

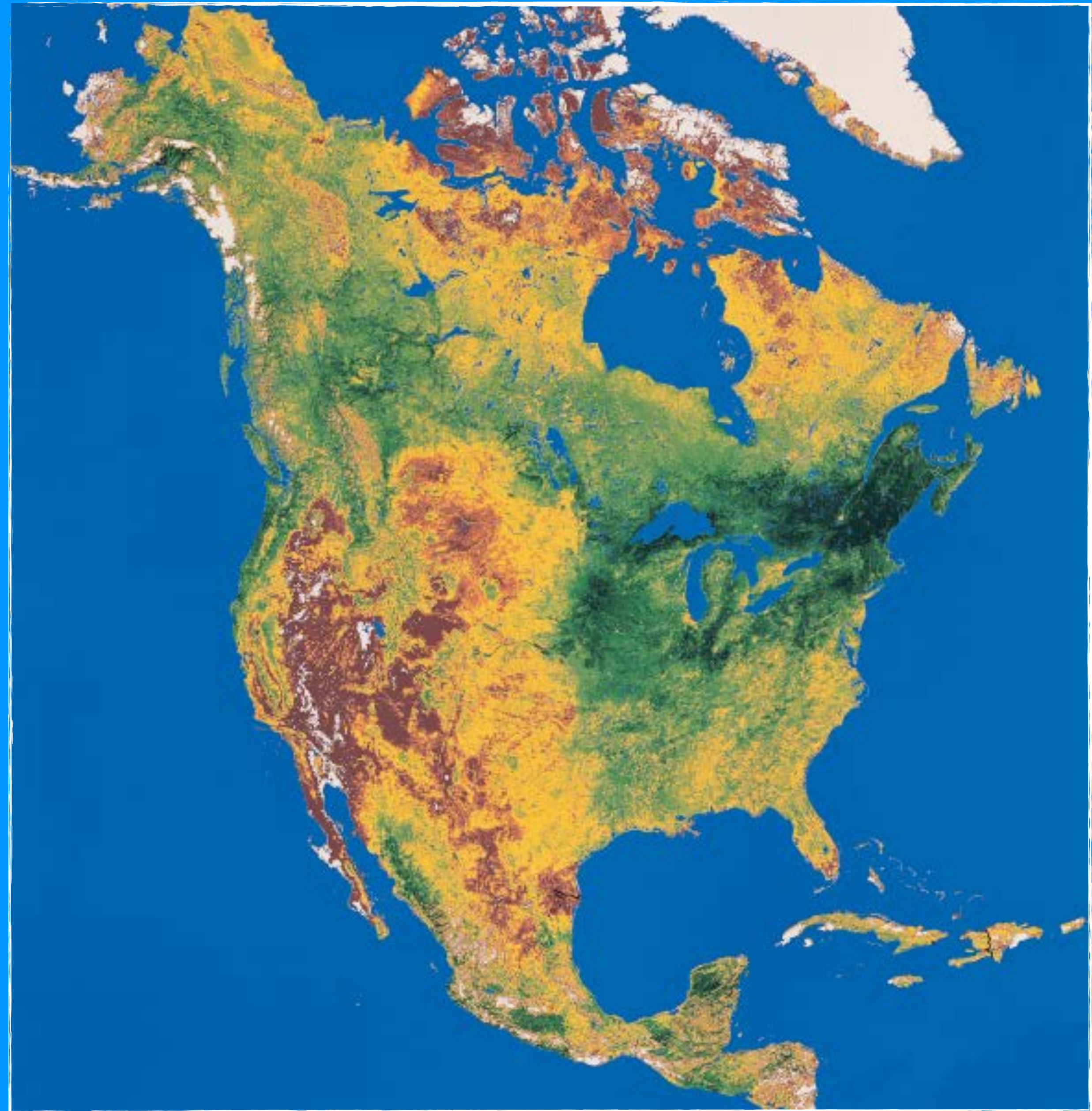
North America

Learning Objective:

To explore the geographical features of North America.

