

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NIAGARA FALLS

The first people arrived in the Niagara region, between what is now New York State and the province of Ontario in Canada, about 12,000 years ago. These were the Clovis people, and they arrived just in time to witness the very beginning of the Falls. After the time of the Clovis came the Woodland Era, during which the entire region was covered by forest. For many hundreds of years, the Niagara region was inhabited by several native tribes: the Iroquois, the Huron, the Petun, and the Neutral. The name Niagara comes from the native Iroquois name for the river – Onguiaahra.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the first European settlers came to the area. The Niagara region was important in the War of 1812 (between the United States and Canada), and the banks of the Niagara River still hold many memories of that war. Tourism travel around Niagara Falls began in 1820. Over 180 years later, tourism is still the dominant industry!

The Niagara Falls are split into two main parts: the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, which fall 170 feet (52 meters) into the Maid of the Mist Pool; and the American Falls, which fall from 70 to 115 feet (about 21 to 34 meters) to the rocks below. More than 188,000 cubic meters of water go over the falls every minute during the main tourist hours. That's a lot of water!! The rest of the flow is removed from the river before it gets to the Falls, and is shared equally between Canada and the United States for hydroelectric power. Hydroelectric power is electricity generated from moving water. The total generating capacity of the Niagara River is about 5 million horsepower (4.4 million kilowatts).

Niagara Falls are not the world's tallest falls, but they are the biggest. No other waterfall in the world has as much water flowing over it per minute as Niagara Falls.

### Answer the following question on Niagara Falls:

1. The first people that saw Niagara Falls were
  - a) European settlers
  - b) the Iroquois
  - c) the Huron and Petun
  - d) the Clovis people
2. The beginning of Niagara Falls was
  - a) 1,200 years ago
  - b) 12,000 years ago
  - c) 20,000 years ago
  - d) 120 years ago
3. Where are the Niagara Falls located?
  - a) between the province of Quebec and New York State
  - b) between the province of Ontario and New York State
  - c) between the province of British Columbia and Washington State
  - d) between the province of Manitoba and Texas
4. The dominant industry in the Niagara region is
  - a) hydroelectric power
  - b) wine
  - c) tourism
  - d) fishing
5. How much water goes over the falls every minute?
  - a) 1,880 m<sup>3</sup>
  - b) 18,800 m<sup>3</sup>
  - c) 188,000 m<sup>3</sup>
  - e) 1, 880, 000 m<sup>3</sup>
6. What is hydroelectric power?
  - a) electricity generated by moving water
  - b) electricity generated by wind
  - c) electricity generated by heat from the Earth
  - d) electricity generated by the sun

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Answers to **Niagara**

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. a