

Reading 2 – Natural wonders of the world

These incredible creations, some of Mother Nature's best offerings, will inspire and amaze you. Enjoy them!

Grand Canyon



Situated in Arizona, in southwestern USA, the 446 km long Grand Canyon is amazing. The canyon, up to a kilometer deep and 29 km at its widest point, was carved by the Colorado River.

In recent years it is difficult to reach the edge of the canyon, but the Grand Canyon is still a popular tourist destination for anyone wishing to explore nature.

Ways of exploring the canyon on foot:

- Day/night hikes.
- Overnight backpacking trips.
- Observatory ramp.

Northern Lights (Polar Auroras)



People living in the far north, near the pole, are able to see these impressive lights. While most of the Natural Wonders of the World are on land or at sea, we can admire this beautiful and unforgettable scene by looking at the skies. We can see vivid flashes of colour crossing the sky because of cosmic particles interacting with the Earth's atmosphere.

Quick facts:

- No specific or consistent measurements (design, size, pattern, colour).
- Unfortunately, it's impossible to predict exactly when the lights will appear, but the best chances of seeing them are between the months of March to April and September to October.

Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls

The Zambezi River crosses the border between **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Its waters drop 108 m down into a gorge at the Victoria Falls. The waterfall was named for the English Queen Victoria. The indigenous name Mosi-oa-Tunya – or The Smoke that Thunders – is still in use. Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world, it is 1,708 m wide and 108 m high.



Between September and December, the low level of the river, combined with a rock barrier, makes it possible to swim in a pool quite a distance from the edge of the falls. However, it can be a very dangerous option.

Curiosity:

- There are two seasons at the Victoria Falls. The rainy season is from November to April and the remaining months are dry. There is so much water in the rainy season that it is difficult to see the waterfall properly.

Great Barrier Reef



The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It is larger than the whole of Italy. It is so immense that astronauts can see it from the moon.

Located in the Coral Sea, on the coast of Queensland in the northeast of Australia, billions of minuscule organisms called coral polyps build up the reef. The Great Barrier Reef needs protection from excessive fishing and tourism, so the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park works in this direction. Another enemy of the reef is climate change.

Biodiversity in the reef:

- It includes several species of whales and dolphins, around 400 species of corals and over 1,000 species of fish, amongst other sea creatures.

19. Which natural wonder can be seen from outer space?

- A. The Polar Auroras.
- B. The Victoria Falls.
- C. The Great Barrier Reef.
- D. The Grand Canyon.

20. Complete the sentence:

Overfishing, tourism and are considered dangers to the Great barrier reef.

21. Where can you spend the night after a day trip hiking?

- A. At the Grand Canyon.
- B. At Victoria Falls.
- C. At the Great Barrier Reef.
- D. At Polar Auroras.

22. How deep is the Grand Canyon?

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23. This natural wonder is a natural light display in the sky, seen in High latitude regions (Arctic-Antarctic).

- A. The Grand Canyon.
- B. The Polar Auroras.
- C. The Great Barrier Reef.
- D. The Victoria Falls.

24. Knowing when it will be possible to admire this natural beauty is quite difficult.

- A.** The Great Barrier Reef.
- B.** The Victoria Falls.
- C.** The Grand Canyon.
- D.** The Polar Auroras.

25. Complete the sentence:

At Victoria Falls, a calm pool forms naturally, but it can be dangerous to there.

26. You can practice snorkelling and observe different sea creatures close to this natural wonder.

- A.** The Polar Auroras.
- B.** The Grand Canyon.
- C.** The Great Barrier Reef.
- D.** The Victoria Falls.

27. The view at Victoria Falls is more spectacular during the dry season.

- A.** True.
- B.** False.

28. If you visit the natural wonder in Australia, you need to take _____ with you.

- A.** a swimsuit, sunglasses and things for the beach.
- B.** a raincoat and Wellington boots.
- C.** A guide book about Niagara Falls.
- D.** a telescope.

Writing – Describe your dream house



Have you ever imagined having **your dream house**?

Write about it, and have fun imagining it...

Here are some ideas:

Where is it? What's it like? Who do you live with? What do you do there?

Has it got a garden/pool? How many floors/rooms has it got?

Describe each floor/room. What is the house made of? Etc.

Notes & draft box (to write ideas or key words). This planning is NOT marked.

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