All About

Niagara Falls

Wonderful Waterfalls

Niagara Falls is the name given to three waterfalls that are on the border between the USA and Canada.

A waterfall is a geographical feature where water flows over a rocky edge into a plunge pool below.

On the Border

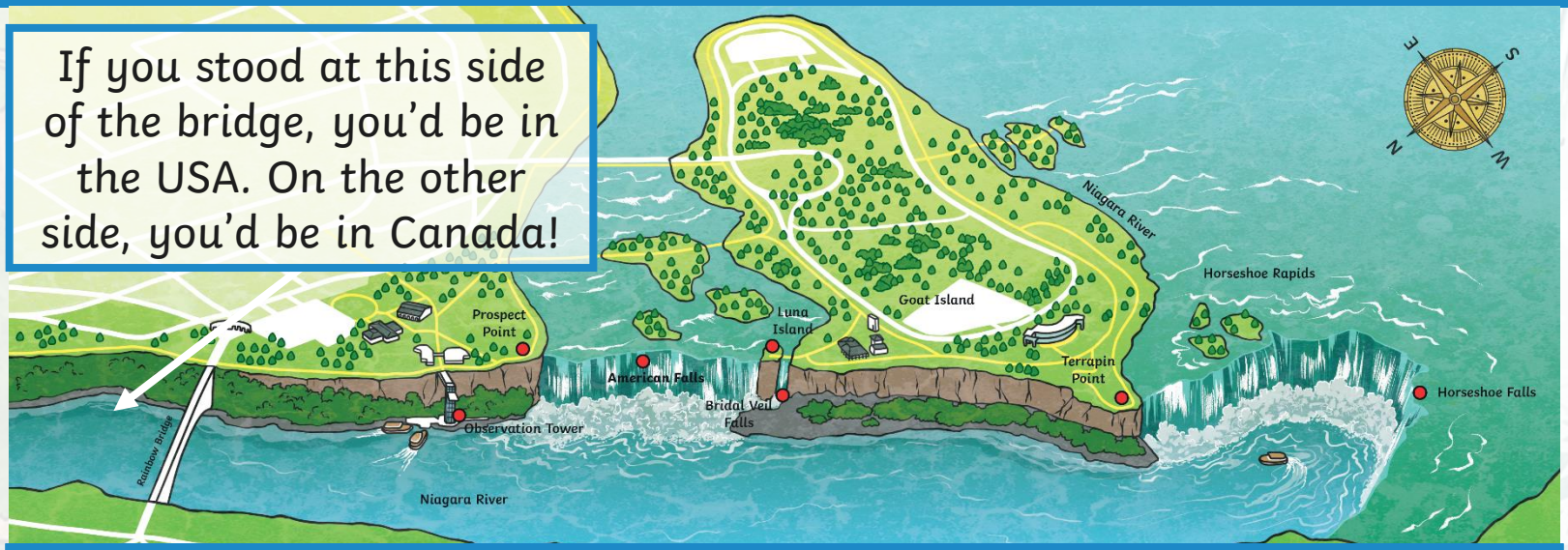
Niagara River

Niagara Falls are located on the Niagara River. The river flows for around 35 miles (56km) from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

The river is a natural boundary line between the USA and Canada.

Three Waterfalls

If you stood at this side of the bridge, you'd be in the USA. On the other side, you'd be in Canada!



Horseshoe Falls (Canadian Falls)

