

Perhaps earth's earliest humans gazed upon the many wonders of Kilimanjaro. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain and the highest freestanding mountain on earth, towers above the east African plain. Its highest summit is 5895 meters. It is so massive that its weight measurably depresses the crust of the earth. Kilimanjaro is a dormant volcano (actually three) with its last eruption occurring 100,000 years ago and is located in the country of Tanzania near the equator along Africa's Great Rift Valley.

Climbing Kilimanjaro means passing five climatic zones, including rainforest, heath, moorland, alpine desert and arctic. Temperatures range from 85 degrees F to sub zero. 15,000 people attempt to reach the summit of Kilimanjaro every year and almost half fail. But, the real adventure of climbing Kilimanjaro is in making the journey—regardless of whether the summit is reached or not.

### The Making of the Large Format film

Driving this film is the dream of capturing the dramatic sweep and beauty of Kilimanjaro for the giant screen. Accomplishing this feat is David Breashears, one of the world's leading adventure filmmakers. With *Kilimanjaro*, Breashears returns to the high-altitude environment where he feels most at ease and to a subject exceptionally suited to his filmmaking talents.



"Filming *Kilimanjaro* was a tremendous challenge; we had to climb the mountain four times to get the shots we needed. But it's been very rewarding as well. We want people who will never go there themselves to experience the wonder and magic of Kilimanjaro."

-David Breashears



#### FILMING STATS

Crew members . . . . .	9
Porters. . . . .	120
Camera porter team . . . . .	15
Trekking group . . . . .	7
Weight/film . . . . .	500 lbs.
Weight/equipment . . . . .	1200 lbs.
Overall weight carried . . . . .	7200 lbs.
Each porter carried 60 lbs.	

It took 12 days of climbing and 120 porters to film *Kilimanjaro*. Normally a four or five day climb, the extra trekking time allowed for a slow acclimation to decreasing oxygen levels during the ascent and for more observation time. What you will see in this film is the story of a journey – a journey of courage and endurance – from the lower rainforest reaches of Kilimanjaro to the arctic glaciers at the summit. Along the way the trekkers experience five climatic zones, encounter elephant bones high up the mountain and see strange landscapes that remind one trekker, Nicole Thompson of a Dr. Seuss book...**"It was beautiful and it sort of felt like I was in Dr. Seuss land because the trees are so bizarre looking."**

Experience the trekkers fears and aspirations as you see the mountain through their eyes as you view *Kilimanjaro!*

For more information on *Kilimanjaro*, please visit [hmns.org](http://hmns.org) (Film Distribution). You will find updated information on this film, including where it is being shown in theaters.

# KILIMANJARO

**“The climb requires stamina and strength of heart. They won't know they have it until they need it.”**

- Jacob Kyungai, Leader

Produced and directed by Emmy-award-winning David Breashears of *Everest* fame, this adventure of the human spirit follows the journey of six trekkers led by a local Chagga guide up the mountain through the five climate zones to the summit. On the ascent, the team explores Kilimanjaro's delicate ecosystems and their unique flora and fauna, learning about the formation of the African continent and the Great Rift Valley, as well as Africa's fiery volcanic history. “It's as if we've gone from the Amazon to Antarctica,” one team member observes of the climb.



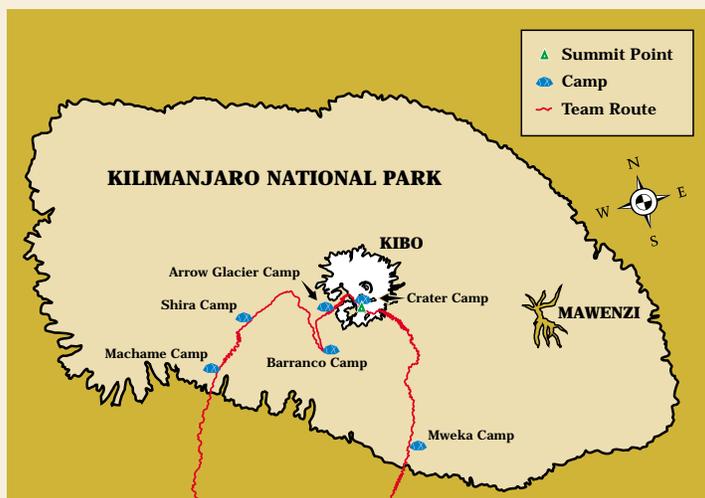
Kilimanjaro is not a challenge for seasoned mountaineers but for these trekkers the climb will be both a test of their endurance and of their bodies' ability to adjust to the mountain's drastic climate changes. During their 11-day climb, the trekkers will climb more than 55 miles to more than 19,000 feet.

