Scotland's Munros

Read carefully and complete the answers to the questions below:

Munro-bagging is a popular pastime for hill walkers and climbers 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 listed in 1891 by Sir Hugh Munro and the list was published in the Journal of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. Sir Hugh said there were 283 Munros.

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

The Scottish Mountaineering Club took over the job of keeping Sir Hugh's list of Munros up to date and the most recent list was published in 2012. There are now thought to be 282 Munros. The highest Munro is Ben Nevis at 1345m high. 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 very popular and today the numbers of people who take part 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.

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. What does to bag a Munro mean?

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2. When were Munros first listed?

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3. Who first listed all the Munros?

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4. How many Munros did Sir Hugh say there were?

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5. Who keeps the list of Munros up to date?

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6. How many Munros are there thought to be today?

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7. What is the name given to someone who climbs all the Munros?

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8. Why should someone who goes Munro-bagging plan their climb carefully?

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