**Seattle текст 1**

Incorporated as a city in 1869, Seattle is a city of water. Seattle is located between Puget Sound and Lake Washington, and situated on a series of hills. Seattle is closely identified with the 185-meter-high Space Needle, built for the 1962 World’s Fair.

The Seattle Center is a showplace of cultural institutions and a city of parks and recreation. Because of its very high annual rainfall, Seattle is a green city. It provides many opportunities for enjoying nature: walking, boating, riding, visiting gardens, and many other relaxing occupations.

It’s a pleasure to simply walk Seattle’s streets and to enjoy its interesting architecture and old buildings. Seattle still has a street-car system, and riding on them is a fun way to see much of the city.

You will often see street performers, colorful vendors, and the city’s citizens enjoying Seattle’s many attractions. You’ll enjoy looking at Seattle’s many fountains.

Most of all, you’ll enjoy life along the waterfront. Visit Seattle’s many fish and seafood markets and dine in some of its excellent seafood restaurants. Take boat rides and enjoy views of the city from the water. You’ll be thrilled by the sight of Mount Ranier, part of the Cascade Range of mountains.

Your visit to America will be enhanced a stop in Seattle, a beautiful, gentle, and hospitable city.

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**Salt Lake City текст 2**

Salt Lake City is the capital of Utah, United States. Situated near the Great Salt Lake, in the northern part of the state, the city is the trade centre for a wide region and also has a variety of manufacturing industries. Products include refined petroleum, metal goods, processed foods, printed materials, and textiles. Nearby mining and processing operations for copper, silver, lead, zinc, coal, iron ore, and other minerals also contribute to the city's economy. The international headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) is the city's major landmark.

Among the points of interest in Salt Lake City are the Mormon Tabernacle (1867), home of the 325-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir; the Mormon Temple (1893); the State Capitol (1915); the Utah Museum of Fine Arts; and Symphony Hall, home of the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Salt Lake City is also the seat of the University of Utah (1850) and Westminster College (1875), and a community college. The Delta Center arena is the home of the Utah Jazz basketball team.

Searching for a “land that nobody wanted”, Mormons entered the valley of the Great Salt Lake on July 24, 1847. Their leader, Brigham Young, declared “this is the place”, and the pioneers began to cultivate the land. Young planned the community in 4-hectare (10-acre) plots around Temple Square, on which were later built the Temple and the Tabernacle. A constitution was drawn up in 1849 for the state of Deseret, and Great Salt Lake City (the name was shortened to Salt Lake City in 1868) was made its capital. The population grew rapidly with the steady influx of Mormons, many coming from Europe. In 1851, the Utah Territory was created, and in 1856 Salt Lake City replaced Fillmore as the capital; it remained the capital when Utah became part of the United States in 1896. The unorthodox ways of the Mormons led to conflicts with the US government, and in 1858 federal troops established Camp Floyd near the city. The city's economy was strengthened with the completion of the first transcontinental railway in 1869. Population (1980) 163,697; (1990) 159,936.

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**San Antonio текст 3**

San Antonio is the city in Texas, United States. The city is noted for its mixture of Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American cultures and is the site of the famous Alamo fortress.

One of the largest cities in the United States, San Antonio is a commercial, manufacturing, military, tourist, and financial centre situated in a crop-farming and cattle- and sheep-farming region. It produces chemicals, processed foods, building materials, aerospace equipment, clothing, and machinery. Five military installations, including four US Air Force bases, within or just outside the city are important to its economy.

Among the many points of historical interest in San Antonio are five Franciscan missions, including Mission San Antуnio de Valero (founded 1718), which after 1793 was converted into a fortress known as the Alamo (Sp., “cottonwood tree”). Also of note are the Spanish Governor's Palace, which in 1772 became the headquarters of the Spanish government in Texas and La Villita, a complex of some two dozen restored buildings on the site of a Coahuiltecan village; San Fernando Cathedral (completed 1873); the King William Historic District, a residential area settled in the late 19th century by merchants from Germany; and the tall Tower of the Americas, built for HemisFair '68, a world's fair held in San Antonio in 1968. Sea World of Texas and a musical theme park are also located here.

Institutions of higher education in San Antonio include Trinity University (1869), the University of Texas at San Antonio (1969), the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (1976), St Mary's University of San Antonio (1852), Incarnate Word College (1881), and the Oblate School of Theology (1903). Cultural facilities include the Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, the Institute of Texan Cultures and Lone Star Hall of Texas History, and the San Antonio Museum of Art. The city of San Antonio supports a symphony orchestra and is the site of an annual opera festival.

The site of San Antonio was long inhabited by Native Americans of the Coalhuiltec and Payaya tribes. The first permanent European settlement was established in 1718, when the mission of San Antуnio de Valero and the presidio (fortress) of San Antуnio de Bйjar (Bйxar) were built here by the Spanish. Four other missions were soon constructed nearby and a community, called San Fernando de Bйxar, was laid out in 1731 by 15 immigrant families from the Canary Islands. The settlement developed as the major Spanish, and after 1821, Mexican, stronghold in Texas until the struggle for Texan independence, when San Antonio was captured by Texans in December 1835. It remained under their control until March 6, 1836, when Mexican soldiers under the leadership of General Antonio Lуpez de Santa Anna stormed the Alamo and massacred 187 Texans, including the frontiersmen Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie.

After the American Civil War and the arrival of the railway in 1877, San Antonio developed as a cattle market and distribution point for south-central Texas. It prospered as a military centre during both world wars. San Antonio's population increased markedly from the 1940s, in part through the annexation of adjacent communities. Population (1980) 786,023; (1990) 935,933.