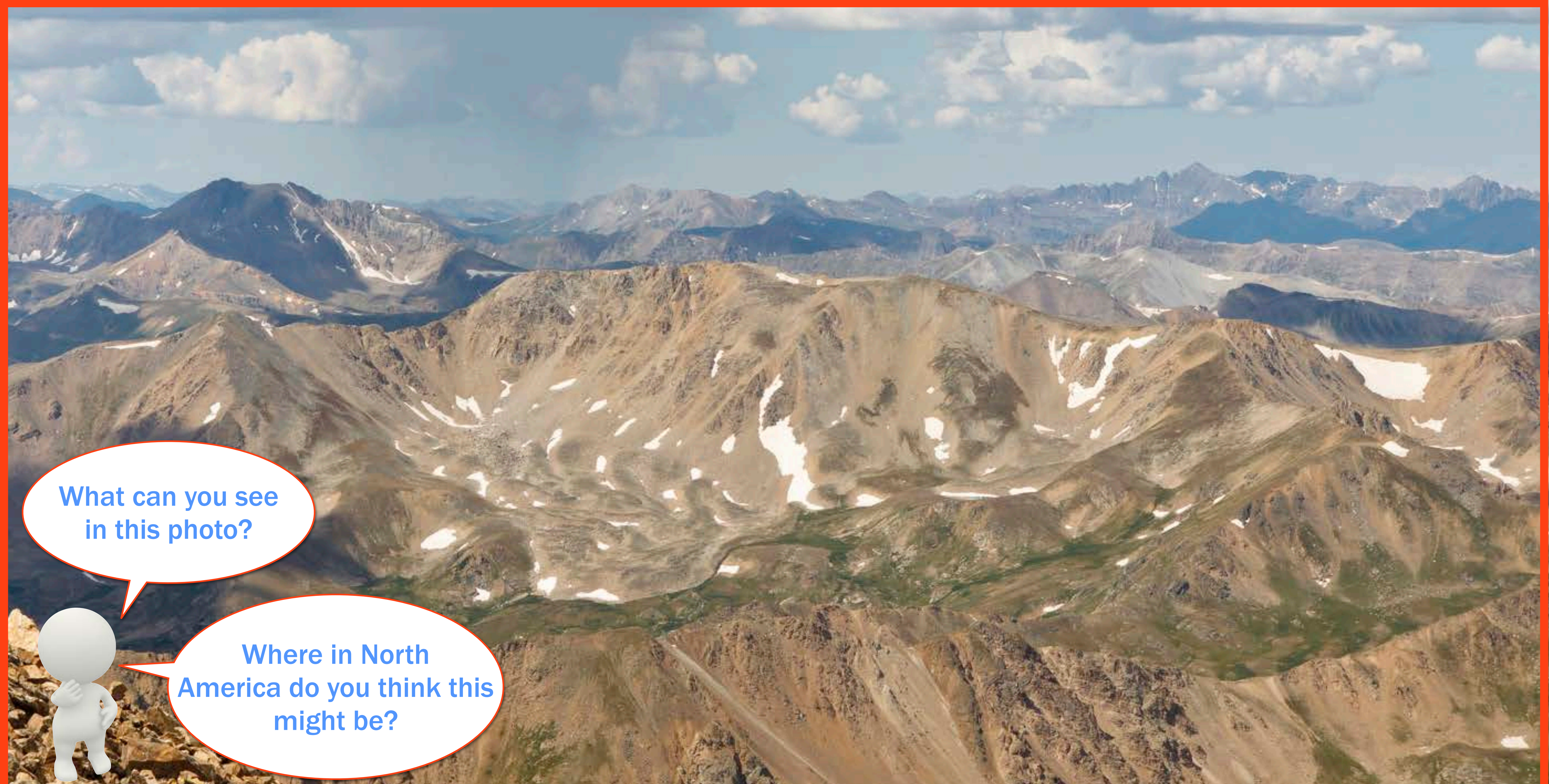


North America is the third largest continent in the world and has an area of 24,247,039 km². As you would expect, an area this large has an extremely varied landscape. There are mountains, deserts, plains, rainforests, cliffs, waterfalls, glaciers and just about any other geographical feature you can name.





Let's have a look at some of the most famous sites in North America. Let's see if you can recognise any of them...



What can you see in this photo?

Where in North America do you think this might be?

