

**Topic: Exploring Washington**

**Let's get started...**

Washington is a beautiful state. Have you traveled to other cities or other parts of Washington? Have you ever gone camping or hiking in Washington? There are many beautiful places to explore.

**Background:**

In 1889, Washington became the 42<sup>nd</sup> state of the United States of America. (Right now the U.S.A. has 50 states.) Washington's nickname is the Evergreen State because of all the trees and green plants. There is also a rainforest in Washington, on the Olympic Peninsula, that is always (or "ever") green.

There are so many sites and events in the state of Washington. In Mount Vernon is the Tulip Festival, where you can look at amazing, colorful tulips. There is "A Bite of Seattle," where you can try different foods made in Seattle. There is the Puyallup Fair in Puyallup, and the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe. In Fremont there is the Oktoberfest. There is also the Seattle International Film Festival, where you can watch movies from different countries!

If you like outdoor activities, you can visit Mount Rainier, Snoqualmie Falls, Mount Baker, the San Juan Islands, Grand Coulee Dam, or the Columbia River Gorge.

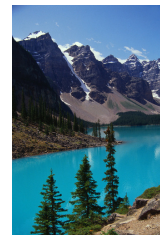


**In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

Describe a favorite place in your native country where you like to go:

- To relax
- For adventure
- For vacation
- For camping or hiking
- For boating or fishing
- For entertainment

**Share your partner's answers with the group.**



**Discussion Questions:**

Do you enjoy living in Washington? Why or why not?

What places have you visited in Washington? Can you recommend any?

What activities do you enjoy doing? Do you prefer outdoor activities or indoor activities? Why?

Do you like to do activities in the Spring? Summer? Fall? Winter? Why?

Do you like to explore alone or with friends and/or family? Why?

What do you take with you when you are hiking or exploring? (Example: bottled water, camera, etc.)

Are there any places or events in your native country that you miss? What are they?

Did you enjoy going to cultural events in your native country? Describe one of those events.

Have you ever gone camping? Did you sleep in a tent or in a motor home? Describe a camping trip that you have been on.

What is a place that you have visited in Seattle? Describe your visit.

Do you have white-water rafting in your native country? Have you ever been white-water rafting?

In your native country, is it common to go on a road trip? Have you ever been on a road trip? Have you ever been on a road trip in the United States? Where did you go?

Do you prefer to travel by car, by plane, or by train? Do you like any other methods of travel?

What is your favorite place to travel to in Washington?

**New words and Idioms:**

Camping, hiking, evergreen, rainforest, boating, fishing, cultural events, festivals, outdoor, indoor, explore, aircraft industries, timber, backpacking, motor home, adventure, tourism, road trip, white-water rafting, tulip, gorge, dam, forest, ferry.