Warm-Up 7

Name _____

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is one of the world's most famous waterfalls. It forms part of the border between the United States and Canada. Water in the thirty-five-mile-long Niagara River flows east from Lake Erie. It goes over Niagara Falls. Then it goes into Lake Ontario.

Actually, Niagara Falls is two sets of falls. Goat Island lies between them. American Falls is about 1,060 feet long and 170 feet high. Horseshoe Falls is about 2,600 feet long and 176 feet high. Horseshoe Falls is named for its shape. It carries about nine times more water than American Falls. The thunder of the falling water can be heard more than twenty miles away. When the sun shines on the ever-present mist rising from the water, a rainbow glitters in the air.

Niagara Falls is a popular destination for tourists and honeymooners. Over the years, it has drawn plenty of daredevils, too. An American teacher was the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. In 1901, Annie Taylor was sealed into a barrel and dropped into the Niagara River. She was swept over Horseshoe Falls. When the barrel was retrieved near the base of Niagara Falls, she was alive but battered and bloody. Others who have tried the same stunt have been badly injured or killed. Often, a daredevil's vessel smashes on the rocks at the bottom. Now anyone who tries such a feat is arrested.

Check Your Understanding

1. Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
   a. second paragraph, first sentence
   b. second paragraph, last sentence
   c. first paragraph, last sentence
   d. none of the above

2. What is the author's attitude toward anyone going over Niagara Falls in a barrel?
   a. admiration
   b. humor
   c. disapproval
   d. encouragement

3. Which of these titles would best express the main idea of the passage?
   a. "American Falls"
   b. "Be Careful!"
   c. "Two Sets of Falls"
   d. "Daredevils Are Dangerous"

4. From the context of the passage, which elements are necessary to create rainbows?
   a. fine droplets of water in the air
   b. sunlight
   c. snow
   d. both a and b

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LIVEWORKSHEETS