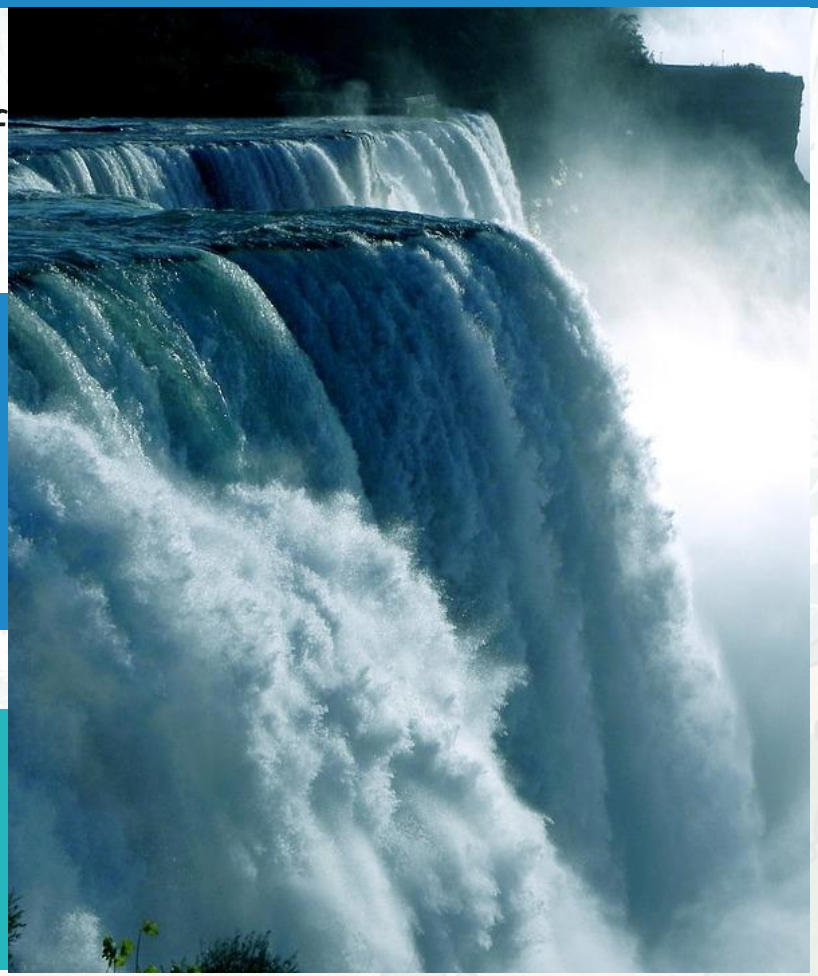
- Horseshoe Falls is the largest of the waterfalls.
- The waterfall is on the border between Canada and the USA.
- It is round 57 metres high.

How Were They formed?

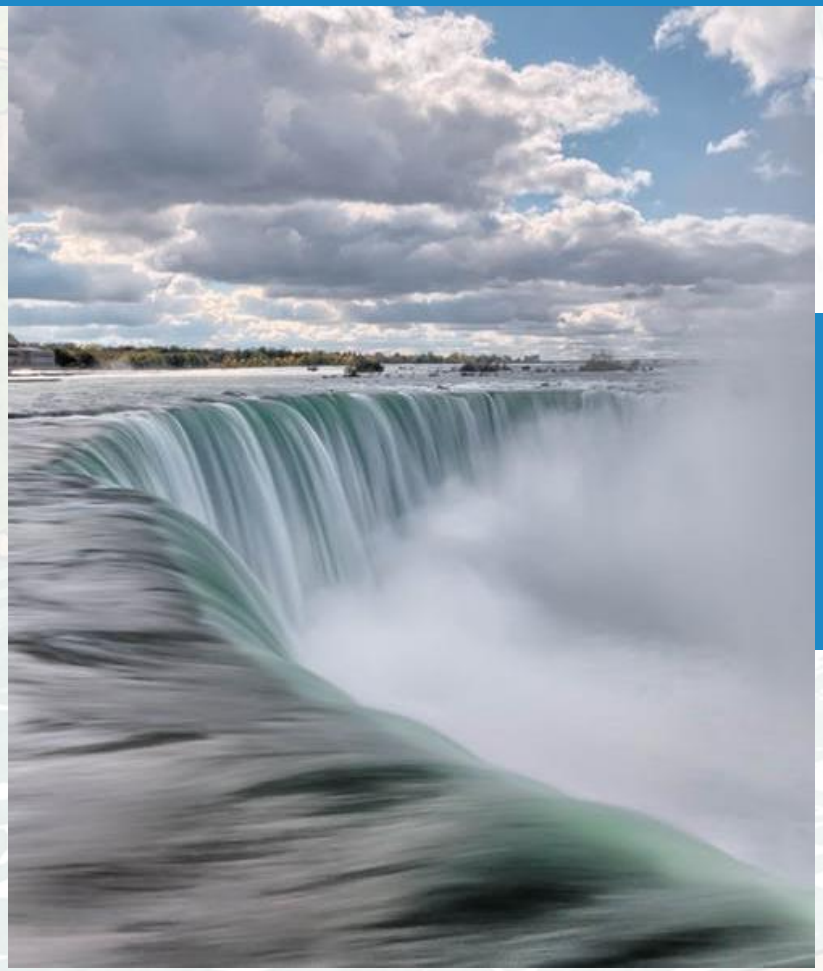
Niagara Falls formed naturally thousands of years ago at the end of the Ice Age.

