

The Man Who Moved a Mountain:

A True Story of One Man's Endeavour

Dashrath Manjhi was a poor man who worked as a labourer in a remote mountain village near Bihar in eastern India. After a tragic event, he dedicated his life to a project which led to him becoming known as 'Mountain Man' or 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'.



When Manjhi's wife fell one day, she was injured and in need of medical help. The journey to the nearest hospital was 55 kilometres. Sadly, Manjhi's wife died because she could not reach a hospital in time.

The labourer said that he never wanted anyone else to suffer the same fate as his wife. He spent the next 22 years creating a road through the mountain with only a hammer and chisel. Manjhi had to sell the family's three goats to buy the hammer and chisel that he used. When news spread about what the man was doing, many people thought that he had gone mad. People thought that he would die before he had time to finish his mission.

However, in honour of his wife, he continued for more than twenty years, working day and night. By the time he had finished, he had carved a road through the side of the mountain. His village now has access to schools, hospitals and jobs for the first time. Thanks to the efforts of this 'Mountain Man', the distance from the village to hospital changed from 55km to 15km.

The road that he created is 9 metres wide and 110 metres long.

In 2011, a documentary film was made about Dashrath Manjhi, called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Another film was made in 2015 called 'Manjhi – The Mountain Man'.

Location Fact File: Bihar is a state in eastern India. To the north, it borders Nepal. The famous River Ganges flows right through Bihar from west to east. The Himalayan mountains begin a short distance over the border into Nepal.

Questions

1. How long did Dashrath Manjhi spend carving out the passageway through the mountain?
Tick **one**.

- Five months
- Fifty-five weeks
- Two years
- Twenty-two years

2. **Circle** the correct answer.

When Manjhi first started the mission, people thought that he was:

- clever mad happy strong

3. Draw lines to match the measurements of the new road that the Mountain Man created.

Journey from the village to the hospital	110 metres
Width of the road	15 kilometres
Length of the road	9 metres

4. What was Dashrath Manjhi's job? Circle **one**.

- doctor farmer labourer film maker

5. Why do you think Manjhi's mission was a difficult one? Give two different reasons to support your answer.

6. Write down one thing that the village had new access to after the project was complete.

7. What was the name of the documentary film that was made about Dashrath Manjhi in 2015?

Answers

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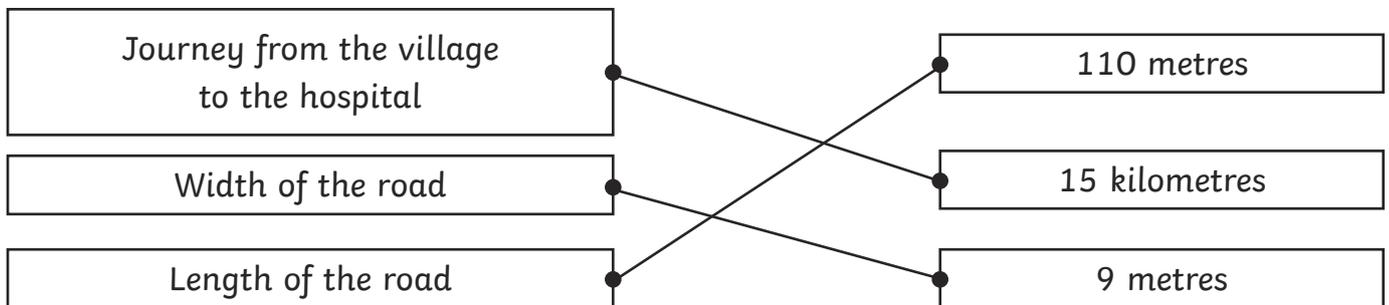
clever

mad

happy

strong

3. Draw lines to match the measurements of the new road that the Mountain Man created.



4. What was Dashrath Manjhi's job? Circle **one**.

doctor

farmer

labourer

film maker

Why do you think Manjhi's mission was a difficult one? Give two different reasons to support your answer.