## Before you view the film:

1. List five adjectives that describe your idea of what a trek up Kilimanjaro would be like.
2. Research Mt. Kilimanjaro using the internet or other sources. List 10 items you would take on a trek up Kilimanjaro. Give reasons for your choice of each item.
3. There are several routes up Kilimanjaro (see links for a helpful website). Which one would you take? Why?
4. If you could take five people with you on a trek up Kilimanjaro, whom would you take and why?

## After you view the film:

1. Now that you have viewed the film, list five adjectives that describe a trek up Kilimanjaro. Did your list change? Why?
2. Rethink your list of items necessary for a climb up Kilimanjaro. What changed on your list and why?
3. In addition to Mount Kilimanjaro, what notable sites, animals, plant life and other interesting observations could you make at Kilimanjaro National Park?
4. Would you change the people that you take along? How might taking a younger person, an older friend or a teacher affect your experience? Would you want to take people who you don't know, but who might be fun to get to know during the journey?

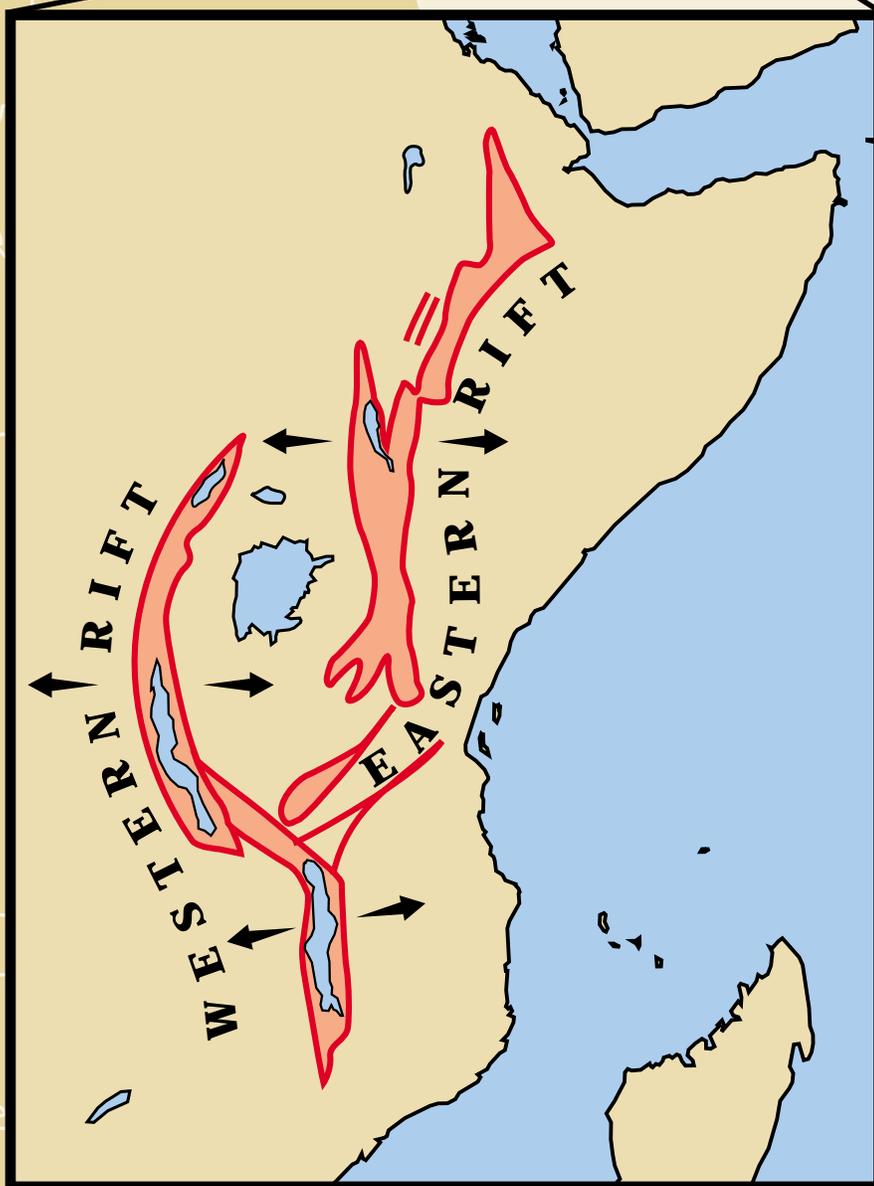
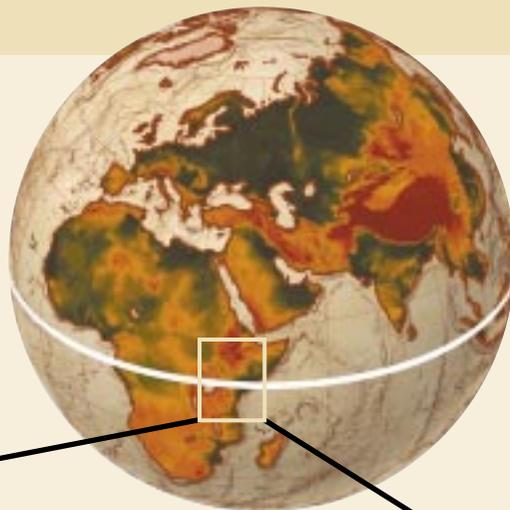


