The Hawaiian Islands are beautiful. There are magnificent beaches, green hills and tall forests. The biggest island is called Hawaii, or ‘The Big Island’. I live in the small town of Mountain View, on the east side of The Big Island. It’s high in the mountains and it rains all the time. In fact, it’s the wettest town in the USA! So we’ve got a lovely, green garden, with lots of fruit trees!

On the coast of Hawaii there are two seasons: summer and winter. It’s always hot, but in the summer it’s dry, and in the winter it’s wet. In the mountains in the centre of Hawaii, there isn’t any difference between the seasons, and it’s always wet. In summer we go to the beach at Hilo for the weekend to escape the rain. Hilo is an hour by bus from Mountain View.
International Falls in Minnesota is the coldest town in the USA. Local people call it ‘America’s ice box’. The temperature in the winter is sometimes -40 ºC! It snows a lot too, so most people here can ski. We learn to live with the cold weather – and we celebrate it, too! Every January, we have a five-day Ice Box Festival. There are races, skiing competitions, fireworks, and a very cold street party!

There are four seasons in International Falls. There is snow until the late spring, but the summer is quite hot. Temperatures in July are 25–30 ºC, so you can even go sunbathing! The fall is my favourite time of year because the trees are beautiful colours. In the winter, my parents take me ice fishing. In the summer, we often kayak on the lakes or go walking in the national parks.

A river divides International Falls from the town of Fort Frances in Canada. My friends and I often go shopping in Fort Frances. Then we walk back across the bridge to the USA.
I live in the village of Furnace Creek, in Death Valley. It’s a beautiful desert valley in California – and it’s also the hottest, driest and lowest place in America. The hottest temperature in world history was here at Furnace Creek on July 10th 1913 – it was 56.7 °C! The landscape in Death Valley is incredible, and thousands of tourists come to take photos of it every year – but only about 50 people live in the valley. Most of them – like me – are from the Shoshone Native American tribe.

The summers are very, very hot here, but the winters are cold. The best seasons in Death Valley are spring and fall, because the weather is warm but not too hot. All deserts are dry, but Death Valley is one of the driest places in the world. Sometimes it doesn’t rain all year!