

Culture Spot Scripts

Level 1

Niagara Falls

Where are all these people going? To Niagara Falls, situated between the United States and Canada. The Niagara Falls are famous both for their beauty and as an important source of hydroelectric power. Twenty percent of the freshwater in the world is in the Great Lakes, and most flows over Niagara Falls. When did it all start? At the end of the ice age. The ice melted and water from the Great Lakes emptied into the Niagara River on the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Niagara Falls are not very high, but are very wide. The larger Horseshoe Falls are about 792 m wide, while the American Falls are 323 m wide. Over the years the continual flow of water is causing erosion.

Niagara Falls attract some 12 million tourists each year. The most popular months for a visit are summer months when the flow is greatest. Do you want to see the falls close up? Why don't you take the Maid of the Mist boat cruise. It carries passengers into the whirlpools beneath the Falls.

In the past some people tried to go over the Falls in a steel barrel. The first person to do it and survive was a 63-year-old female schoolteacher.

Culture Spot Scripts

Level 2

Grand Canyon

Welcome to the Grand Canyon, a large gorge carved out by the Colorado River in Arizona, in the United States. It is around 1.5 Km deep and 446 km long. The rocks are many different colours. Can you believe that it took the Colorado river 5-6 million years to carve the Grand Canyon? The river, rain, snow, heat and cold have all contributed to the shape of the canyon. Some of the rocks on the bottom are around 2 billion years old. Erosion continues today, so the landscape is changing all the time.

Do you know that you can reach the bottom of the Canyon? You can only get there by mule, hiking or rafting. You can leave from the north side, called the North Rim, or from the southern side and reach Phantom Ranch, as the Inner Canyon is called.

Every year a lot of people from all over the world come to Arizona to visit the Grand Canyon. Some of them like going rafting on the Colorado River, others prefer taking a boat trip or hiking in the Grand Canyon or through the Grand Canyon National Park.

There is a great variety of plant species in the Grand Canyon National Park, including North American desert flora. The climate is very special so the Grand Canyon has a dozen endemic plants which only live within the Park's boundaries.

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Level 3

Washington

Welcome to Washington D.C. the capital of the USA. Its name comes from the first president American George Washington.

The White House has been the official residence of every President of the United States with the exception of George Washington. Why is it called 'The White House'? Because it was made white by a protective lime-based whitewash.

The US Capitol houses the American Congress. The Capitol is located on top of a hill, now known as the capitol hill. It has a large cast-iron dome built in 1856 with the bronze 'statue of freedom' on top of it.

The US Supreme Court has the highest judicial authority in the United States. On the front stairway there are two statues, the Contemplation of Justice and the Guardian of Law.

This is the Washington Monument, a tall obelisk built in honour of the first President of the United States, George Washington.

The Jefferson Memorial pays tribute to Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States and the author of the Declaration of Independence.

The Lincoln memorial is a monument in honour of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States who condemned slavery.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honours the men and women who served in the Vietnam War. Its main monument, known as 'The Wall' lists the names of more than 58,000 men and women who were killed in the Vietnam War or who are still missing.