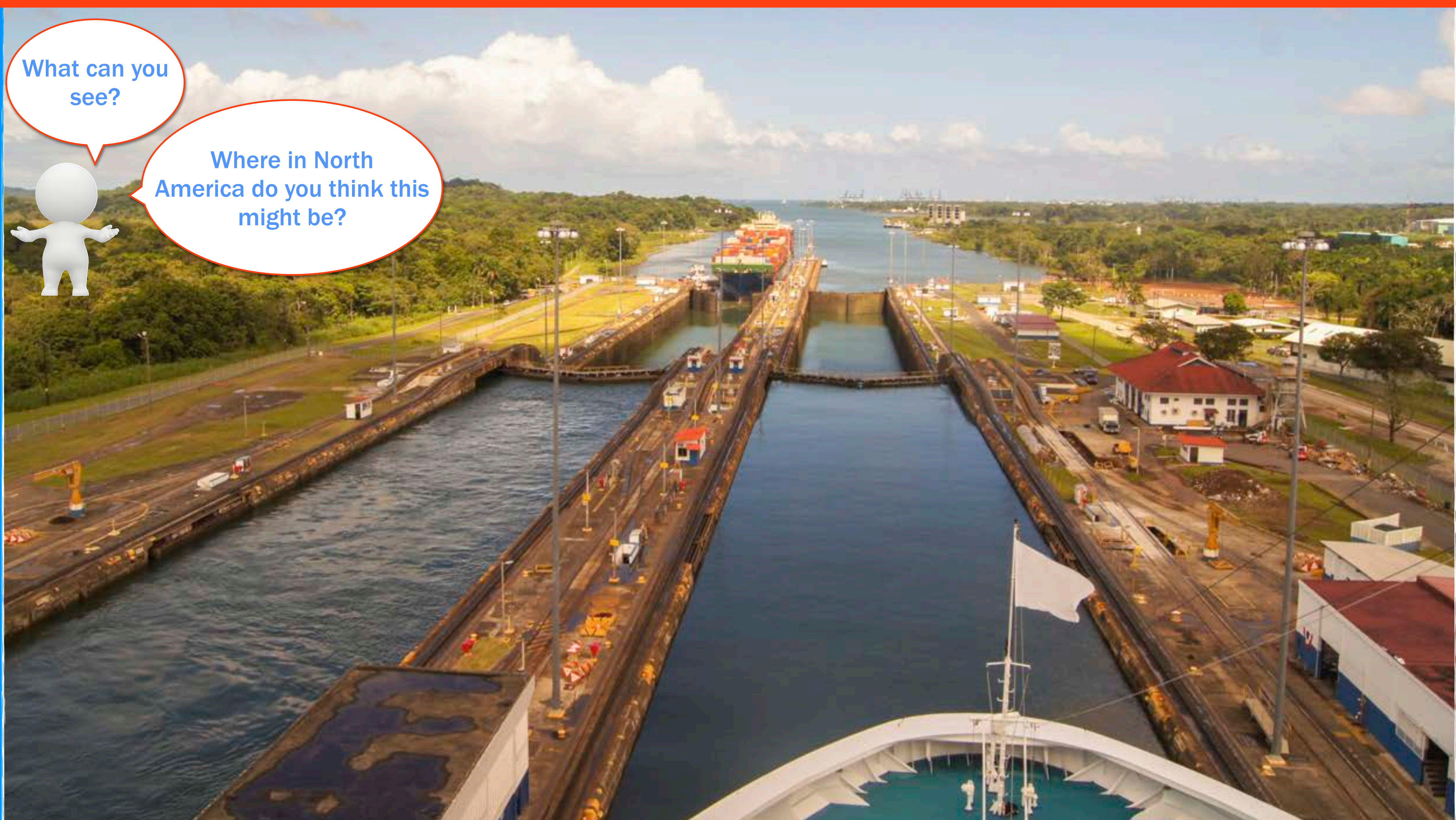


This is a view of the Rocky Mountains (also known as the Rockies) which is a major mountain range running along the western edge of North America. The Rockies run all the way from Alberta and British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico, USA. They stretch for around 3000 miles and in some places are 300 miles wide. The tallest mountain in the Rockies is Mount Elbert (Colorado, USA). It has an elevation of 4401 metres.

