

GLOSSARY

layer: *strato*
shrubs: *arbusti*
juniper: *ginepro*
pine forest: *pineta*
fir tree: *abete*
springs: *sorgenti*
glaciers: *ghiacciai*
width: *larghezza*
roar: *rombo, boato*
mist: *nebbia, foschia*



www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm

MORE ABOUT...

The Victoria Falls, another masterpiece of nature and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, is a waterfall in southern Africa on the Zambezi River. The Scottish explorer, David Livingstone, is believed to have discovered them in 1855. He gave the falls the name 'Victoria Falls' in honour of the reigning queen at the time. A famous feature for tourists today is the Devil's Pool, a naturally formed rock pool where during the dry season, people can swim to the edge and gaze at the 100 m waterfalls.

Masterpieces of nature: the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls

The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon in the state of Arizona, USA, is considered to be one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, mainly due to the powerful landscape it creates with layer and layer of exposed geologic strata rising above the river, providing us with one of the most complete records of geological history in the world.



Geologic formations located at the bottom of the canyon date back to 1,800 million years ago and the dry climate has been fundamental in preserving numerous prehistoric fossils to be found deep within caves in the Canyon's formations. For thousands of years, native Americans have continuously inhabited this area, with its diverse vegetation. The Canyon has in fact, a mix of vegetation, flora and fauna which changes as the Canyon rises higher and higher towards the sky until it reaches a height of 8,000 feet. At river level, you can find vegetation and sandy beaches. Then further up, there are cacti and desert shrubs. At 6,200 feet there is a pine and juniper forest and climbing higher, you come across another type of pine forest. Finally, the North Rim of the Canyon boasts a fir tree forest. Water is supplied to the various types of flora and fauna through the Colorado River, its tributaries, springs and pools.

The Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls are one of the great wonders of the world located on the border between Ontario, in Canada and the state of New York in the USA. They are made up of three waterfalls called the 'Horseshoe Falls', situated on the Canadian side, while the American Falls and the smaller Bridal Veil Falls are situated on the American side.



The Niagara Falls were formed when glaciers receded at the end of the last ice age and water from the lakes made a pathway to get to the Atlantic Ocean. The three combined waterfalls represent the highest flow rate of any waterfall in the world, with a 50-metre vertical drop. What distinguishes the Niagara Falls from other waterfalls however is their width, which results in an exceptionally high flow rate, which is not only spectacular, but also a great source of hydroelectric power. The roar of the water as it crashes over the crest and the mist coming off the spray, which envelopes everything around for miles, are just two of the aspects of the Niagara Falls which makes you appreciate the wonders of nature. There are several observation points where you can marvel at this magnificent sight, and if you want a closer look, then you can hop on a boat which will take you right up to the base or you can go for a stroll behind the awesome curtain of water. Alternatively the falls can be admired from above, aboard a helicopter, and they are even lit up at night so you can enjoy the impressive sight any time you want.



www.niagarafallstourism.com

READING COMPREHENSION

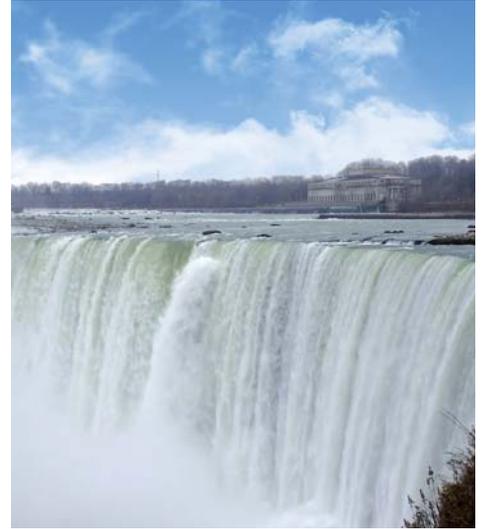
1 Read the texts and answer the following questions.

- 1 Both texts talk about natural wonders of the world. In what way are they similar?
- 2 Describe the vegetation to be found in the Grand Canyon.
- 3 Explain the importance of the Niagara Falls from an environmental point of view.
- 4 Describe how tourists can get different views of the Niagara Falls.

LISTENING

2  **15** Listen to a representative from the Canadian tourist board talking about holidays at the Niagara Falls and complete the text with the correct information.

If you want a (1) _____ holiday, then the place to be is the Niagara Falls, a holiday (2) _____ which offers an experience to remember for every kind of traveller from the (3) _____ to romantic (4) _____. So there is something for everybody, and excellent accommodation is available in (5) _____ hotels. Adults can enjoy the exciting nightlife, fine restaurants, (6) _____ and spas, while kids can have fun at the water parks and (7) _____, and may even learn something at the (8) _____ and Marineland. Golfing, exploring, thrill seeking and shopping are just some of the (9) _____ on offer. Getting there is easy too, as it is just 20 minutes from Buffalo International Airport and (10) _____ from Toronto.



SPEAKING

3 Talk to your classmates about where you would like to go on your next school trip. You may wish to include the following points.

- Destination
- Accommodation
- Budget
- Transport