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A Sherpa porter at the base of the Khumbu Ice Fall, Mount Everest. Some human populations exhibit greater tolerance for high elevation,

due to genetic variants that likely mitigate the deleterious effects of low oxygen concentrations at altitude. Genetic and epigenetic changes shape our response to the environment and may play a role in disease. For more on the interactions between genes and the environment, see page 52.

Photo: Max Lowe/National Geographic Creative

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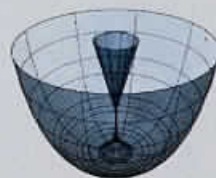
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