

**Read Tchaikovsky's 1891 description of Niagara Falls, and then answer the questions:**

"I will not describe the beauty of the Falls, as such things are difficult to express in words. The beauty and majesty of the sight are truly breathtaking. It is divided into several separate waterfalls of which two are colossal ...Went to the Three Sisters Islands ... then across a marvelous, daring and beautiful bridge to the Canadian side. This bridge was constructed or, better, thrown across the Niagara but two years ago. One feels dizzy when looking below ... I changed into some very ugly clothing, descended in an elevator below the Falls and walked through a tunnel to finally stand right below the Falls ... a little frightening. The Niagara, a river wider than the Volga, does battle against the rapids ... I descended by cable railway and walked along the shore level with the roaring river." (Hammond, p. 36.)

1. Learn the following vocabulary words. On a separate sheet of paper, for each vocabulary word, rewrite the word, copy the sentence from which the word comes from, write your own sentence using the word in a meaningful way, and draw a picture depicting the word.

falls

waterfalls

island

bridge

tunnel

river

shore

2. Have you ever been to Niagara Falls or to any other waterfall? Write two paragraphs about your visit. If you have never visited a waterfall, describe some other place in nature in the United States you have visited and liked very much ("in nature" means a place in the country, not in the city). Write a diary entry about this experience.

Text excerpts from: Hammond, Susan. *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*. Teacher's Notes. Based on the original work by Douglas Cowling. Pickering, Ontario, Canada: The Children's Group, Inc., 1998.