who might be fun to get to know during the journey?

5. Nicole wrote an internet diary during her Kilimanjaro trek. Write your own diary of what you think you would experience on a climb up Kilimanjaro.

6. Audrey wrote a poem about the courage she discovered in herself on Kilimanjaro. Write a poem describing how going on your own Kilimanjaro adventure would affect what you know about yourself.

# KILIMANJARO



*Kilimanjaro* is a David Breashears film produced by Kilimanjaro Inc. in collaboration with the Houston Museum of Natural Science; the Denver Museum of Nature & Science; Museum of Science, Boston; and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

# KILIMANJARO

## Scientists at Work on Kilimanjaro

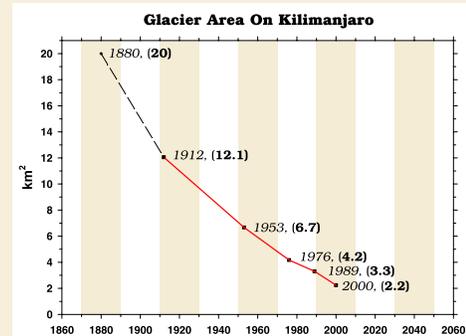
Many of us consider the ice atop Kilimanjaro a constant feature. But is it? Until about 1880, glaciers encircled the entire crater of Kilimanjaro. Today, there is considerably less ice atop Kilimanjaro than there once was.



Photo: Javed Jafferji, Swahili Coast

One way to tell is by comparing photos. Examine the photo to the left taken in March 2000. Notice the amount of ice on top of the mountain. Now go to [www.geo.umass.edu/climate/tanzania/retreat.html](http://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/tanzania/retreat.html) and look at the photo taken in March 1974. Do you see the difference in the amount of ice?

Look at the chart to the right, which plots glacier area from the year 1880 to the year 2000. Notice the decrease in glacier area over the past 120 years.



What is happening to the ice? Why? Scientists are trying to answer these questions by gathering data.

**Meet one of the research teams that studies the ice on top of Kilimanjaro!**



Dr. Doug Hardy makes electrical connections at the weather station. Photo: Mathias Vuille, UMass Geosciences

Dr. Doug Hardy, climatologist at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), led a team that erected the weather station at the top of Kilimanjaro in February 2000. The weather station operates using solar power. It measures and records air temperature, humidity, incoming solar radiation, wind speed and directions, barometric pressure and changes in the surface height of the ice cap. It sends observations several times a day to a UMass computer via satellite transmitter. The weather station is located at 5794 meters above sea level near the summit of Kilimanjaro.

The researchers know that glaciers survive where there is a net accumulation of ice from year to year. But, at this one spot, they found that the ice surface decreased in height by more than one meter after one year, removing many years of accumulation! Some people have speculated that the ice on Kilimanjaro could disappear by 2020 due to rising temperature or "global warming." Doug Hardy and his team caution against jumping to that conclusion.

