

File name: VR_1.3T_LP8_EarthScience_Science_11

Topic: Water distribution, weather and climate

Keywords: Niagara Falls, water distribution

Suggested grade level: Grade 11

Estimated activity time: 15 min

Earth Science – Science 11

Water distribution and its influence on weather and climate

VR 360° exploration: Niagara Falls Canada VR - 360° - #NFTVR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsVqzWYetR0>

General Introduction:

Participating in a VR 360° exploration/expedition is like going on a vacation or trip. You have to plan your destinations, places to eat, relax, and where you would like to meet your friends and family. It means that you have to identify your objectives.

For teachers:

In this section, you will see a modified planning and preparation arranged into three steps. The steps are our suggestions. We hope they will help you maximize the learning opportunities a VR 360° exploration/expedition can potentially offer.

Three steps:

- 1) Pre-exploration: Preview the playlist exploration yourself. By doing this, you are identifying possible questions and activities that might enrich students' VR experience.
- 2) During exploration: Provide guide or key questions or ask the students to formulate new questions about the playlist and encourage students to refer to other resources (e.g., YouTube videos, articles, etc.) to connect and enrich the playlist.
- 3) Post-exploration: Follow-up on the new questions and wonders students have identified. These questions might lead to an interdisciplinary inquiry project, blog posts or short video clips to link with the original unit or chapter coverage.

Description:

In this 15-minute exploration activity, you'll see a 360° panorama of Niagara Falls.

Did you know that Niagara Falls is not the tallest waterfall in the world? There are about 500 other waterfalls in the world that are “taller” than Niagara. The Angel Falls in Venezuela stands at 979 metres (3,212 ft.). What makes Niagara Falls so impressive is the amount of water flowing over. Most of the tallest falls in the world have very little water flowing over them. It's the combination of height and volume that makes Niagara Falls so breathtaking.

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit-niagara-parks/plan-your-visit/niagara-falls-geology-facts-figures/>

Objective:

The core learning outcome of this playlist is to enrich students' understanding and awareness of earth's water system e.g. rivers, waterfalls in relation to weather and climate as well as the initiatives on how to protect and conserve them.

However, unlike a regular 2D video, this VR provides a 360° panorama, which allows your students to focus on different points of interest that might vary from student to student. So, take time to explore the playlist using different angles and positions.



Niagara Falls Canada VR - 360° - #NFTVR

Suggested Guide:

1) Pre-exploration:

Know more about Niagara Falls:

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit-niagara-parks/plan-your-visit/niagara-falls-geology-facts-figures/>

2) During exploration:

What key questions could pique students' interest as they watch this playlist?

As well, ask them to think of interesting questions they want to answer as they watch the playlist. Let them discuss these questions and their possible answers.

They can do this by groups of two or three.

With limited number of Google cardboards, let students work in pairs. Let them take turn to watch the playlist and do a Q & A. For example, Student 1 will describe to student 2 what he/she is seeing right now. Student 2 will explain the playlist, to Student 1 and each student will take turns doing Q & A.

3) Post-exploration:

Give time for the pair/class to think about the questions and answers they have generated after watching the playlist.

Then invite them to watch the playlist again. And after watching, let them express their understanding, reactions into any interdisciplinary inquiry projects, blog posts, short video clips, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsVqzWYtR0>

References:

https://edu.google.com/products/vr-ar/expeditions/?modal_active=none

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsVqzWYtR0>

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit-niagara-parks/plan-your-visit/niagara-falls-geology-facts-figures/>