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The Sherpa: People of the Mountains

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Nonfiction 5-6



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Good People

They are strong, smart, and hard-working. These words **describe** the Sherpa people.





Mountains, caves, and forests were thought to be the homes of gods.

Hundreds of years ago, the Sherpa traveled. They moved from Tibet to Nepal. They came to live on the south side of the Himalayan Mountains. The people had strong **religious** ideas. One very important belief was that mountains were homes of gods.



The Sherpa lived near the tallest mountain in the world: Mount Everest. This mountain, which they call “Mother of the World,” ended up being a wonderful gift for these proud and strong people. Today it is the reason forty thousand Sherpa people still live in that area.

Working the Land and Helping Others

Long ago the Sherpa were not mountain climbers. They were farmers. In the 1920s, the British people planned some mountain climbing trips. They wanted to climb the Himalayan Mountains.

Everyone in a Sherpa family helps with farming.



Since the Sherpa lived there, some of them were hired to help. They served as guides. They were asked to carry food and clothing. They carried bedding. They carried anything climbers needed for the long trip.





The Sherpa also had **yaks**. These strong animals were used to help them farm. The yaks helped carry some of the climbers' things on their backs.