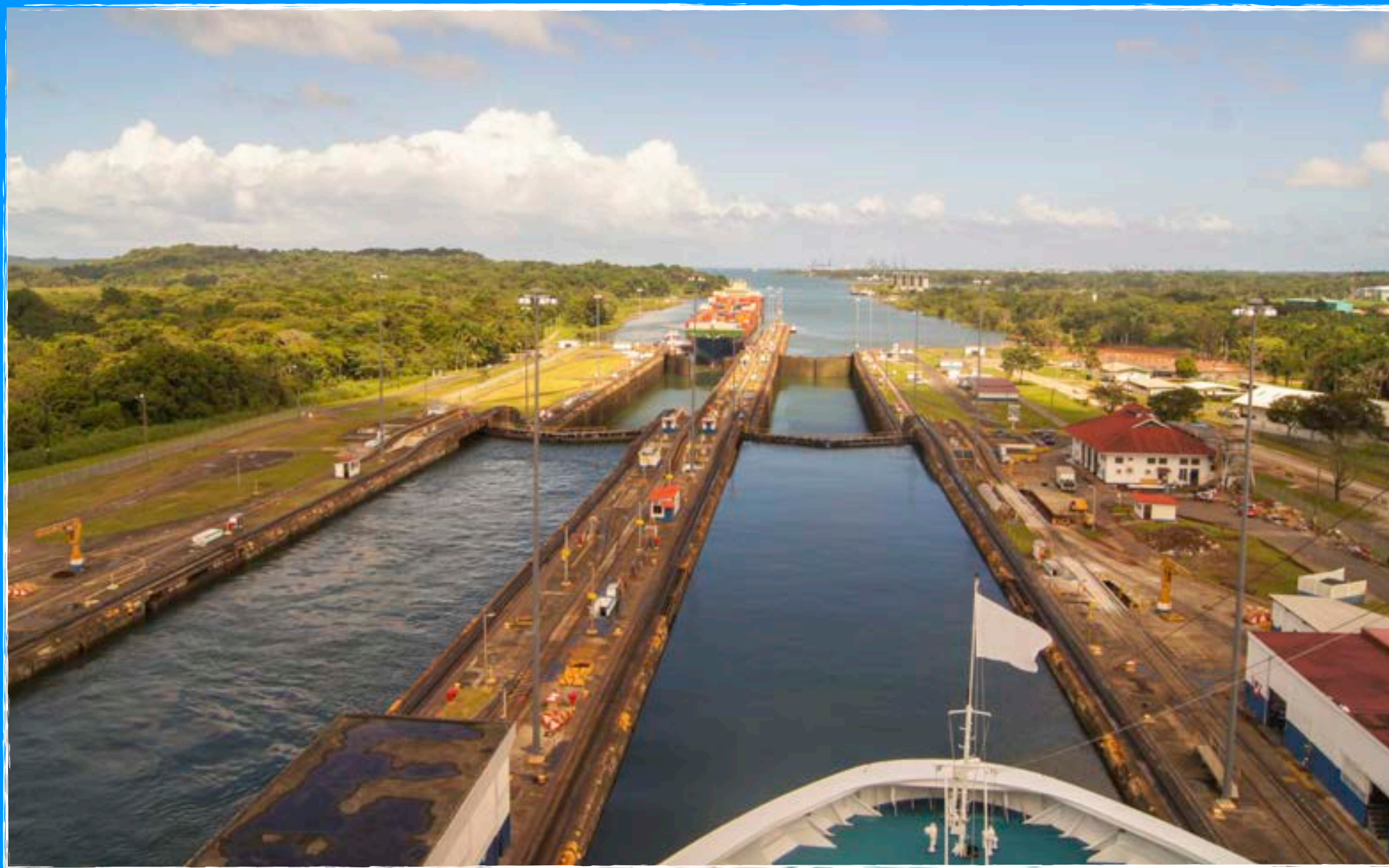


What can you see?

