

COMPELLING CANADA

CD Tracks 11-16

Listen to information about several Canadian landmarks and fill in the missing words or numbers.

St John's: The Capital of Rain

St John's is the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is one of the oldest 1 _____ settlements in North America, founded by the British in the 1600s, and most people have English, Irish or 2 _____ heritage. St John's is a popular tourist destination owing to its rich history and famously 3 _____ buildings, which are unlike anywhere else in Canada. It's also the foggiest and 4 _____ city in the country, and one of the wettest – it rains all year round, though in winter the rain is mixed with a lot of snow and often comes in horrible winter 5 _____. People in Newfoundland are nicknamed Newfies, and they have a unique 6 _____ that has kept some vowel sounds from 16th and 17th-century English.

Sivanitirutinguak: A Mountain out of Stories

The distinctive Sivanitirutinguak is easily recognised by its two 1 _____, flat-topped peaks. Its English name is Mount Asgard, the kingdom of the gods in 2 _____ mythology. It is located in Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island in Nunavut. Most people know it only from pictures; Auyuittuq National Park is hard to get to, has only one official 3 _____ and is fiercely cold. In fact, that's why it's called Auyuittuq – it's an Inuktitut word meaning "the place that does not 4 _____". The mountain famously appeared in the James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*. At the beginning of the film, Bond skis off a cliff and opens a 5 _____. It was supposed to be the 6 _____ Alps, but it was actually filmed on Mount Asgard.

Moraine Lake: The Blue Mirror

The world-famous Moraine Lake is in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, about 1 _____ metres above sea level. It is fed by glaciers and its level varies during the year, but when it is at its fullest in late 2 _____ it has a distinct blue colour due to the 3 _____ carried by the glaciers. The Valley of the Ten Peaks is one of the highlights of Banff National Park in Alberta's 4 _____ Mountains, known for its glaciers and ice fields, dense coniferous 5 _____, alpine landscapes and amazing ski resorts. Unfortunately, the lake's fame comes at a cost: the area gets very busy and the roads to the lake area are often jammed with 6 _____.

The CN Tower: Toronto's Pride

The centre of Toronto is full of skyscrapers, but there is one building that is far 1 _____ than any of them. The 553-metre CN Tower opened in 2 _____, at which point it was world's tallest tower. It stayed that way until the Burj Khalifa overtook it in 2007, and it is now "only" the ninth-tallest tower. Visitors can take a 3 _____ elevator to the SkyPod, the highest public level (at 446.5 metres), eat a meal in the revolving restaurant or try the EdgeWalk, where you can walk around the 4 _____ of the tower with no handrail (though you do have safety straps). The tower also contains the world's longest metal staircase, with 5 _____ steps. This is usually for emergencies only, but twice a year it is opened to the public for 6 _____ stair-climbing events.

Stanley Park: The Wrong Totem Poles

Stanley Park is a huge park in the city of 1 _____. Much of it is forested, with about half a million 2 _____. There are also manmade attractions such as an aquarium, a miniature 3 _____ and a seaside swimming pool. The most-visited attraction of all is the collection of 4 _____ totem poles. When Stanley Park was founded, there was an indigenous 5 _____ already on the land. The city authorities forced its Musqueam and Squamish inhabitants to leave their homes. Not long after, in the 1920s, they decided to build an "Indian village" almost on the same site as a tourist attraction. It was never 6 _____, but several totem poles had been brought in and installed on the site. They are not from the local Musqueam and Squamish cultures, however, but from the Kwakwaka'wakw of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Inuksuk Point: The Stones that Speak

Inuksuit are piles of 1 _____ built by the Inuit and other indigenous peoples of the North American Arctic. In the often flat, empty arctic landscape, inuksuit could be seen from great 2 _____. In addition to being simple markers, they could give 3 _____, indicate hidden food stores and provide information on good hunting grounds. It is believed they could also be used to record events or tribal 4 _____, and that was probably the original intention of the people, who built over 100 inuksuit on Inuksuk Point on Baffin Island in Nunavut. The site has been protected since the 5 _____, but sadly no one now remembers how to read its stories. There is an inuksuk, that's the singular form of inuksuit, on the 6 _____ of Nunavut.

NOTE These texts (with different tasks) are also available as an online quiz. See the magazine for details.