

Across cultures 5e

Natural Wonders of the World

The world is full of beautiful and amazing things. The most amazing wonders of the world are the ones that we can find in nature.

Lake Baikal is in the east part of Siberia. It is the deepest lake in the world. Lake Baikal is also the oldest and largest freshwater lake in the world. It contains one-fifth of the world's fresh water. The name Baikal comes from the Mongolian language and means 'nature'. The water in Lake Baikal is very clear and you can see to a depth of 40 m. A lot of animals and plants live by the lake. They only exist in this part of the world.

Niagara Falls is one of North America's most famous sights. It lies between the US and Canada. The largest part of the falls is Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side. Niagara Falls is the second largest falls in the world, after Victoria Falls in Africa. In 1901, a brave tourist, Annie Taylor, was the first to cross the Niagara Falls. The Falls is the largest producer of electric power in the world.

Check these words

- freshwater lake • clear
- depth • exist • nature
- falls • sight • brave
- cross • producer
- electric power

DID YOU KNOW?

The water that flows over Niagara Falls comes from four of the five Great Lakes.

1 Which of the sentences below are true about the places in the pictures?

🔊 Listen and read to find out.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in Siberia. | 6 Horseshoe Falls is part of Niagara Falls. |
| 2 Baikal means fresh water. | 7 Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world. |
| 3 Some plant species can't live there. | |
| 4 The water in Baikal is dirty. | |
| 5 Niagara Falls is between two countries. | |



Imagine you are at one of the places in the text. Your English friend wants to know more about it. Act out your telephone conversation. Talk about *where you are, who you are with, where you are staying, what the place is like.*

- 2 Think of a place of natural beauty in your country. Make notes under the headings: **Name, Location, Activities**. Use your notes to write a text about it for an international tourist magazine (50-60 words).

Pronunciation (silent letters)

- 3 Find the silent letters in the words.

🔊 Listen and check. Listen and repeat. Find words which contain silent letters in the texts above.

- where • listen • castle • whistle • salmon • receipt • muscle
- two • know • doubt • climb • thumb • almond

Study Skills

Silent letters

Silent letters are letters you can't hear when you say a word, but exist when you write a word e.g. **guess** (silent 'u').