## Inquiry – Think Like a Scientist!

**What questions do you have after reading the above information?**

**How can scientists find out if a decrease in glacier area on Kilimanjaro is typical of other tropical locations?**

**What evidence would you need in order to draw conclusions?**

What are some alternative explanations besides increasing air temperature that could explain why the ice is decreasing on Kilimanjaro? Understanding the health of glaciers, like bank accounts, involves considering both credits and debits. On Kilimanjaro, credit comes from precipitation (snowfall) and the primary debit is sublimation (where energy inputs, like solar energy, cause vaporization of ice instead of melting). Overall, there has been a negative balance on Kilimanjaro for more than 100 years. Explain how this negative balance could be caused by a change in precipitation.

**How are glaciers on other mountains near the equator responding to climate?**

There is research being conducted in Tibet and in the Andes. Find out more about this research! Refer to the last panel (below) for links to more information.

# KILIMANJARO

## The Trek Team of Kilimanjaro

In choosing the trek team, the *Kilimanjaro* producers sought engaging individuals with wide-ranging interests, ages, nationalities and backgrounds. The goal was to appeal to a broader audience by presenting the wonders of Kilimanjaro as seen through the eyes of youngsters, such as the 13-year-old African boy and 12-year-old American girl, to the more experienced, such as the 55-year-old science professor and 64-year-old writer and historian.



### **Jacob Kyungai**

Leading the trek team and narrating the film is Jacob, 50, a Chagga mountain guide who has climbed Kilimanjaro over 250 times. With a lifelong connection to the mountain, he has always lived at its base in Machame village. On his small farm, he raises cows and chickens and grows coffee and corn in the fertile volcanic soil, and the mists that blanket the rainforest of Kilimanjaro help water his crops. He helped design and construct some of the mountain routes, and during the Kilimanjaro team's ascent, shared his knowledge of flora and fauna in the various climate zones.



### **Nicole Wineland-Thomson**

Nicole, 12, lives with her family in Massachusetts. She loves to ride horses, hike and tackle the walls at an indoor climbing gym. She also is a seasoned world traveler, thanks to her parents' safari business. After she saw the ice-capped summit of Kilimanjaro for the first time and heard her father's tales of ascending to its peak in 1979, Nicole vowed to climb it herself. There aren't many girls of 12 who have climbed to the roof of Africa, and none have over-nighted in the crater at 18,700 feet.



### **Hans "Hansi" Mmari**

A member of the Chagga tribe, Hansi, 13, lives with his family just outside the town of Arusha, where he can see Kilimanjaro 20 miles in the distance. He excels in math, plays soccer, is accomplished on the computer and speaks English as fluently as Swahili. His father's experiences climbing Kilimanjaro fired up Hansi's imagination. Throughout the journey, he displayed remarkable tenacity and willingness to learn, taking a keen interest in the science of the volcano and the IMAX camera.



### **Audrey Salkeld**

Audrey, 64, is an award-winning writer and historian, largely on the subject of mountaineering. Audrey is at work on the National Geographic Society book about Kilimanjaro and co-authored *Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory* with David Breashears. Audrey lives in Cumbria, England. Although she has spent her career traveling to the mountains of the world, she had never climbed a peak as high as Kilimanjaro.



### **Heidi Albertsen**

A native of Denmark, Heidi, 23, is a successful model and an avid painter. She grew up taking camping trips to the Alps with her family and developed an abiding fascination for mountains and adventure. Throughout the expedition, her extroverted nature inspired her comrades. No matter how thin the air grew or how high the team ascended, Heidi's energy never flagged as she sketched, painted, wrote and photographed her way to the top.



### **Roger Bilham, PhD**

Born in England, Roger, 55, is now based at the University of Boulder in Colorado. A leading authority on earthquakes, volcanoes and tectonic plate movement, he has studied the movement of East Africa's Great Rift Valley for years. A born teacher and communicator, the professor inspired and taught the two youngest members of the team with his boundless enthusiasm for the science of mountains.

# KILIMANJARO

## Great Rift Valley - Kilimanjaro's Beginnings



Dr. Roger Bilham, Geologist

The Great Rift Valley in Eastern Africa is one of the earth's most dramatic features. It is a 6500 km long fissure in the earth's crust - which is one-sixth of the earth's circumference! It stretches from the valley of Jordan in the north to Mozambique in the south. The rift is visible from the Moon. Some of the world's most spectacular, but least known volcanoes are found on or near the Great Rift Valley where over 100 eruptions have occurred in the last 150 years.

