

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку
2025-2026 учебный год
Муниципальный этап
9-11 классы

SPEAKING
NATURAL WONDERS

Карточка участника
Student 1 Set 1: Niagara Falls
Preparation – 15 minutes
Presentation and questions – 15 minutes

Task 1

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

The world is filled with so many awe-inspiring natural wonders from towering waterfalls to unique rock formations and lakes. Some of these attractions are the results of hundreds, thousands, and even millions of years of the earth's consistent work which even makes them more unique.

Imagine you are a guide of the tour "Natural Wonders" telling a tourist about Lake Baikal. Make your presentation about the lake (SET 1: Niagara Falls). Use fact file in the table to be able to comment on:

General information	Myths and legends
Ecosystem	Time to visit

Remember to make an introduction and conclusion. You can make notes during the preparation time, but **you are not allowed to read** them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Lake Baikal**)

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about a trip to **Lake Baikal** to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

Your answer will be recorded.

Fact File Niagara Falls

General information	Niagara Falls is situated in both the province of Ontario in Canada and the state of New York in the United States. The word Niagara means ‘a thundering noise’. Additionally, Niagara Falls is known as the world’s Honeymoon capital, attracting millions of tourists every year. Water is redirected from the falls to generate hydroelectricity that powers the southern part of Ontario as well as the Western part of New York. This magnificent attraction consists mainly of three waterfalls: the American, Horseshoe, and the Bridal Veil Falls. Interestingly these falls are over 12 000 years old and were formed by melting glaciers. The three waterfalls include the Horseshoe Falls, the largest of the three, with a depth of about 174 feet. Additionally, it includes the American Falls, which is about 110 feet deep. Lastly, it includes the Bridal Veil Falls, which is the shallowest at about 56 feet deep. The American and Bridal Veil Falls are found in the United States. In contrast, the Horseshoe Falls sits on the international border of Canada and the United States and is also known as the Canadian Falls. The first mention of Niagara Falls dates back to the beginning of the 17th century. In 1604, an expedition of Samuel de Champlain visited the mainland where the waterfall is located. Later, he described the natural object in his journal according to the other participants of the trip. Champlain did not personally see the falls. Six decades later, a detailed description of Niagara Falls was compiled by a Catholic monk, Louis Ennepin, who traveled in North America. The word “Niagara” literally translates from the language of the Iroquois Indians as “the roar of water”. The waterfall is believed to be named after the indigenous people who lived nearby, the Onigara tribe
Myths and legends	The Sacrifice of the Veiled Maiden The legend of the “Veiled Maiden” is a touching narrative that has stood the test of time. It is said that a brave maiden from an indigenous tribe decided to sacrifice herself by throwing herself into the tumultuous waters of Niagara Falls. Her heroic act, carried out in a desperate attempt to appease the gods and save her community, has endured as a symbol of bravery and selflessness in the face of adversity.
Ecosystem	It is home to over 300 bird species, 53 mammals and 36 different species of reptiles, not to mention hundreds of species of rare flora, including wild orchids. The Niagara River is host to over 60 species of fish. Furthermore, the waterways near Niagara Falls are home to many different fish species, such as the American eel, largemouth bass, channel catfish, rainbow trout, and lake sturgeon.
Time to visit	Niagara Falls is a fantastic destination for you at any time. Whether visiting in the spring for fantastic blooms, the summer for great weather, the fall for harvest season, or even the winter for bird watching, there’s something to do any time of the year in Niagara Falls. Since the falls are situated in the northeast, weather conditions vary widely from season to season and can change quickly. June through August brings the warmest weather with average between 24 C and 28 C. It's peak season so you'll spend more money and face more crowds but on the upside, all area attractions are in full swing. The crowds drop off in the spring and fall but so do the temperatures, typically running between 10 and 15C. Winter is for hardy souls since it's common for the thermometer to dip below freezing.