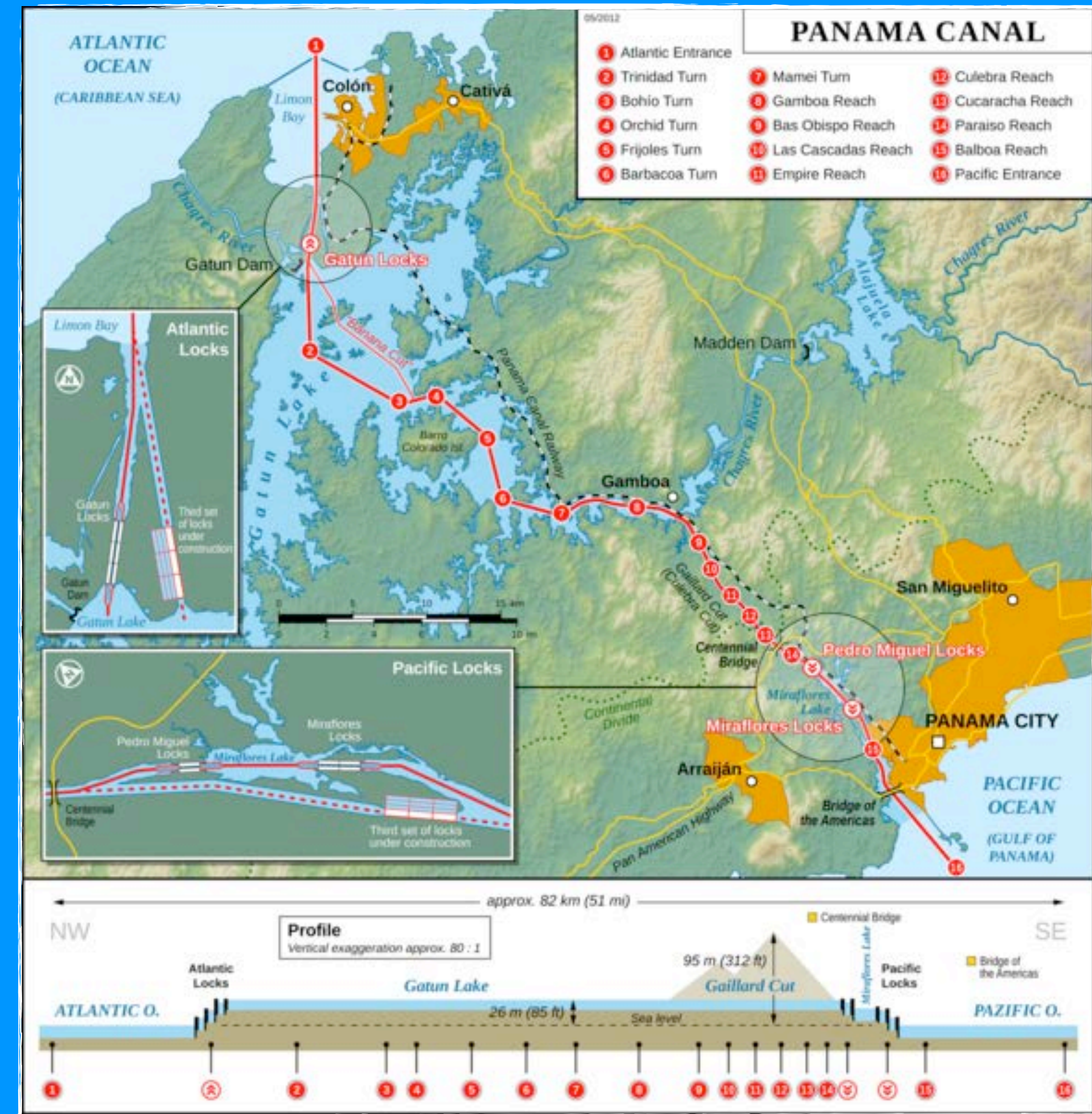
Where in North America do you think this might be?



This is the Panama Canal. It links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.



The Panama Canal is a shipping canal that is used to allow cargo ships to cut