"I'm here in the middle of this incredibly lush forest, but actually I'm sitting on the volcano with a half mile of volcanic rock beneath me."

-Roger Bilham

Kilimanjaro is a massive stratovolcano located alongside the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania. Enormous forces beneath the earth's surface tore apart and forced molten rock up in lava and pyroclastic volcanic eruptions to form Kilimanjaro. There is evidence that the rift is still in progress along the Great Rift Valley. Kilimanjaro is considered a dormant volcano, not an inactive volcano. At Kilimanjaro's highest peak, Kibo, there is an icy mile-wide crater surrounded by sulfuric steam.

Without the violent eruptions of the past, the rich grasslands around Kilimanjaro would not exist. Water percolates through the rich volcanic soil to create land prime for cultivation.

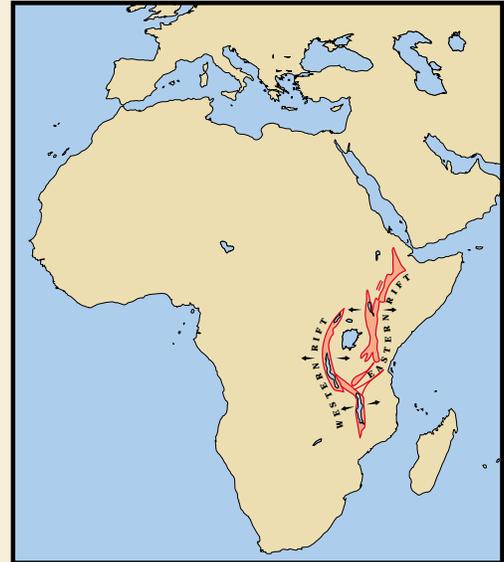
## Mapping Activity

Where in Africa is Kilimanjaro? Enlarge the map of Africa. Use maps and/or the internet as references for this activity.

On the map, indicate the location of Kilimanjaro, a dormant volcano in Tanzania. Indicate the locations of other volcanoes in Tanzania - Mt. Meru, Kerimasi, Ketumbeine, Ngorongoro Crater, and Ol Doinyo Lengai, the youngest and most active among the Tanzania volcanoes which erupts about every decade.

Identify the Olduvai Gorge, the area where early human fossils have been found.

Identify Lake Natron at the foot of Lengai. This is the most poisonous lake of Africa due to the mineral runoff. As the lake evaporates, the mineral salts concentrate. Only algae lives here. The only animal that can harvest the algae is the flamingo which flock here in the millions creating a safe place for them to nest and raise chicks.



Africa today



Africa in the distant future

## Extension

The Great Rift Valley has already been responsible for pushing Saudi Arabia off of the African continent. Because of the continuing action of the Great African Rift, Africa could look considerably different in the distant future. What is your prediction about how Africa will look? Draw your prediction in the box at left.

# KILIMANJARO

## In the Zone

*What type of climate would you expect on Kilimanjaro, a mountain near the equator?*

Trekking up Kilimanjaro means going from the heat of the equator to the frigid cold of the arctic in just four to six days. Kilimanjaro is a microcosm of many of the world's habitats and climates. Trekkers climb through five climatic zones as they ascend 5895 meters. Climatic zones are defined as regions with generally consistent temperature and precipitation. The first 1800 meters of the mountain was once dense with forests, but is now cultivated with plantations and pastures in this area of heavy rainfall and rich volcanic soils.



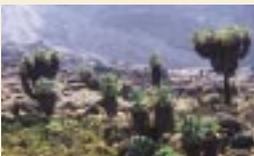
### **1800 to 2800 meters      Rainforest Zone**

A rainforest belt encircles the lower reaches of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is the richest zone on the mountain due to abundant rain. Rainfall is 1000 millimeters per year on the western and northern slopes and 2000 millimeters per year on the southern slopes. The dense canopy harbors brightly colored insects, hornbills, bright flowers, colubus monkeys and leopards.



### **2800 to 3200 meters      Heath Zone**

Thickets of stunted and shrub-like trees are in this gray, meager climatic zone. It's as if you have been transported from the Amazon rainforest to the fields of heather in Scotland! There are splashes of color – wild gladiolus, wild iris, wild orchids and exotic, spiky orange or yellow flowers called “red-hot poker.”



