

REACHING FOR THE TOP

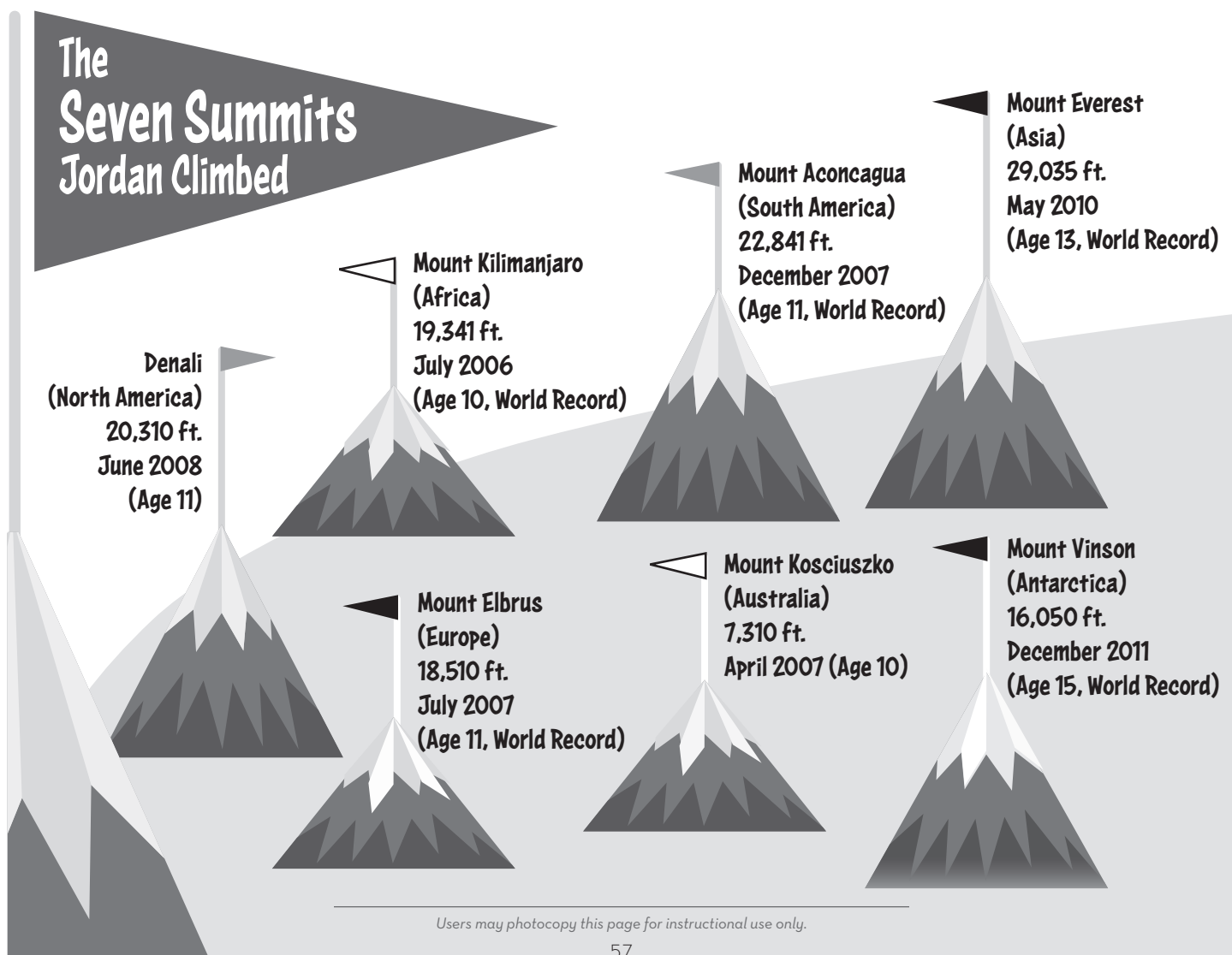


BY KASSANDRA RADOMSKI

- 1 For six years, Jordan Romero had been devoted to chasing a dream. That dream took him to the tops of the world's highest mountains. The dream came true when the California teenager stepped onto the peak of Mount Vinson in Antarctica. On that day—December 24, 2011—15-year-old Jordan became the youngest person to have climbed the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents. These mountains are known as the Seven Summits. (A summit or peak is the highest point of a mountain.)
- 2 It all began when Jordan was nine years old. He became fascinated by a school mural that showed the Seven Summits. Jordan had never climbed a mountain before. But he told his dad that he wanted to climb them ALL!
- 3 Training to climb the highest mountains in the world involves a lot of hard work. But Jordan has always been very physically active—it's just the way he lives. Still, there were times when he thought, *Yeah, I want to be done.*
- 4 When 13-year-old Jordan began planning his climb of the highest of all the mountains—Mount Everest—many mountain climbers talked about whether he should be allowed to do this very difficult trip. Many thought he was too

young. They said his body was too small, and it might be too stressful for someone so young to make the climb. Others worried about him becoming ill from the high altitude. But Jordan refused to give up. He just became more determined. From the base camp partway up the mountain, he sent an email that said, “I really have dreamed about standing on top of the world since I was a little kid. I don’t feel like I am rushing. Everest just happens to come now when I am 13, and I don’t think age matters so much.”

- 5 Later he recalled thinking, *All you naysayers, I’ll show you.* He sure did. When he made it to the top, he became the youngest person to scale Mount Everest. From the summit, Jordan used a satellite phone to call his mother, who had been following his climb on a map and a GPS tracker the climbers carried.
- 6 Now Jordan encourages kids to “find your Everest.” That doesn’t mean he wants everyone to start mountain climbing. He means find something you love doing and set goals to accomplish it. “Anything is possible,” Jordan says.



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Test Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What can you conclude about Jordan's family after reading this passage?

- a. They thought Jordan was too young to accomplish his goal of climbing the Seven Summits.
- b. They encouraged Jordan to accomplish his goal of climbing the Seven Summits.
- c. They thought Jordan was too young, weak, and small to climb the Seven Summits.
- d. They discouraged Jordan from accomplishing his goal of climbing the Seven Summits.

2. Which of the following is a true statement about the Seven Summits Jordan climbed?

- a. Jordan reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro after he reached the summit of Mount Everest.
- b. Jordan reached the summit of Mount Everest after he reached the summit of Mount Elbrus.
- c. Jordan reached the summit of Mount Aconcagua after he reached the summit of Mount Vinson.
- d. Jordan reached the summit of Denali before he reached the summit of Mount Kosciuszko.

3. What is the meaning of the word *devoted* as it is used in the paragraph below?

For six years, Jordan Romero had been **devoted** to chasing a dream. That dream took him to the tops of the world's highest mountains. The dream came true when the California teenager stepped onto the peak of Mount Vinson in Antarctica.

- a. disloyal
- b. outvoted
- c. dedicated
- d. challenged

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Test Questions (*continued*)

4. Which of the following statements best describes the author’s point of view about Jordan climbing the Seven Summits?

- a. Mountain climbing is too dangerous to do when you are young.
- b. Jordan should have stopped after he climbed Mount Everest.
- c. Jordan’s accomplishments are impressive and inspiring.
- d. It is not important to climb mountains in Antarctica.

5. What caused Jordan to say that “anything is possible” in the last paragraph?

- a. He wants everyone to remain dedicated to their dreams and accomplish their goals.
- b. He hopes that one day he will accomplish his dream of climbing more mountains.
- c. He wants everyone to start mountain climbing, regardless of their age.
- d. He hopes to convince others that dreams are easy to accomplish, but they just can’t give up.