through Panama instead of having to go around the tip of South America to cross from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It took more than 30 years to build and was officially opened in 1914.





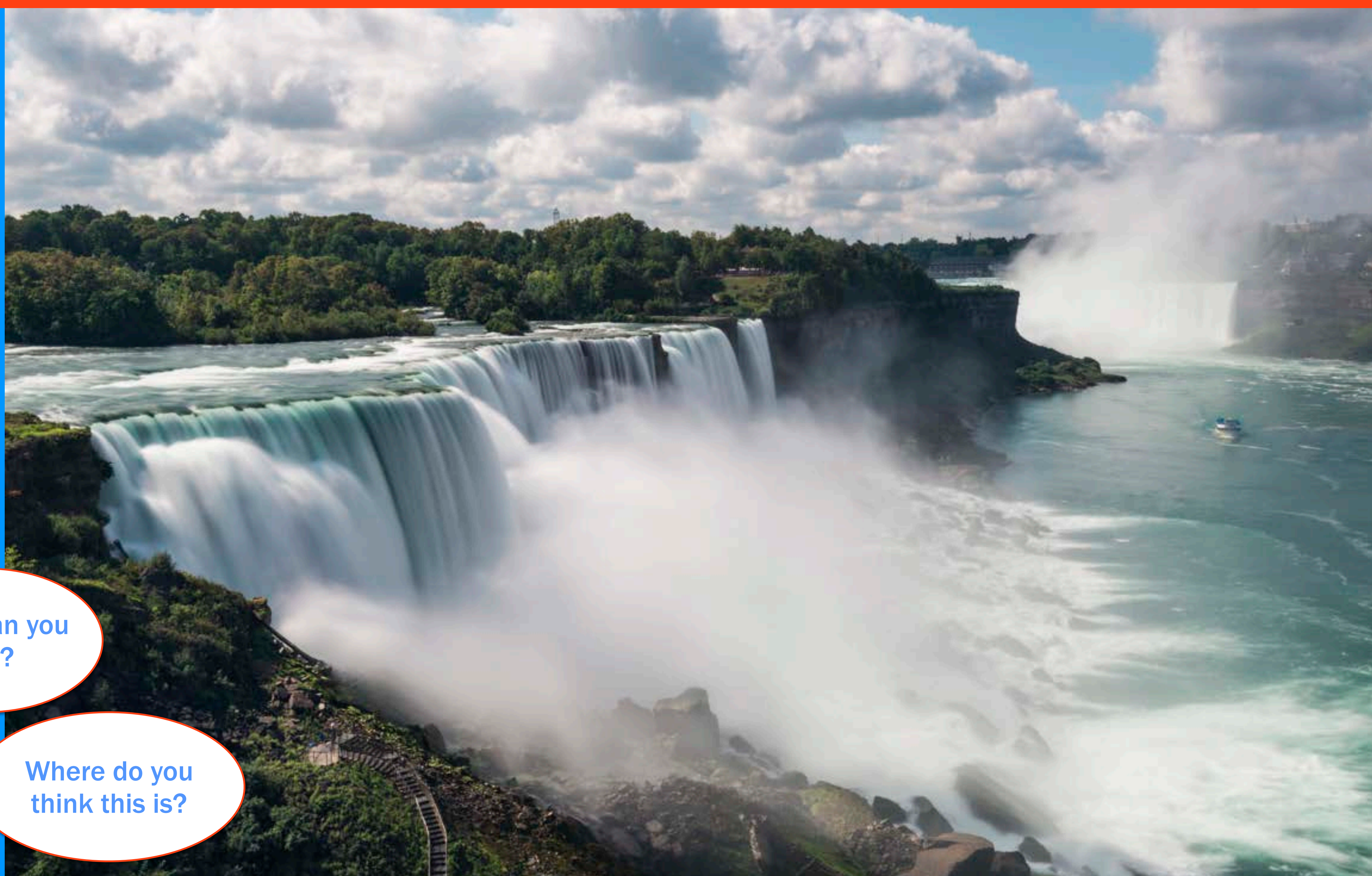
What can you see?

