

HOMEWORK READING

Welcome to Vancouver – Canada’s Coolest City!

Location

Vancouver is located in the south-west corner of Canada, just to the north of the border with the United States. Vancouver is a busy port and tourist centre. It is situated on a peninsula and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on three sides. On the other side of the city are mountains, which rise to over 1500 metres.

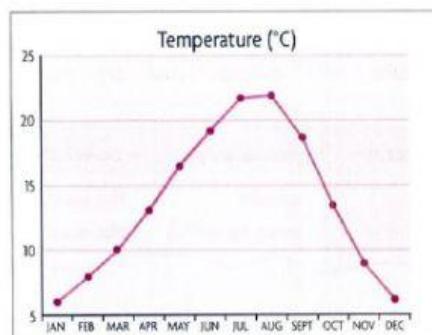
Population

According to the 2006 census, the population of Vancouver City is about 580,000. However, there are more than two million people living in the region. The population is ethnically very mixed. The largest ethnic group is Chinese, although there are many Indians, Vietnamese, and Filipinos. Nearly a quarter of the population say that Chinese is their mother tongue. Only about half of the population speak English as their mother tongue.



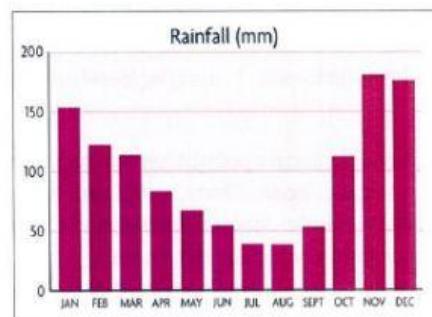
History

Vancouver was founded as a small settlement called Granville in the 1870s. It was a small trading port for wood. In 1886 the city was renamed after a British naval captain, George Vancouver.



Climate

It has one of the mildest climates in Canada. The summers are usually sunny and dry. The hottest months are July and August. However, the temperature rarely goes above 22°C. The winter is mild. It is also the wettest season. There is some snow in the winter, but usually just on the mountains near the city.



Things to see

Vancouver is famous for its scenery. It has more than 180 parks, including the famous Stanley Park. Near the city are forests and snow-capped mountains. Sports include skiing, hiking, cycling, and boating. The most interesting sights include Gastown (the historic area of Vancouver), Chinatown, English Bay, Vancouver Harbour, and Robson Street, which is the main shopping street for high fashion. You can also take a trip to Granville Island, where you can buy paintings from artists' studios. To get a great panoramic view of Vancouver, visitors should go to the Lookout - a viewing platform at the top of the Harbour Centre Tower.

Scan the text and answer the questions:

1. What ocean is the city on? _____
2. What is the temperature in the summer? _____
3. Is there snow in winter? _____
4. Which month is the wettest? _____
5. What is the total population? _____
6. What is the second language of the city after English? _____
7. How did the city get its name? _____
8. Where can you get a good view of the city? _____