Accept any two of the following:

- he worked alone/he had no help;
- he used only a hammer and chisel/he didn't have the best tools/he didn't have any specialist equipment;
- it took an incredibly long time/a lot of time and effort was needed;
- the rock would have been very difficult to break and carve;
- there was a lot of rock or mountain to break through/the distance was very long.

5. Write down one thing that the village had new access to after the project was complete.

Accept any of the following: schools; jobs; hospitals.

6. What was the name of the documentary film that was made about Dashrath Manjhi in 2015?

'Manjhi – The Mountain Man'

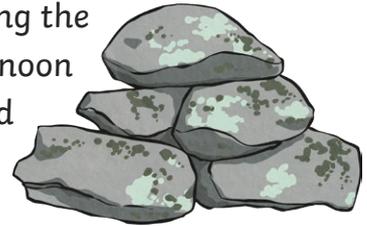
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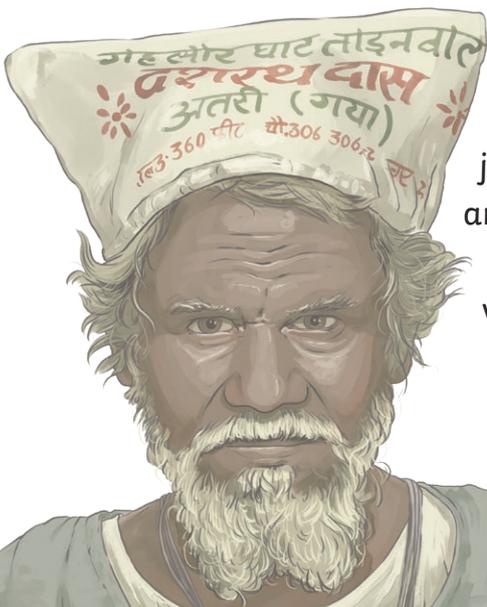
Dashrath Manjhi was a relatively poor man who worked as a labourer in a remote mountain village near Bihar in eastern India. After a tragic event, he dedicated his life to an incredible project which led to him becoming known as 'Mountain Man' or 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'.

Living on a mountain just south of the Himalayas, Manjhi and his community were isolated from the nearest towns. When his wife accidentally fell one day, she was injured and in need of medical help. The journey to the nearest hospital or doctor was 55km and, sadly, Manjhi's wife died as a result of being unable to receive medical attention in time.

The labourer said that he never wanted anyone else to suffer the same fate as his wife. He spent the next 22 years single-handedly creating a passageway through the mountain with only a hammer and chisel. Before he ploughed the fields each morning, he spent hours of every day hammering the rock of the mountain. He would then return in the afternoon and into the evening to continue his quest. Manjhi had to sell the family's three goats to buy the hammer and chisel that he used.



When news spread about what the man was doing, many people thought that he had gone mad. His community worried that he would die before ever coming close to completing the mission. However, in honour of his wife, he continued for more than two decades, from 1960 to 1982, working day and night. By the time he had finished, he had carved a road through the side of the mountain. The village now has access to schools, hospitals and jobs for the first time, and Dashrath Manjhi became an inspiration to the whole society. Thanks to the efforts of this 'Mountain Man', the distance from the village to hospital was reduced from 55km to 15km.