Where do you think this is?





This is the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. The deep crevices have been carved out of the rock by the Colorado River, as well as other factors, through the process of erosion.

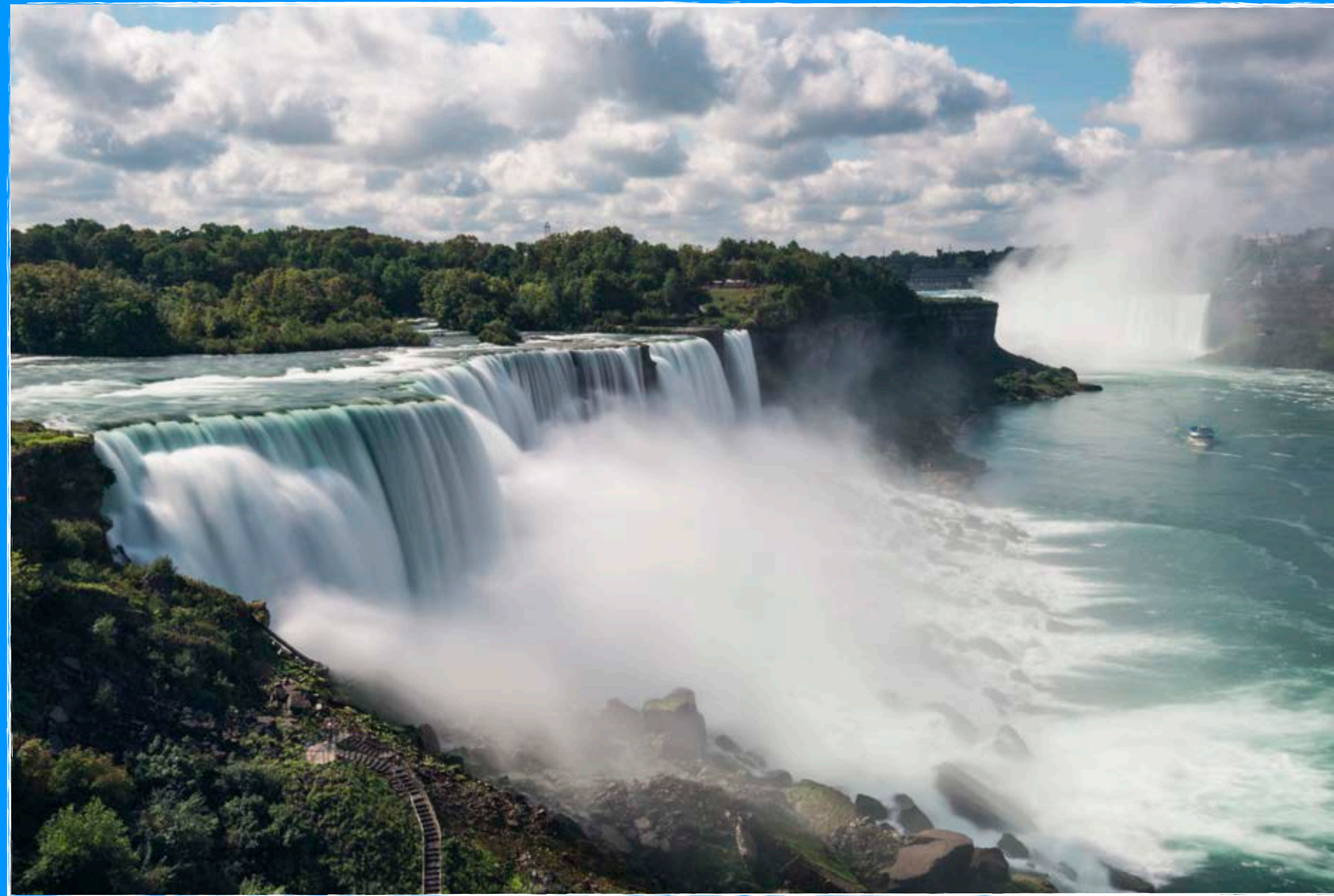


What can you see?

Where do you think this is?



These are the Niagara Falls which are on the border of Canada and the USA. They are the largest waterfalls in North America (based on the volume of water). The Niagara Falls are actually made up of three different waterfalls: Horseshoe Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and the America Falls. Horseshoe Falls are the largest and are 53 metres high and 790 metres wide.





What can you see?

Where do you think this is?



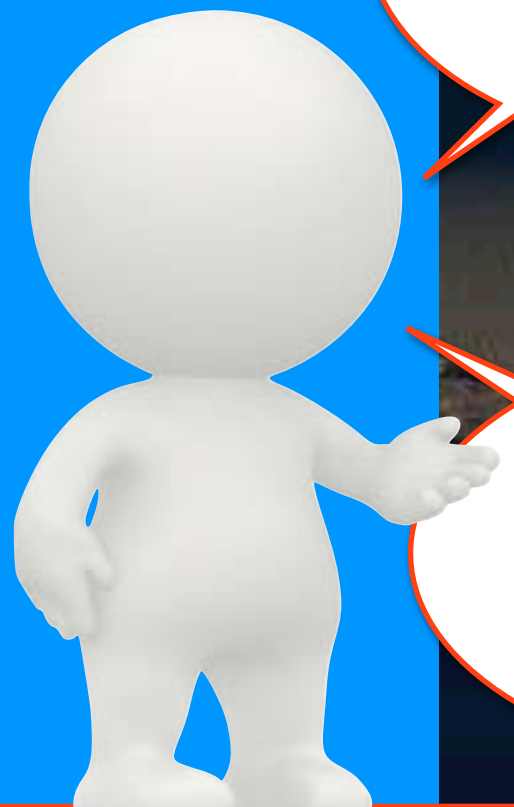


This is the Hubbard Glacier in Alaska, USA. A glacier is a slow moving river of ice. It takes about 400 years for ice to travel the length of this glacier from the head to the foot. This means that the ice at the foot of this glacier is 400 years old!



What can you see?

Where do you think this is?



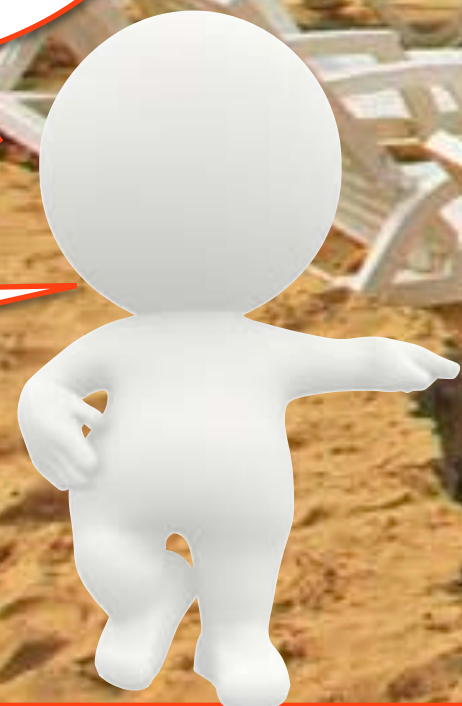
This is Death Valley, part of the Mojave Desert in Eastern California. It is one of the hottest places in the world. It is also the hottest, driest and lowest place in North America.





Where do you think this is?