When the ice eventually melted, valleys and mountains were revealed. The water flowed into the valley which formed the Niagara River.

Talk About It
Are Niagara Falls a human or physical geographical feature?



Erosion



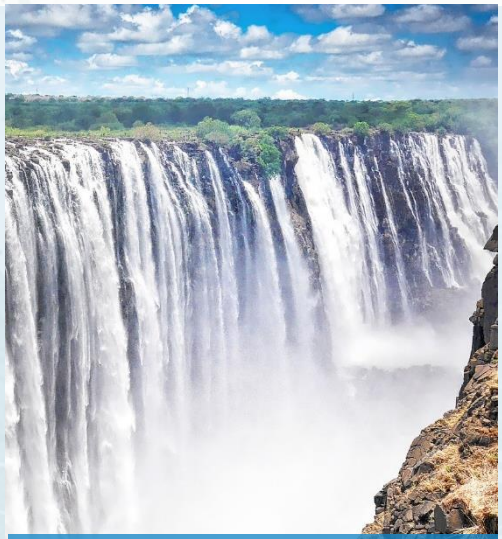
At the end of the Ice Age, Niagara Falls were thousands of metres further downstream compared to where they are today.

The flow of the water has worn away the rocks and the waterfalls have moved farther and farther back.

Waterfalls around the World

Not all waterfalls look the same.
Here are some other examples from around the world:

Barron Falls in Australia

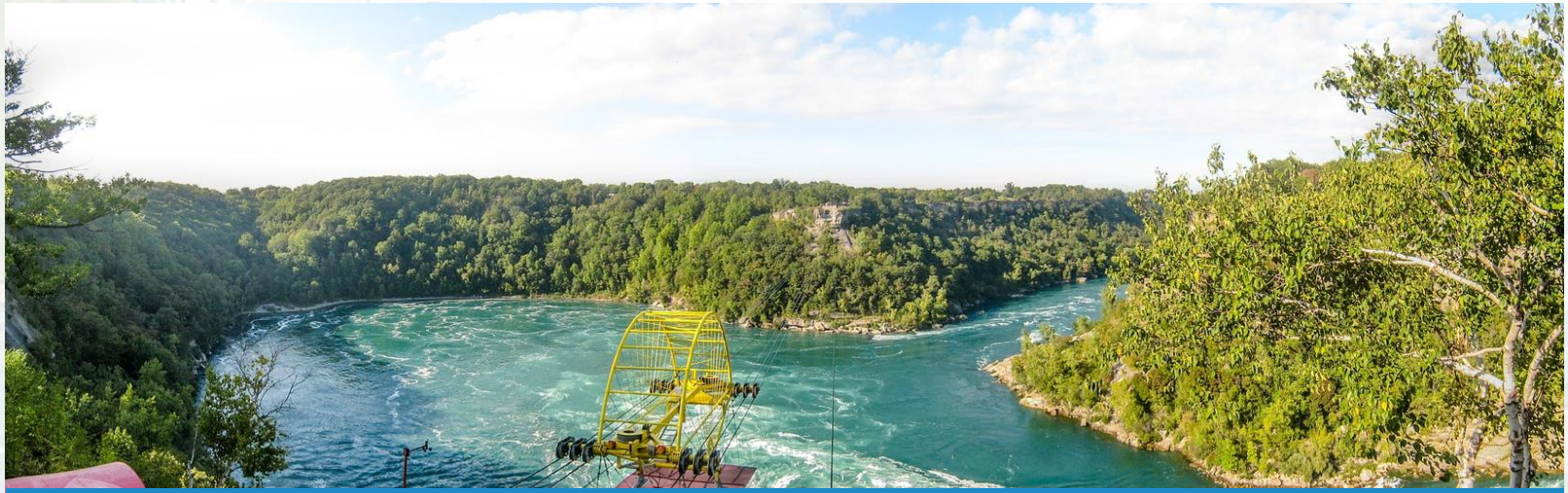


Victoria Falls in Africa, on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Ban Gioc-Detian Falls (Ban Gioc Ducthien Falls) in Asia, on the border between China and Vietnam.

Water Power

The Niagara River slopes considerably (99 metres).
This steep slope (known as a gradient) and the speed of the flowing water make it an excellent source of hydropower.



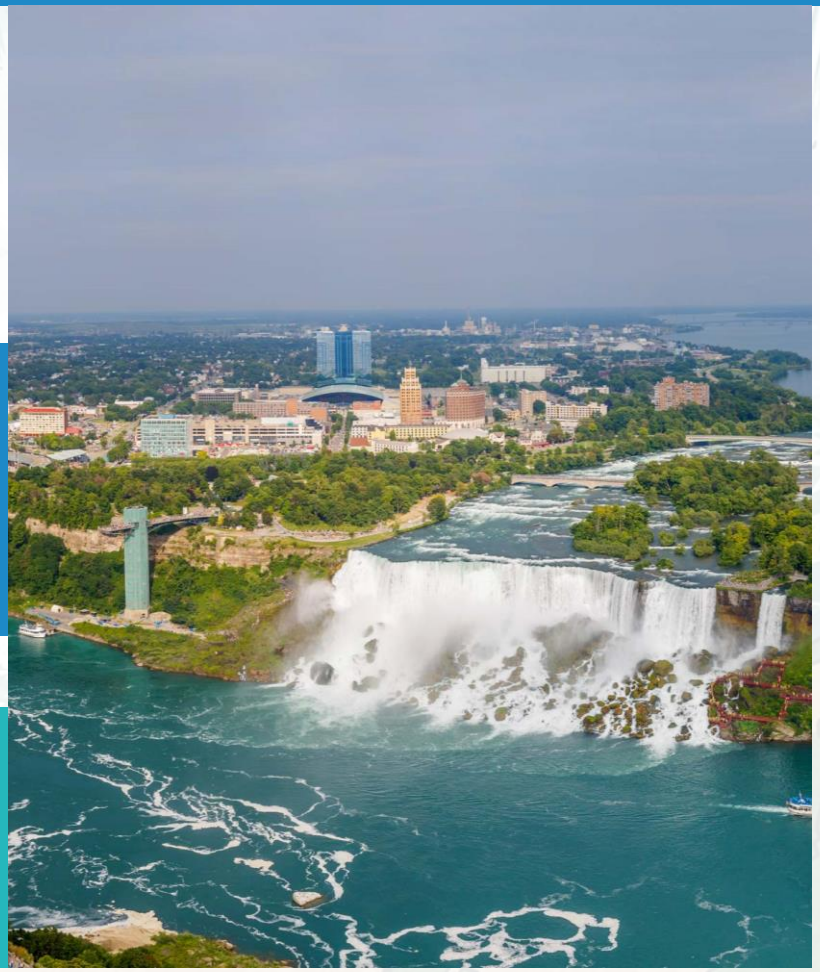
We use electricity to power many things, including lights, fridges and televisions. Can you think of anything else that requires electricity to work?

Generating Electricity

To generate electricity, the water that flows down the Niagara River is used to spin turbines at hydropower plants.

A turbine is similar to a water wheel. It is turned by the water, which then turns the generator, producing electricity.

There are hydropower plants on both sides of the Niagara River.