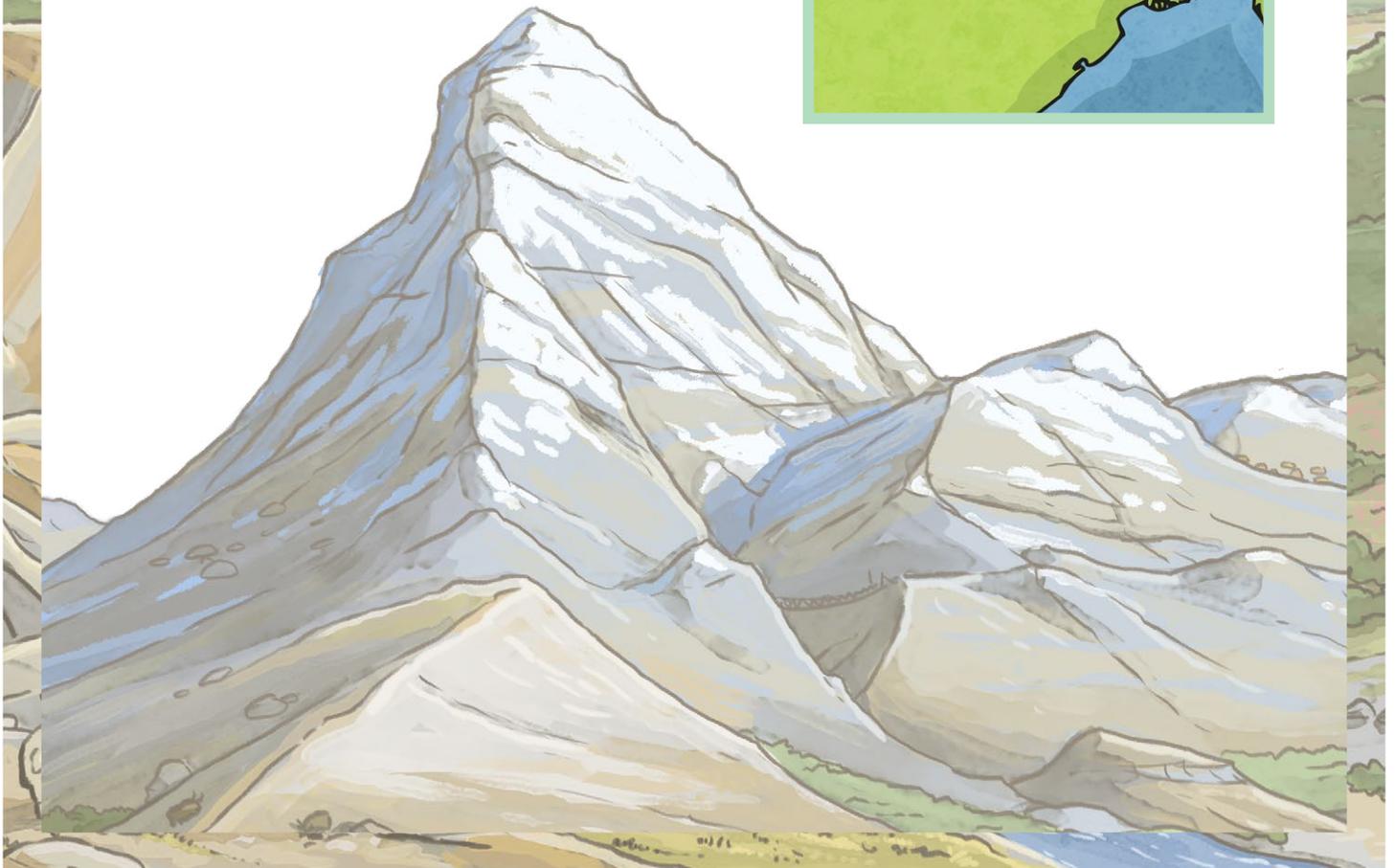
The Man Who Moved a Mountain

The road that he created is flanked by 7.5m high mountain walls on either side. It is 9m wide and 110m long.

In 2011, a documentary film was made about Dashrath Manjhi, called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Another film was made in 2015 called 'Manjhi – The Mountain Man'.

Location Fact File: Gehlaur is a village in the Gaya district of Bihar state in eastern India. To the north, it borders Nepal. The famous River Ganges flows right through Bihar from west to east. The Himalayan mountains begin a short distance over the border into Nepal.

Dashrath Manjhi died on 17th August 2007. He was given a state funeral by the government of Bihar, which is a type of public ceremony usually only held to honour very important or significant individuals.



Questions

1. How long did Dashrath Manjhi spend carving out the passageway through the mountain?

2. Which of these statements best describes other people's reaction to Manjhi's project when he first started? **Tick two.**

- They encouraged him to get started
- They thought he had gone mad
- They helped him to begin with
- They thought he would die before he completed it

3. The road which he created is flanked by 7.5m high mountain walls on either side. What is the meaning of the word **flanked**?

4. Which parts of the day did Manjhi spend on carving the passageway?

5. Dashrath Manjhi was given a state funeral. What does this suggest about the way the government felt about his actions?

6. The local people were happy when the project was finally complete. According to the text, what **three things** did they have access to that they previously did not?

7. One of the documentary films was called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Why do you think this was a good name for the film?

8. Look at the **Location Fact File**:
Which direction is Nepal from India? Circle **one**.

north

east

south

west

Answers

- How long did Dashrath Manjhi spend carving out the passageway through the mountain?
22 years
- Which of these statements best describes other people's reaction to Manjhi's project when he first started? **Tick two.**
 - They encouraged him to get started
 - They thought he had gone mad**
 - They helped him to begin with
 - They thought he would die before he completed it**
- The road which he created is flanked by 7.5m high mountain walls on either side. What is the meaning of the word **flanked**?
'flanked' means to sit between two or more things on opposite sides
- Which parts of the day did Manjhi spend on carving the passageway?
Accept answers referring to e.g. 'before work in the early morning' and 'after work in the afternoon and evening'.
- Dashrath Manjhi was given a state funeral. What does this suggest about the way the government felt about his actions?
A state funeral is a special occasion and reserved for special or important people. This suggests that the government thought that Dashrath was special or important and that they appreciated his work.
- The local people were happy when the project was finally complete. According to the text, what **three things** did they have access to that they previously did not?
Accept schools, hospitals and jobs.
- One of the documentary films was called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Why do you think this was a good name for the film?
Children's own responses which refer to the idea that Manjhi took part of the mountain that was an obstacle and removed it, or that he moved the path from around the mountain to through it.
- Look at the **Location Fact File**.
Which direction is Nepal from India? Circle **one**.

north

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The road that he created is flanked by 25 foot (7.5 metre) high mountain walls on either side. It is 30 feet (9 metres) wide and 360 feet (110 metres) long.

In 2011, a documentary film was made about Dashrath Manjhi, called 'The Man Who Moved the Mountain'. Another film was made in 2015 called 'Manjhi – The Mountain Man'.



The Man Who Moved a Mountain

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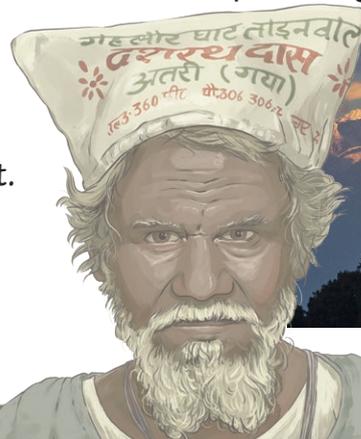


The Mountains of India

India is home to some of world's largest mountain ranges. One of the most famous is the Great Himalayan Range, which spreads across five countries. The northern region of India is covered by part of the Himalayas and the source of the River Ganges is in this mountain range. It is a popular destination for tourists to partake in rock climbing, trekking and adventure sports. This brings in money to the region from outside visitors. There are also beautiful views, valleys and forests. More importantly, the Himalayas play a large part in influencing the climate of India. They are a natural barrier against freezing winds from the north and also a defence barrier against foreign invasions.

The tallest mountain peak in India is the main Kanchenjunga peak, which is the third highest mountain in the world. The Kanchenjunga has five peaks in total. It sits on the Nepalese border and is more than 28,000 feet tall at the highest point. Around the mountain, a national park protects plants and wildlife such as the Indian leopard, musk deer, red panda and over 500 species of birds.

Many mountains in India have great religious significance and also bring economic benefits. However, there are also modern threats to the mountains such as tourism, deforestation and poaching. The negative aspect of attracting tourists is the potential damage or wear to the natural environment.



Kanchenjunga mountain peak, India.

Questions

1. What was the tragic event that prompted Dashrath Manjhi to spend so long carving a passageway through the mountain?

2. What did other people initially think of Manjhi's project when he first started?

3. Look at the first two paragraphs. Find and copy a word which means 'remote or far away from other places, buildings or people'.

4. *'The labourer said that he never wanted anyone else to suffer the same fate as his wife.'* What does this suggest about Manjhi's character?

5. What is meant by a 'state funeral' and what does this suggest about the way the government felt about Dashrath Manjhi's actions?

6. How do you think local people felt when the road through the mountain was finally completed?

7. Look at the **Location Fact File**.
Which direction is Nepal from India? Circle **one**.

north

east

south

west

8. Look at the section **The Mountains of India**.

What are the positive and negative aspects of the mountains attracting tourists to the region?

9. Complete the information in this table about **The Mountains of India**.

The first row has been done for you.

Highest peak of the Kanchenjunga in number of feet	28,000
Total number of peaks on the Kanchenjunga mountain	
Number of species of birds in the national park	
Number of countries over which the Himalayas are spread	

10. Explain why the mountains in the Great Himalayan Range are important to India as a country.

Answers

- What was the tragic event that prompted Dashrath Manjhi to spend so long carving a passageway through the mountain?

The death of his wife/his wife being unable to receive medical care before she died
- What did other people initially think of Manjhi's project when he first started?

Accept either:

 - **they thought that he had gone mad;**
 - **they thought that he would die before he finished it.**
- Look at the first two paragraphs. Find and copy a word which means 'remote or far away from other places, buildings or people'.

isolated
- 'The labourer said that he never wanted anyone else to suffer the same fate as his wife.'*
What does this suggest about Manjhi's character?

Accept reference to the following:

 - **he was kind/caring/selfless;**
 - **he didn't want others to suffer;**
 - **he tried to find a positive outcome to the tragic event.**
- What is meant by a 'state funeral' and what does this suggest about the way the government felt about Dashrath Manjhi's actions?

A state funeral is a special occasion reserved for special or important people. This suggests that the government thought Dashrath was special or important and that they appreciated his work.
- How do you think local people felt when the road through the mountain was finally completed?

Children's own responses which suggest that the villagers were happy/delighted/grateful/relieved. Award one further mark for explanation which refers to villagers having a shorter journey or being able to access schools, hospitals and/or jobs which they previously could not.
- Look at the **Location Fact File**.

Which direction is Nepal from India? Circle **one**.

north

east

south

west

8. Look at the section **The Mountains of India**.

What are the positive and negative aspects of the mountains attracting tourists to the region?

Accept both: the positive effects of 'bringing money to the region from outside visitors'; the negative effects of 'damage or wear to the natural environment'.

9. Complete the information in this table about **The Mountains of India**.

The first row has been done for you.

Highest peak of the Kanchenjunga in number of feet	28,000
Total number of peaks on the Kanchenjunga mountain	5
Number of species of birds in the national park	500
Number of countries over which the Himalayas are spread	5

10. Explain why the mountains in the Great Himalayan Range are important to India as a country.

Acceptable points include:

- **providing the source of rivers/the river Ganges**
- **attracting tourists for adventure sports or other activities**
- **influencing the climate/acting as a barrier against freezing winds**
- **forming a physical defence barrier against foreign invasion**
- **providing a habitat for plant and wildlife**
- **religious importance**
- **economic benefits**