



# *Seattle*

This story takes place in Seattle, Washington, on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Washington was named after America's first president, George Washington (1732-99). It is a very green state with a lot of forests, mountains, lakes, a beautiful coast and two national parks.

Seattle is the largest city in the northwest area of the United States. It has a population of nearly 600,000. It is often called the Emerald City because of its beautiful green trees. It is also called "the rainy city" because it rains a lot.

When the first European settlers <sup>1</sup> arrived in the area in 1851 only the Dwamish Indians lived there. The city was named after the Indian chief Seattle, who was friendly to the settlers. Seattle was built on

1. **settlers** : people who move to a new place to live there.

seven hills and it grew quickly during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush. <sup>2</sup> People who were looking for gold stopped in Seattle and bought supplies <sup>3</sup> before going north. Today the city is an important transportation and business center.

Seattle's most famous landmark is the Space Needle. It was built in 1962 for the World's Fair. A 40-second elevator ride will take you up almost 160 meters to the observation area where you can get a wonderful view of the city. There is also a restaurant at the top.



The Space Needle.

2. **Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush** : a period at the end of the 19th century when thousands of people went to an area of northern USA/Canada to search for gold.
3. **supplies** : (here) food, drink, clothing and other necessary objects.



Ferry boats are a popular means of transportation in Seattle. You can take a fun tour on a ferry boat and visit other interesting towns and islands nearby.

Another wonderful attraction is the big Seattle Aquarium; it is one of the best in the country.

Pike Place Market is over a hundred years old and it is a big tourist attraction. You can buy all sorts of flowers, food and souvenirs here, and you can watch street performers and musicians.

### 1 Comprehension check

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Seattle is the largest city on the northeast coast of the USA.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Seattle often has wet weather.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Chief Seattle was a Dwamish Indian.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 In the nineteenth century a lot of people went to Seattle to look for gold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The Space Needle is not open to the public.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Tourists can buy presents for their friends at Pike Place Market.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |