USA – NATURAL BEAUTIES

Listen and complete the texts (1-2 words or numbers), then answer the questions.

Niagara Falls

This group of **1** _____ waterfalls is on the Niagara River, which marks the border between the United States and Canada. The falls are in the center of two cities: the Canadian city of Niagara Falls in **2** _____ and the American city of Niagara Falls in **3** _____ . The land right next to the falls on the US side is Niagara Falls State Park, the **4** _____ state park in the US. A similar park protects the Canadian side. Magnificent though they are, the falls are **5** _____ than they used to be: between 50% and 75% of the water of the river runs through huge pipes to generate **6** _____ .

What does the text say about the Niagara Falls?

- ◯ The falls are in the centre of a national park.
- ◯ The falls have been changed by human industry.
- ◯ The Niagara River flows from the US into Canada.
- ◯ The Niagara Falls is the largest waterfall in America.

The Great Lakes

The northern center of the US is known as the Midwest. Many states here have names beginning with the letter I, such as **1** _____ , Illinois and Iowa, or the letter M, including Michigan, Missouri and **2** _____ . This area is home to the five largest lakes in the US, which are all along the border between the US and Canada. These are the Great Lakes: Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Michigan (which shares its name with the US state), Lake Ontario (which shares its name with a Canadian **3** _____) and Lake Superior, which is the largest of them all, and the largest **4** _____ lake in the world. Put together, these five lakes are bigger than the **5** _____ .

What is "freshwater" mentioned near the end of the text?

- ◯ Very cold water.
- ◯ Unpolluted water.
- ◯ Water without salt.
- ◯ Water from glaciers.

Yellowstone National Park

There are **1** _____ national parks in the US, including one in every US state, except for one. The small US state of Delaware, home state of President Joe Biden, does not have a national park. The **2** _____ US National Park is Yellowstone, which stretches across three different states. Most of Yellowstone is in Wyoming, but a tiny bit crosses over into both **3** _____ and Idaho. One of the most famous sights in Yellowstone is Old Faithful, a geyser that shoots water from **4** _____ into the air around 17 times a day. It's sort of like a volcano of **5** _____ .

What is special about Yellowstone National Park, according to the te›

- ◯ It is in the President's home state.
- ◯ It has a volcano called Old Faithful.
- ◯ It is the biggest national park in the country.
- ◯ It is divided almost equally between three states.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Grand Canyon

One of the most beautiful US sights is an enormous hole in the ground. The Grand Canyon in the US state of Arizona is 1.6 km deep, **1** _____ long and up to 29 km wide. It's inside a national park with just three entrances. Most people visit the **2** _____ side, as getting to the higher northern side means either a hike across the canyon (a total of 34 km) or a 354 km drive that takes 4½ hours. In addition, the north side is closed for half the year. Around **3** _____ million people visit each year. Most are happy to keep to the visitor areas and viewpoints, but more **4** _____ visitors can get a permit to hike through the canyon, which is exciting but difficult due to the lack of **5** _____ and extremes of heat and cold.

Why do most people visit the southern side?

- ◯ There are only three entrances.
- ◯ The north side is not easily accessible.
- ◯ You need a permit to visit the northern side.
- ◯ There is no water and the temperatures are extreme.

Mount Denali

The **1** _____ mountain in the US, Denali (6,190 meters tall), is in the most northern US state of Alaska. This mountain has had multiple names. Denali, which means "the **2** _____ one", comes from the language of the local native people. In 1896, long before Alaska became the 49th US state, an English-speaking man looking for **3** _____ in the area renamed it Mount McKinley, after US **4** _____ William McKinley. The name Mount McKinley stuck around for decades. Locals preferred the original name, however, and the state of Alaska officially changed it back to Denali in **5** _____ . It took the US government another 40 years to finally agree.

What did you learn from the text?

- ◯ The state of Alaska refused to change the name.
- ◯ The mountain's name comes from a local language.
- ◯ A gold-hunter called William McKinley visited the area.
- ◯ Alaska became the 49th state near the end of the 19th century.

Hawaiian Islands

The 50th US state is the only one made up completely of islands. The state of Hawaii includes **1** _____ islands, large and small. The largest island is called Hawaii, also known as "the Big Island". Some other popular tourist **2** _____ are the islands of Maui, Oahu and Kaua'i. The natural beauty of Hawaii includes waterfalls, **3** _____ , sandy beaches and surf, which gives it a very different **4** _____ than most of the mainland United States. It's also far from all of the other states – it takes about **5** _____ to fly from the western US state of California to Hawaii.

Which of these is NOT true about Hawai'i?

- ◯ Hawai'i is famous for its natural beauty.
- ◯ Hawai'i was the most recent state to join the US.
- ◯ The state shares its name with its largest island.
- ◯ The state of Hawai'i is also known as "The Big Island".

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