



On Thursday night, 19 climbers were trying to reach Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain of the Russian Caucasus Mountains.

Suddenly, the sky turned dark, and a snowstorm came. Temperatures quickly dropped to minus 20 degrees Celsius, which was something that the climbers did not **expect**.

They called for help, but it was too late. One woman decided to turn back because she did not feel well. She and four more people died, and the others were hurt.

Mount Elbrus is a 5,642-meter-high volcano, which is not **active**. The weather changes very quickly there, and between 15 to 30 climbers die every year when they try to **reach** the top.

**Difficult words:** **expect** (to think that something will happen), **active** (doing an activity or being alive), **reach** (to get somewhere).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *expect, active and reach*
2. Did the climbers know that there was going to be a snowstorm on that day?
3. Were the climbers able to call for help?
4. How many of the 19 climbers died? And were the rest able to come home safely?
5. On average, how many people die each year when they try to reach the top?
6. Why do climbers find it hard to reach the top of Mount Elbrus?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you enjoy climbing mountains?
2. Would you be interested to climb a mountain if you knew the weather could suddenly become very harsh?
3. What is the highest mountain in your country? Have there been any death reports about climbers trying to reach the top of it?