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国際交流員コ－ナ－

CIR's Corner

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Hello everyone! "CIR's Corner" is my monthly article about international exchange and cultures around the world. I will introduce a variety of interesting international topics.

This Month's Topic: Seattle, My Hometown



Seattle is a port city on the west coast of the USA. It is a 3-hour drive from the Canadian border to the north, and Gresham, Ebetsu's sister city, to the south.

Seattle has a rainy climate. Over half of the year is gray and rainy. However, summers are warm and comfortable. Winters are not as cold as in Hokkaido. If it snows even a little, school is canceled, public transportation stops running, and it causes a lot of problems. (The children are happy though!)

Thanks to all the rain, Seattle is the perfect environment for greenery. It's so green, that the city is called "The Emerald City" after the sparkling green jewel. In addition to lush green forests, there are mountain ranges to the east and west, and Seattle is sandwiched by two bodies of water: Puget Sound and Lake Washington. It is a city surrounded by nature.

Seattle has a few famous symbols. First, Mount Rainier, the highest peak of the Cascade Mountains, dominates the horizon on sunny days. That's where

the Japanese coffee, "Mount Rainier," gets its name. In addition to this natural symbol, the Space Needle is the most famous manmade landmark in Seattle. Built for the 1962 World's Fair, it depicts the theme of "Living in the Space Age." The observation deck has a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains, water, and the city skyline.



(View of the Space Needle and Mount Rainier)

Finally, I'll introduce some Seattle trivia. People born in Seattle are called "Seattleites," and Seattleites can tell when someone is from out of town. Like I said before, Seattle gets a lot of rain. Despite this fact, Seattleites don't use umbrellas. It's because Seattle rain is just a light drizzle, so you can get by with just a hooded raincoat. On the other hand, out-of-towners aren't used to Seattle's rain and don't have a suitable raincoat, so they use umbrellas to stay dry. If you ever go to Seattle, try wearing a hooded raincoat like the locals do! (By the way, since Japan's rain is so heavy, I do use an umbrella here!) ☆



Basic Information about Seattle

Name Origin	Chief Seattle of the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes
Nickname	The Emerald City
Incorporated as a City	December 2, 1869
Area	369.2 km ² (about twice the size of Ebetsu)
Population	737,015 people (about 6 times the population of Ebetsu)
Summer Average High Temp	24° C (about the same as Ebetsu)
Winter Average Low Temp	3° C (Ebetsu's average: -10° C)
Businesses	Microsoft, Boeing, Starbucks, Costco, Amazon
Sports	Mariners (baseball), Seahawks (football)



Chief Seattle



The First Starbucks



Cherry Blossoms at my Alma mater,
The University of Washington



T-Mobile Park, Home of the Seattle
Mariners



My Favorite Spot: Lake Washington at Seward Park

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