### **3200 to 4000 meters      Moorland Zone**

The vegetation in this cool, arid zone looks like a Hollywood landscape for a space alien film! Giant groundsels, some more than 200 years old, have cabbage like leaves that die off and protect the trunk from sub-zero temperatures. Lobelias are squat mounds of green starbursts that close their leaves over their central core at night for protection. Buffalo, elephants, elands, common duikers and the yellow-crowned canary are just some of the wildlife here



### **4000 to 5000 meters      Alpine Desert Zone**

Here nights are below 0° C and daytime over 35° C. Only the hardiest organisms can survive. It is the equivalent of the conditions found north of Canada or in Siberia. Alpine desert plants include lichens, moss balls and a few tough flowering plants called “everlastings.” Not much wildlife lives here, although elands, leopards and some African hunting dogs pass through. Few birds can cope with the thin air and strong winds. Ravens and large birds of prey forage here.



### **5000 to 5895 meters      Arctic Zone**

It's freezing cold at night with a burning sun during the day. There is no liquid surface water. Rain seeps down into the crater or turns into ice. Even in this desolate climate, a few red and gray lichens are adapted for survival. The massive glaciers that cover one-third of the mountaintop are remnants of the ice cap that covered the entire summit area thousands of years ago.

### **Group Learning Activity:**

Take a large piece of paper 60 centimeters tall and 400 centimeters wide. Draw Kilimanjaro on the paper being sure to make the base as wide as the paper and its height as tall as the paper. This represents a scaled model of Kilimanjaro which is approximately 6 kilometers in height and 40 km x 60 km at its base. Cut out the mountain. Trim part of the top to form the caldera, a large circular depression caused by collapsing magma, that exists atop Kilimanjaro.

Convert the above metric measurements for the locations of the five climatic zones on Kilimanjaro from meters to centimeters. Draw each zone on your paper model of Kilimanjaro. Label each zone with its name and measurements. Draw some of the plants and animals on Mt. Kilimanjaro that belong to each zone.

# KILIMANJARO

## Resources

**Tanzania Tourist Board official website with interactive map:** <http://www.tanzania-web.com/home2.htm>

**Kilimanjaro National Park:** <http://www.habari.co.tz/tanapa/kilpakg.html#CLIMBING>

**climbing routes:** <http://wuzwuz.nuigalway.ie/~mike/mountain/routes.html>

**Chaggas - a tale about Chagga children:** <http://www.aaronsherp.com/stories/024.html>

**geology of Kilimanjaro and landstat images:** [http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc\\_images/img\\_kilimanjaro.html?clkd=iwm](http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/img_kilimanjaro.html?clkd=iwm)

**world climatic zone classification map:** <http://hum.amu.edu.pl/~zbzw/glob/glob124.htm>

**climatic zones on Kilimanjaro with information on plants and animals:**  
<http://www.newafrica.com/nationalparks/tanzania/kilimanjaro.asp>

**USGS map of Great Rift Valley with locations of active volcanoes:** [http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/text/East\\_Africa.html](http://pubs.usgs.gov/publications/text/East_Africa.html)

**research on ice melt on Kilimanjaro:** <http://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/kibo.html>

**University of Massachusetts Kilimanjaro climate research:** <http://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/kibo.html>

**ice core research at Ohio State University:** <http://www-bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/Icecore/>

**recent glacier retreat on Kilimanjaro:** <http://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/tanzania/retreat.html>

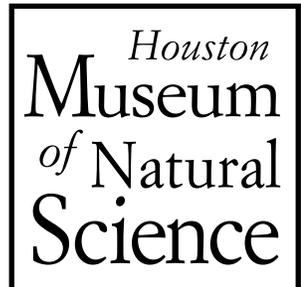
**information on the status of glaciers around the world:** <http://www.geo.unizh.ch/wgms/>

**information on Kilimanjaro:** [www.HMNS.org](http://www.HMNS.org) (click on film distribution)

**Authors:** Martha Kolbe, Manager of Explorations, Houston Museum of Natural Science  
Pam Wheat, Director of Education, Houston Museum of Natural Science

**Advisors:** Dr. Doug Hardy, Research Assistant Professor  
Dan Brooks, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Houston Museum of Natural Science  
Sharon Dews, Social Studies Teacher, Riverwood Middle School

Design by Gateway Design, Inc.



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