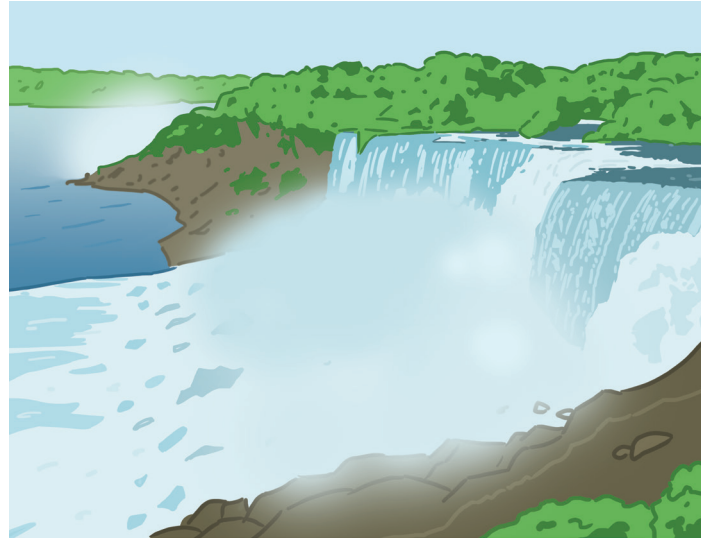


# Niagara Falls



## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever been to Niagara Falls or seen a picture of it? Do you know where it is located?
2. Do you know of any other waterfalls that are world-famous tourist attractions?
3. Do you know what a daredevil is? If not, can you guess the meaning of this word?
4. Do you know which two countries control the land around Niagara Falls?
5. Have you ever seen a tightrope walker at a circus?

*"It's one of the most beautiful natural wonders in the world. Who wouldn't want to walk across it?"*

—Nik Wallenda, tightrope walker

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. border             | a) an agreement between countries                                       |
| _____ 2. tourist attraction | b) water moving quickly in a circle                                     |
| _____ 3. glacier            | c) a round container made of wood                                       |
| _____ 4. expose             | d) the place that a person is going to                                  |
| _____ 5. escarpment         | e) to separate, to split up   |
| _____ 6. steep              | f) a huge mountain of ice   |
| _____ 7. whirlpool          | g) a journey or trip of exploration                                     |
| _____ 8. rapids             | h) a popular place to visit   |
| _____ 9. expedition         | i) rising or falling sharply, having a big slope                        |
| _____ 10. barrel            | j) to uncover   |
| _____ 11. treaty            | k) a line dividing two countries  |
| _____ 12. divide            | l) a steep slope or cliff separating two areas of different levels      |
| _____ 13. destination       | m) a place in a river where a steep slope causes the water to flow fast |

## Reading

1. Niagara Falls lies on the international **border** between the United States and Canada. Both Niagara Falls, New York and Niagara Falls, Ontario are said to be home to one of the most famous **tourist attractions** in North America.
2. The falls were created more than 10,000 years ago when a retreating **glacier exposed** the Niagara **escarpment**, a long **steep**-sided ridge, and allowed water from Lake Erie to flow into Lake Ontario. The escarpment has slowly eroded, forming the 11-metre-long (seven-mile-long) Niagara Gorge with the **Whirlpool Rapids**.
3. The American falls are more than 51 meters (167 feet) high and 320 meters (1,050 feet) wide. The Canadian falls, or the Horseshoe falls, are almost as high and more than twice as wide.
4. The earliest recorded description of the falls appeared in 1697, written by a man by the name of Louis Hennepin. Hennepin had seen the falls when he traveled on an **expedition** in 1678 with French explorer Robert Cavelier. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, daredevils tried to travel over the falls in **barrels**, boats, and with rubber balls. In 1859, the great Blondin performed on a tightrope above the falls. Visitors can learn more about the history of the falls by visiting the Niagara Falls Museum in Niagara Falls, New York.
5. The governments of the United States and Canada control the use of the land in the surrounding area, and much of it has been turned into parks. They also control the use of the water for important hydroelectric power. In 1950, the Niagara Diversion **Treaty** outlined that a minimum flow would be kept for the falls, and that the remaining flow would be **divided** equally between the United States and Canada.
6. The power and beauty of the American and the Canadian falls continue to amaze visitors and make Niagara Falls a popular **destination** for tourists from around the world.

## Comprehension

### A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Niagara Falls is a famous tourist attraction in both the US and Canada.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Niagara Falls is only 1,000 years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The American Falls are wider than the Canadian Falls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Great Blondin was a 19<sup>th</sup> century daredevil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Only United States can use water from Niagara Falls.

### B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Where is Niagara Falls located?

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4. What were some of the methods used by daredevils who tried to cross the falls?

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2. Explain briefly how the falls were created.

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5. Who controls the use of the land in the area surrounding Niagara Falls?

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3. Who was the first person to write a description of Niagara Falls, and when did this happen?

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6. What is the Niagara Diversion Treaty?

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## Vocabulary Review

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. The falls were created when a retreating glacier exposed the Niagara escarpment.
  - a) huge
  - b) growing bigger
  - c) moving back
2. The escarpment has slowly eroded, forming the 11-metre-long Niagara Gorge.
  - a) gradually became smaller or wore away
  - b) blown up
  - c) built up slowly over time
3. The earliest recorded description of the falls appeared in 1697.
  - a) written
  - b) musical
  - c) picture
4. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, daredevils tried to travel over the falls in barrels and boats.
  - a) sailors
  - b) people who love to travel
  - c) people who like to do dangerous things
5. The power and beauty of Niagara Falls continue to amaze visitors.
  - a) make very scared
  - b) fill with great surprise or wonder
  - c) cost a lot of money

## Discussion

1. Niagara Falls is often called the Honeymoon Capital of Canada. What do you think this means? What are some other famous honeymoon destinations around the world?
2. What personal characteristics do daredevils share? Do you know of any famous daredevils? What have they done? Do you like to do dangerous things? If so, describe some of the things you like to do.
3. What are some of the most popular tourist destinations in your country? Have you visited any of these? If so, what were your favorites?