Progress Monitoring Probe 12

The Bay of Fundy

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The Bay of Fundy tides have been called one of the natural wonders of the world. Like a high-speed train, the tides roll into the bay twice a day, bringing one hundred billion tons of seawater. They cause the water level in the bay to rise as much as fifty feet. That's about the height of a four-story building. The movement of all this water creates dangerous currents and churning whirlpools.

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It's no surprise that the Bay of Fundy is a popular stop for tourists. Some people come just to see the tides. Others enjoy exploring the mud flats, bogs, and forests in the area. Be careful exploring the mud flats, though. They can be extremely dangerous when the tide starts to come in. Birdwatchers come in late summer to observe the migrating birds. Whatever their 302

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The Bay of Fundy

As you take a stroll near the Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada, you look out across an enormous area of mud. Suddenly the earth begins to shake. Then you hear a loud noise that sounds like thunder. "What's going on?" you wonder. "Is a tornado approaching?" No, what you're hearing is the approach of the Fundy tide, the highest tide in the world. Soon, the muddy area you're looking at will be filled with seawater.

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When the Fundy tide goes out, the bay is completely emptied. A vast area of mud remains. Like the floor of the bay, animals that live in the bay are also exposed. Some of these animals, such as snails, worms, and fish, provide a feast for migrating birds. Every year, about two million sandpipers and other birds stop at the Bay of Fundy to feed while on their annual migration. Some have huge appetites. Each tiny sandpiper can eat up to sixteen thousand mud shrimp every six hours!

It's no surprise that the Bay of Fundy is a popular stop for tourists. Some people come just to see the tides. Others enjoy exploring the mud flats, bogs, and forests in the area. Be careful exploring the mud flats, though. They can be extremely dangerous when the tide starts to come in. Birdwatchers come in late summer to observe the migrating birds. Whatever their

reasons, the visitors leave knowing that they have seen a place of unique natural beauty.