

Scotland's Munros

Read carefully and complete the answers to the questions below:

Munro-bagging is a popular pastime for hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers in Scotland. To bag a Munro means to climb to the top of a mountain that is over 3000 feet or 914.4m high.

The mountains known as Munros were first identified in 1891 by Sir Hugh Munro (1856 - 1919) and published in the Journal of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. Sir

Hugh listed 283 separate mountains as Munros. It had been previously thought that there were only around 30 mountains of that height. He also listed more Munro Tops (summits over 3000 feet) that are not separate mountains.

Sir Hugh did not reach the top of all the mountains on his list before he died, but a church minister, Reverend A E Robertson, completed the first list of Munros in 1901. Since then, climbing all the peaks on the list has become a popular activity.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club took over the job of keeping Sir Hugh's list of Munros up to date. The first revised list was published in 1921 and the most recent list was published in 2012. There are now thought to be 282 Munros. The highest Munro is Ben Nevis at 4411 feet or 1345m. Ben Nevis is also the highest peak in the British Isles. Other well known Munros are Ben Lomond (974m), Ben Hope (927m), Ben Macdui (1309m) and Lochnagar (1155m).

In the late 1980s, Munro-bagging became extremely popular and today the numbers of people who take part in it are huge. Those who climb all the Munro summits are known as Compleatists (which comes from the old word for complete) or Munroists. It is a huge achievement! In 2010, Munroist Stephen Pike climbed all 282 peaks in 39 days, 9 hours and 6 minutes. As well as scaling the Munros, today many people also try to climb all the mountains known as the Corbetts (between



762 and 914.4m high) and Grahams (between 610m and 762m high).

Anyone taking part in Munro-bagging should plan their climb carefully. Scotland's mountains are beautiful but extremely dangerous in bad weather or if you are not properly equipped.



Questions

1. Who is Munro-bagging popular with? Why do you think this is the case?

2. Why are these mountains known as Munros?

3. Sir Hugh Munro said that there were 283 Munros but the list today shows only 282. Why do you think there is a difference?

4. Who was the first to climb all of the first list of Munros?

5. What other important fact do we know about the highest Munro?

Questions

6. Name and rank in height order (highest to lowest), three more Munros.

7. In 2010, Munroist Stephen Pike climbed all 282 peaks in 39 days, 9 hours and 6 minutes. How big an achievement would it be to become a Compleatist or Munroist? Explain your answer.

8. What are the differences between Munros, Corbetts and Grahams?

9. Why should anyone taking part in Munro-bagging plan their climb carefully?

10. What equipment and skills do you think would be important to have before setting out to climb a Munro?