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**Sacramento текст 4**

 is the capital of California, United States. A deep-water port at the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers, Sacramento is a commercial, manufacturing, and transport centre for a productive agricultural region. Major products include processed foods, furniture, printed materials, fertilizer, and aerospace and electronic equipment. Government activities, financial institutions, and tourism are also vital to the city's economy.

Sacramento is the site of California State University, Sacramento (1947). Points of interest in the city include the State Capitol (1860-1874), the Crocker Art Museum, and a Native American museum. Sacramento supports a symphony orchestra and several theatres.

In 1839 the Swiss-American pioneer John A. Sutter received a land grant from the Mexican government and established a colony known as New Helvetia on the site of present-day Sacramento. In 1844 Fort Sutter was completed and the settlement became an important trading post. Gold was discovered nearby, at Sutter's Mill (now Coloma), in 1848. The ensuing gold rush led to the founding of Sacramento, named after the Sacramento River. Sacramento was chosen to be the permanent seat of the state government in 1854 and in 1869 it became the western terminus of the first American transcontinental railway. The city grew in importance as a port after the completion in 1963 of a deep-water channel to San Francisco Bay. Population (1980) 275,741; (1990) 369,365.

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 **Pittsburgh текст 5**

The second largest city in Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh is a major financial and transport centre and the nation's busiest inland river port. Served by several railways, inland-water carriers, major highways, and the nearby Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, it has the headquarters of several major corporations located in the city.

Following the collapse of the domestic steel industry, Pittsburgh's economy was successfully transformed from one dominated by manufacturing—particularly steel, iron, and glass—to one concentrated around high technology, healthcare, and business services. Pittsburgh is a world leader in organ transplants. As a result, many research and testing laboratories are located in the city. Major products include industrial automation, software engineering, and biomedical technology. Pittsburgh, which contains more than 720 bridges, is known as the City of Bridges.

Included among the city's institutions of higher education are the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University (1878), Carlow College (1929), the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (1794), and the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (1810). Places of interest include the Frick Art Museum; the Museum of Art, the Sarah Mellon Scaife Gallery, the Science Center, and the Museum of Natural History, which are all operated by the Carnegie Institute; the Institute of Popular Science; Phipps Conservatory; and the Allegheny Observatory. Among the sports, entertainment, and meeting facilities in the city are Three Rivers Stadium, used by major league baseball and American football teams. The city is home to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Opera, and the Civic Light Opera.

The area surrounding the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers was claimed by both the British and the French. On the recommendation of George Washington, who had visited here in 1753, a detachment of Virginia militia occupied the area at the fork of the rivers in 1754 and started to construct a fort. Less than three months later they were attacked by a force of French and Native Americans and were compelled to withdraw. The French soon completed the construction of the fortification, calling it Fort Duquesne. In late 1758 a British expedition led by General John Forbes moved against Fort Duquesne. Forbes occupied the site only after the French had destroyed the fort. A new fort was called Fort Pitt in honour of the then British prime minister, William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham.

Following the American War of Independence Pittsburgh grew as a depot for settlers heading west. In about 1792, George Anshutz built a blast furnace here, the first step to developing the city's great iron and steel industry, the main growth of which came after 1850. In 1797 Pittsburgh's first glass factory was constructed, and in 1804 the first cotton-textile factory was established in the city. In 1834 the opening of the Pennsylvania Canal and the Portage Railroad, both of which linked the city with Philadelphia, brought increased commerce to Pittsburgh. Since the 1950s Pittsburgh has undergone large-scale redevelopment, and major programmes dealing with smoke-pollution control, flood prevention, and sewage disposal have been implemented. Population (1980) 423,959; (1990) 369,879.

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**Devils Tower текст 6**

is a monolithic igneous intrusion or volcanic neck located in the Black Hills near Hulett and Sundance in Crook County, northeastern Wyoming, above the Belle Fourche River. It rises dramatically 1,267 feet (386 m) above the surrounding terrain and the summit is 5,112 feet (1,558 m) above sea level.

Devils Tower was the first declared United States National Monument, established on September 24, 1906, by President Theodore Roosevelt. The Monument's boundary encloses an area of 1,347 acres (5.45 km2).

Film director Steven Spielberg used the location in his 1977 film Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

The name Devil's Tower originated in 1875 during an expedition led by Col. Richard Irving Dodge when his interpreter misinterpreted the name to mean Bad God's Tower. This was later shortened to the Devil's Tower. All information signs in that area use the name "Devils Tower", following a geographic naming standard whereby the apostrophe is eliminated.

In 2005, a proposal to recognize several American Indian ties through the additional designation of the monolith as Bear Lodge National Historic Landmark met with opposition from the US Representative Barbara Cubin, arguing that a "name change will harm the tourist trade and bring economic hardship to area communities".

Devils Tower in geological context. The oval-shaped mesa around the Tower suggests the old volcano's shape. The red rock is the Permian-Triassic Spearfish Formation, and above that is the younger, white Gypsum Springs Formation.

Geologists agree that Devils Tower was formed by the intrusion of igneous material, but they cannot agree on how, exactly, that process took place. Geologists Carpenter and Russell studied Devils Tower in the late 19th century and came to the conclusion that the Tower was formed by an igneous intrusion. Later geologists searched for further explanations. Several geologists believe the molten rock comprising the Tower might not have surfaced; other researchers are convinced the tower is all that remains of what once was a large explosive volcano.

In 1907, scientists Darton and O'Hara decided that Devils Tower must be an eroded remnant of a laccolith. A laccolith is a large mass of igneous rock which is intruded through sedimentary rock beds without reaching the surface, but makes a rounded bulge in the sedimentary layers above. This theory was quite popular in the early 20th century since numerous studies had earlier been done on laccoliths in the Southwest.

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