

there are other tall mountains around the

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN?

KILIMANJARO

Africa

5600M

from base

MAUNA KEA

Pacific

world, so does Everest still retain its title? (2 How to measure a mountain

EVEREST

KILIMANJARO

BASE

BASE **SEA LEVEL** 10200M **MAUNA KEA** from base BASE Everest is the world's highest mountain, at nearly 9,000 metres if you measure from sea level. However, many mountains are

taller than Everest when measured in

are taller, if measured from the base on

African plains which is close to sea level

which they sit. Kilimanjaro sits on the

and Mauna Kea is taller but sits at the

The world's biggest collision

mountain when measured from sea

at the summit but deep underground.

Because of how it was formed it sits on

Fifty million years ago, India's continental

plate crashed into Asia – the biggest

collision on Earth in the last 400 million

years. The collision was so violent that

India's plate did not just crumple, it pushed

under Asia - raising the land mass high into

The secret of Everest's height is not found

bottom of the sea.

different ways. Kilimanjaro and Mauna Kea

EVEREST Asia

5200M

from base

Science Photo Library Satellite image of the Himalayas showing the furrowed appearance caused by erosion and river downcutting following uplift caused by the collision between two continental plates of India and Asia. So Everest is only the world's tallest

level.

higher ground.

the sky.

Plates collide all around the world, but what happened below Everest is unique. The towering Himalayas are the result. But this is not the only reason why Everest is so tall.

Older mountains are shrinking

National Geographic Although slow-moving enough to pitch a tent Why is Everest the world's highest mountain? The Himalayas are a youthful 50 million years old. Other mountain ranges are hundreds of millions of years older than this. Due to the plates pushing the Indian plate

northward and under Asia, the Himalayas

continue to rise. At the moment the forces

that not only is Everest the tallest mountain

Everest better withstand erosion compared

After the recent earthquake in Nepal, the

mountains north of Kathmandu in Nepal

rose by over a metre and Everest may

actually have decreased elevation very

At some point, the rate of erosion will

exceed the rate by which Everest is pushed

up by the plates and it will be worn down.

So the the world's highest mountain could

lose its crown eventually, though probably

not for many millions of years.

Everest: The

mountain?

compare to Everest.

Where next?

2014

Timeline of

climbing

Everest

Himalayan 'drop after

Nepal quake'

=

solar system's highest

Click/tap to reveal how Earth's

neighbours' highest mountains

upward outweigh erosion, which means

What's more, the lower parts of Mount

Everest consist of granite, one of the

toughest rocks in the world. This lets

in the world, it is still growing.

to other, less hard mountains.

slightly.

Start

Earth's Natural

Wonders

National

Everest

Geographic -

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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