22
Victory on Everest	26
Crowded Mountain	30
Glossary	32
Further Reading	32
Index	33

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Lure of the Mountain

'Because it's there.'

George Mallory, mountaineer, answering the question 'Why do you want climb Mount Everest?', 1921.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

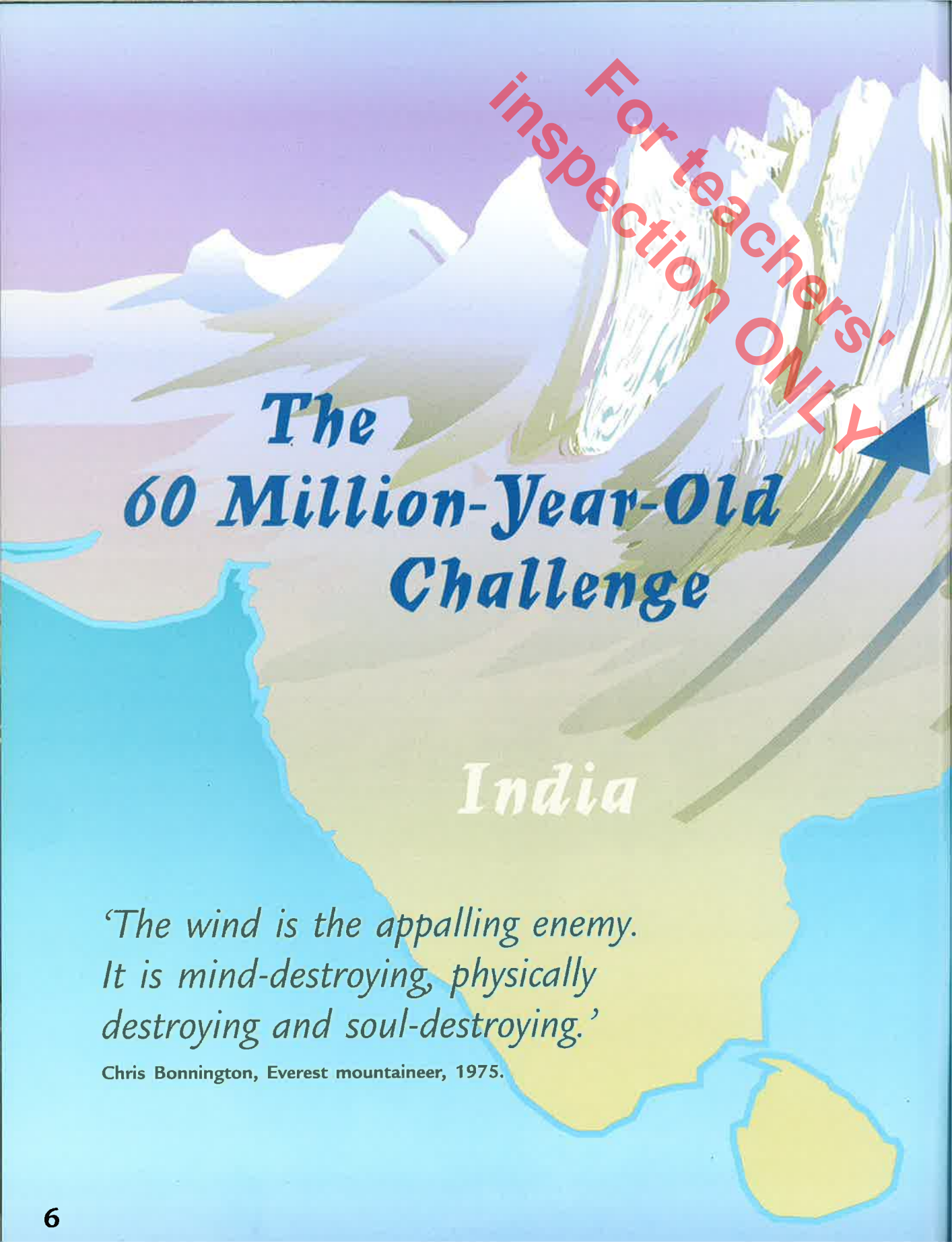
People have always been fascinated by mountains. Mountains have influenced the lives of people from cultures all over the world. They are sources of religious thought, of spiritual writings and of ceremony.

Mountains capture our imagination. Even architecture tends to imitate a mountain's shape. Just look at the great pyramids of ancient Egypt, or the temples of the Mayans in Central America. These great structures and buildings reflect a mountain's shape.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Mount Everest, in the Himalaya, is the tallest mountain on Earth. People are drawn to it for all sorts of reasons and with all sorts of results.

Pyramids and temples reflect the mountain's shape.