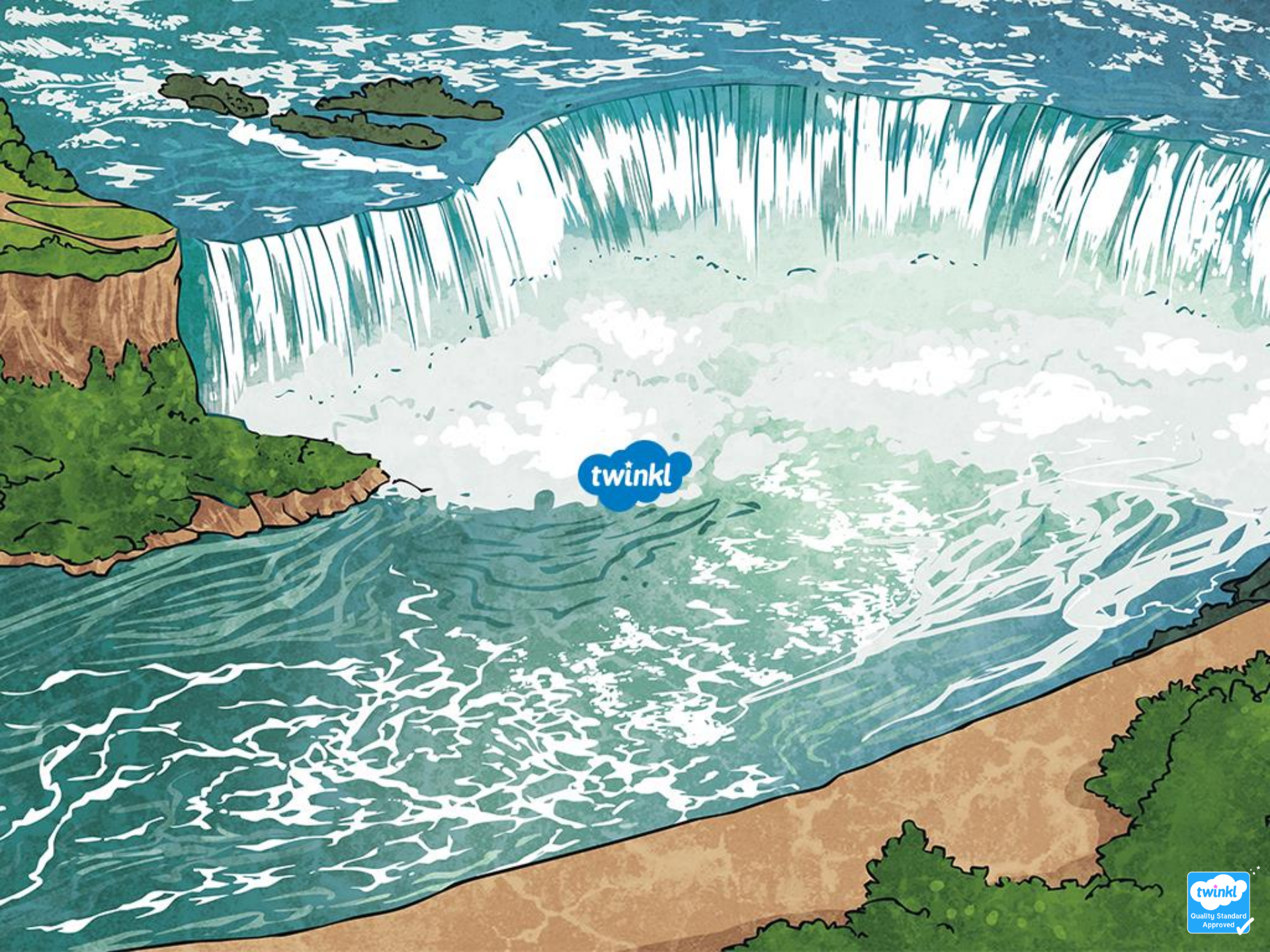
Tourism

Every year, millions of tourists from all over the world visit Niagara Falls.

Tourists can go on a boat trip on the Niagara River so that they can get a closer (and wetter) view of the waterfalls.

Tourists can go for a walk behind the waterfall. They get very wet!

This is the Whirlpool Aero Car which transports tourists safely over the Niagara Whirlpool, part of the Niagara River.
A whirlpool is swirling water.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