

CLIMBING MT. WHITNEY

Miguel's uncle Ed was training to climb Mt. Everest. After talking with his uncle about the trip, Miguel asked his mom, Mrs. Sanchez, if he could climb Everest too. She suggested that they start with a smaller mountain.

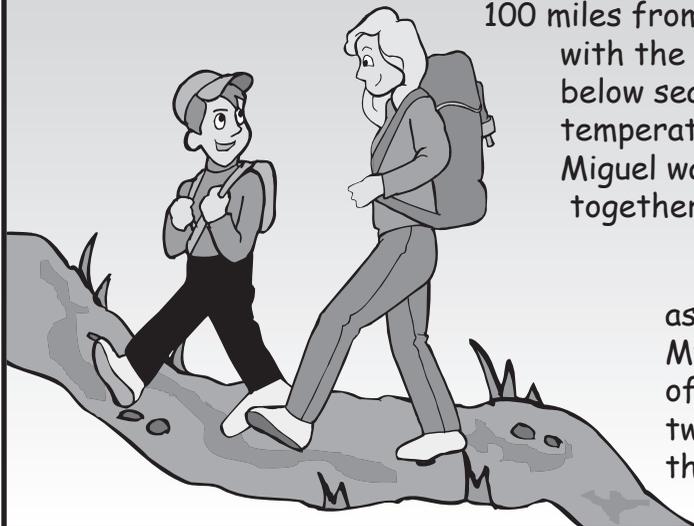
Mrs. Sanchez was a National Park Ranger, so she knew a lot about mountains all over the United States. She told Miguel about Mt. Whitney in California. Mt. Whitney is the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states, with an elevation of 14,495 feet. Mrs. Sanchez said that it wasn't far from where they lived, and the trail to the summit was difficult but not impossible. After all, the trail starts at 8,357 feet above sea level.

Miguel began to train for his hike by walking several miles each day after school. He knew that the trail to the summit of Mt. Whitney was 11 miles each way, so he worked very hard to prepare.

On a Saturday in July, Miguel and his mom began their hike up Mt. Whitney at 3:00 AM. They packed their lunches and lots of water. The weather was very pleasant, although Mrs. Sanchez told Miguel that in the winter temperatures can get to 0° F and below! They hiked all day and reached the summit at 2:00 PM.

From the top of Mt. Whitney, they could see many mountains and valleys. Mrs. Sanchez pointed out Death Valley to Miguel. She told him Death Valley was less than 100 miles from Mt. Whitney, but it contained the point with the lowest elevation in the country, 282 feet below sea level. It also had the highest recorded temperature. It was 134° F one day in 1993! Miguel was amazed that two places could be so close together and still be so different.

On the way down the mountain, Miguel asked his mom if she thought he could climb Mt. Everest. She told him that the elevation of Mt. Everest is 29,035 ft. That's more than twice as tall as Mt. Whitney. Miguel decided that maybe he should wait for a while.



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Round to the nearest hundred feet and estimate the sum of the elevation of Mt. Whitney and the elevation of Death Valley.

Round the elevations to the nearest hundred feet, then estimate the total height above sea level if you placed Mt. Whitney on top of Mt. Everest.

The trail to Mt. Whitney begins at an elevation of 8,357 feet. On average, how many feet in elevation did they climb for each mile of trail walked?

Create a word problem from the information in the story and solve it.