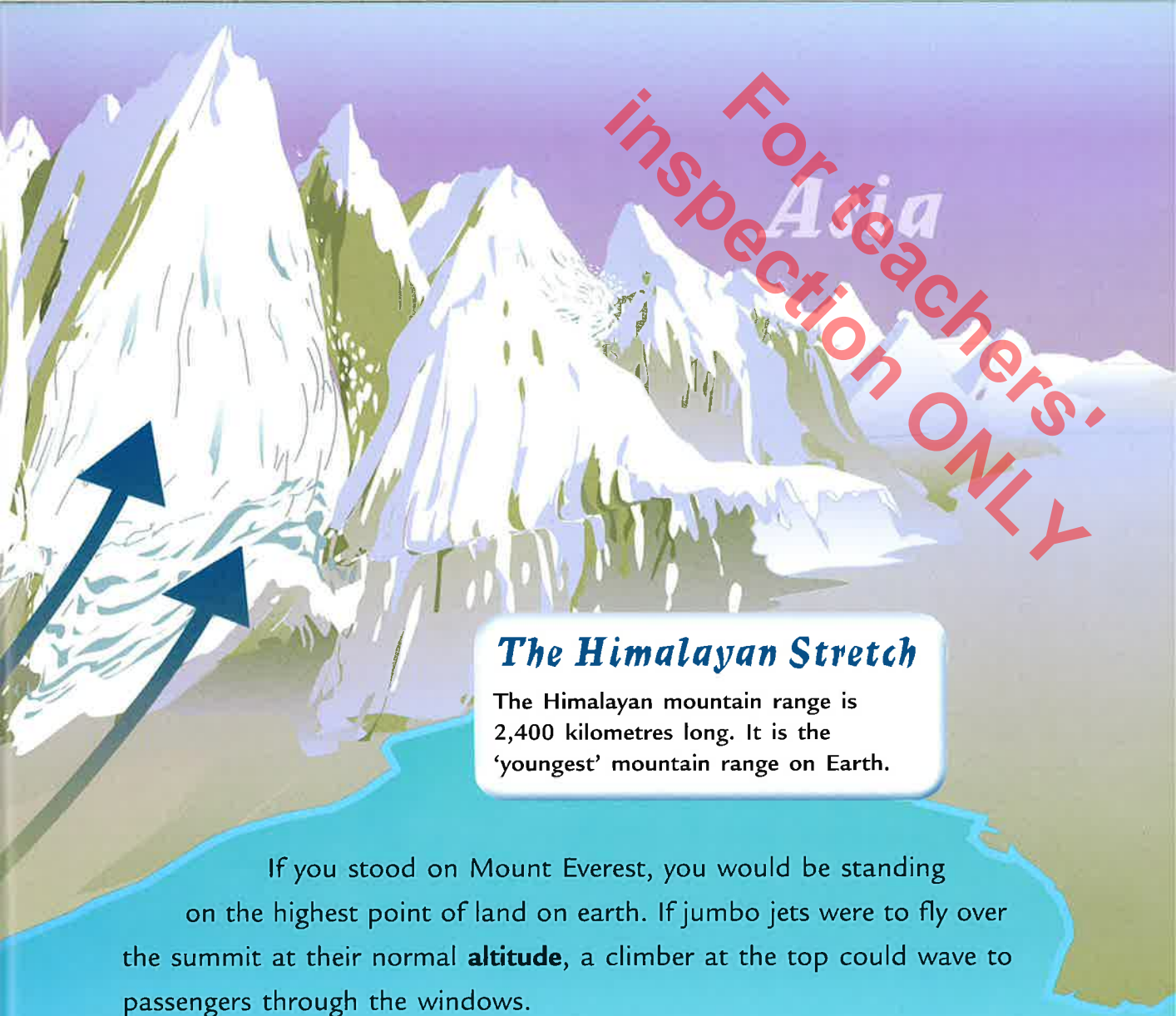


For teachers' inspection ONLY

The 60 Million-Year-Old Challenge

'The wind is the appalling enemy. It is mind-destroying, physically destroying and soul-destroying.'

Chris Bonnington, Everest mountaineer, 1975.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Himalayan Stretch

The Himalayan mountain range is 2,400 kilometres long. It is the 'youngest' mountain range on Earth.

If you stood on Mount Everest, you would be standing on the highest point of land on earth. If jumbo jets were to fly over the summit at their normal **altitude**, a climber at the top could wave to passengers through the windows.

The Himalayan mountain range, which Mount Everest is part of, has most of the tallest mountain peaks in the world. Mount Everest, measured in 1999 using **global-positioning satellites**, is 8,849 metres above sea level.

Mount Everest was formed about sixty million years ago. As the Earth's continents drifted apart, the land mass that is now India collided with the greater land mass that is now Asia. When the two lands met, the impact forced part of the land downwards and the rest upwards, forming the mountain range of the Himalaya. The Himalayas took millions of years to form. Scientists tell us that, even today, the mountain range is still shifting.

The Culture of the Mountain

For teachers' inspection ONLY

'The Goddess of the Sky is both love and destruction.'

Buddhist Monk.

Mount Everest has always been important to local cultures. Tucked away on the border of Nepal and Tibet, Mount Everest is known to the Nepalese as Chomolungma *(cho-mo-loong-ma)* which means 'mother goddess of the universe'. In Tibet, it is known as Sagarmatha *(sa-gar-math-a)*, which means 'goddess of the sky'.