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Карточка участника
Student 2 Set 1: Lake Baikal
Preparation – 15 minutes
Presentation and questions – 15 minutes

Task 1

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Niagara Falls**)

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2-3 minutes

Ask 2 **QUESTIONS** about a trip to **Niagara Falls** to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** not mentioned in the presentation.

Task 2

1. Monologue. Time: 3-4 minutes.

The world is filled with so many awe-inspiring natural wonders from towering waterfalls to unique rock formations and lakes. Some of these attractions are the results of hundreds, thousands, and even millions of years of the earth's consistent work which even makes them more unique.

Imagine you are a guide of the tour "Natural Wonders" telling a tourist about Niagara Falls. Make your presentation about the lake (SET 1: Lake Baikal). Use fact file in the table to be able to comment on:

General information	Myths and legends
Ecosystem	Time to visit

Remember to make an introduction and conclusion. You can make notes during the preparation time, but **you are not allowed to read** them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Now answer 2 questions from your partner, who wants to get **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**, not mentioned in your presentation.

Your answer will be recorded.

Fact File Lake Baikal

General information	This ancient lake is estimated to be about 25 to 30 million years old, making it the oldest lake in the world. It is speculated that Lake Baikal was originally a riverbed that gradually increased its size due to the fractures and movements of the Earth's crust. It is situated in southern Siberia, between the federal subjects of Irkutsk Oblast to the northwest and the Republic of Buryatia to the southeast. Lake Baikal is a continental rift valley fed by more than 300 streams and rivers but drained by only one outlet — the Angara River near Listvyanka. Every year, up to 2,000 earthquake tremors are detected in Lake Baikal, each one increasing the depth and size of the lake. Some geophysicists predict that Lake Baikal will one day turn into an ocean, as the shores drift further apart by 2 centimetres (0.78 inches) a year, which is the same rate at which Africa and South America drift apart. Like the ocean, Lake Baikal is also the only very deep lake that has oxygenated water at its lowest depth. Due to the presence of plankton that eat floating debris, coupled with a lack of mineral salts in its water content, Lake Baikal is considered one of the clearest lakes in the world. Lake Baikal has a surface area of 31,727 square kilometres (12,250 square miles) that spreads 636 kilometres (395 miles) from north to south. That's slightly bigger than the country of Belgium! Measuring up to 1,637 metres (5,370 feet) deep from the lakebed to the water surface, Lake Baikal is the deepest lake in the world and contains a fifth of the world's freshwater supply.
Myths and legends	There are several myths and legends surrounding the lake but the most famous one is a Buryat legend about a great earthquake that happened a long time ago. The ground came apart and everything was engulfed in flame. In despair, people cried to the Gods, "Bay gal!" (Fire, stop!), which miraculously stopped the fire and filled the rift with clear water. That was how the lake got its name.
Ecosystem	Lake Baikal has been nicknamed the "Galapagos of Russia", due to its exceptional biodiversity. The age, isolation, and high oxygen levels at great depths of the lake have resulted in one of the richest freshwater ecosystems in the world. At least 80% of the more than 3,700 species found in and around Lake Baikal are endemic, which means that they do not exist anywhere else on Earth. These include the oily, scaleless <i>golomyanka</i> fish, the <i>omul</i> fish, and – probably the most famous of them – the <i>nerpa</i> (a.k.a. Baikal seal), which is the world's only freshwater seal.
Time to visit	Lake Baikal is open to visitors all year round, with each season offering its own charms. The best time to visit therefore depends on your weather preference and the kind of activities you plan to do at the lake. As far as weather goes, summer is the most pleasant time to go, and is perfect for picnicking, swimming, and hiking. However, it also attracts the biggest crowds and tour groups. Winter is when you get to experience the true beauty and uniqueness of Lake Baikal. To see the lake in its beautiful frozen state, go between October and April, although it may still be icy in May. The weather is manageable as long as you dress appropriately. Prices are also lower in winter.