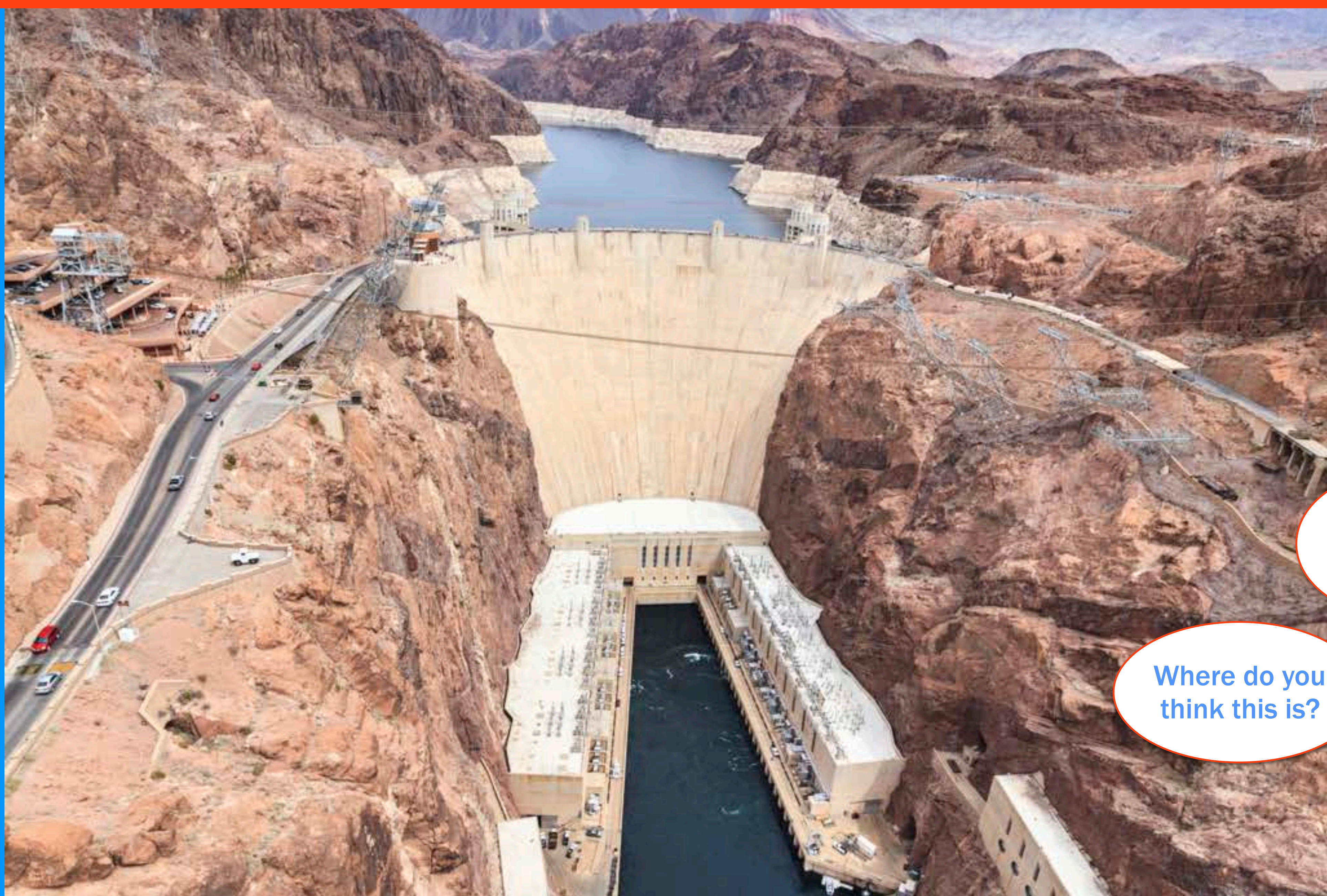
What can you see?



**This is Rincon Beach
on the Samana
peninsula in the
Dominican Republic.
The Samana peninsula
was described by
Christopher Columbus
as being 'the fairest
land on the face of the
Earth.'**



**The Samana peninsula has mountains covered in tropical
rainforest, beautiful sandy beaches, blue sea and coral reefs.**




What can you see?

Where do you think this is?





This is the Hoover Dam which is on the border between Arizona and Nevada. The Hoover Dam spans the Colorado River and was built to control flooding, to provide irrigation for the dry surrounding areas, and to create hydroelectric power. It was built in the 1930s during the Great Depression and, at the time it was built, was one of the largest man-made structures in the world. Over 100 people died during its construction. Today, more than a million people visit the Hoover Dam every year.



As you have seen, North America is a very varied place with lots of natural and man-made wonders. There are many more too! Which out of the ones we have looked at so far would you most like to see for yourself?