

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- canada.gc.ca/acanada/acPubHome.jsp?lang=eng
This "About Canada" site sponsored by the Canadian government provides a great deal of detail about the geography of Canada, including maps, images and statistics.
- www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/kids/index_e.cfm
The Canadian Wildlife Service sponsors this "Kid's Zone" site which offers information about the animals that inhabit Canada.
- www.ccge.org/ccge/english/teachingResources/teachingResources.htm
Great lesson plans and geographic teaching resources can be found at the Canadian Council for Geographic Education site.

Suggested Print Resources

- Hughes, Susan. *Let's Call It Canada: Amazing Stories of Canadian Place Names*. Maple Tree Press, Toronto, ON; 2003.
- Kalman, Bobbie. *Canada the Land*. Crabtree Publishing Company, New York, NY; 2002.
- Moore, Christopher. *The Big Book of Canada: Exploring the Provinces and Territories*. Tundra Books, Toronto, ON; 2002.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Kristen Lovett Casel, M.S.
Curriculum Coordinator, Schlessinger Media

Rudolph Lea
Curriculum Support, Schlessinger Media

TITLES

- The Culture of Canada
- The Geography of Canada
- The History of Canada

Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:



800-843-3620



Teacher's Guide and Program Copyright 2004 by Schlessinger Media,
a division of Library Video Company

P.O. Box 580, Wynnewood, PA 19096 • 800-843-3620

Executive Producer: Andrew Schlessinger

Program produced and directed by Redcanoe Productions

All rights reserved.

K6842
V8762



The Geography of Canada

Grades K-4

Canada is America's neighbor to the north, and the second largest nation in the world in size! This special country is characterized by a unique blend of people and events that defines the Canadian spirit. Canada's history reflects many interesting phases, as it developed from small settlements to a nation with many provinces and territories. Canadian geography is defined by a beautiful balance of mountains, prairies, tundra and coastal regions. The culture of this country is shaped by many people, from First Nations groups to the many immigrants who make Canada the diverse nation it is today. These are some of the reasons why Canadians are proud to call this nation home!



Program Summary

From majestic mountains to beautiful bays, Canada is filled with geographic treasures! Across this nation's ten provinces and three territories, you can find different types of land and vegetation, including prairies, deserts and arctic tundra. Landforms like the Canadian Shield and the Rocky Mountains mark the land. Bodies of water like the Hudson Bay and the St. Lawrence River are important to the nation, not only for their beauty, but for their functionality as well. The geography of Canada, with its landforms, climate, vegetation and natural resources, affects the lifestyles of the people living in this diverse nation.

Vocabulary

geography — The study of the relationship between people and places. Geography includes the landforms, climate, vegetation, population and natural resources of a place.

population — The number of people living in an area.

regions — Areas that share something in common, like landforms or natural resources.

provinces — Ten areas in Canada, similar to states in the United States, that have their own capitals and governments.

territories — Three areas in Canada with less governmental power than provinces, but still having their own capitals and governments.

bilingual — Speaking two languages; Canada is bilingual because both French and English are official languages.

Canadian Shield — The largest landform in Canada which consists of very old rock and is shaped like a saucer around Hudson Bay.

Prime Minister — The political leader of Canada's government.

Great Lakes — Five large lakes, four of which are on the border between Canada and the United States. These are Lakes Huron, Superior, Erie and Ontario.

desert — A very dry area that receives little rainfall.

grasslands — Mostly flat land covered with grasses.

tundra — An area where the ground is permanently frozen and the land is level and treeless.

permafrost — Permanently frozen ground under a thin layer of topsoil.

Inuit — Native people who live primarily in northern Canada.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Discuss what you know about the geography of Canada. What does the land in Canada look like? What do you know about the climate in Canada? What are the landforms and resources that make Canada unique?
- Based upon what you know about the geography of Canada, discuss similarities and differences between its geography and the geography of the United States.
- How do you think the land, resources and climate of Canada have affected the people living there?

Focus Questions

1. What is on Canada's border to the north, to the east, to the south and to the west?
2. Why does Canada have so few people, in relation to its large size?
3. Why is the St. Lawrence River important to Canada?
4. Name some of Canada's many natural resources. What products are these resources used to make?
5. How do the climate and geography of the northern part of Canada affect the lifestyles of the people who live there?

Follow-up Discussion & Activities

- Encourage students to create a class fact book about Canada's geography. They can include interesting facts, like the longest river, the highest mountain and the coldest temperature ever recorded in Canada. (See the following web site as a good place to start research: atlas.gc.ca/site/english/facts/supergeneral.html)
- Using an outline map of Canada, students can label important features, including provinces and territories, the nation's capital, major rivers, landforms and oceans. (See www.enchantedlearning.com/northamerica/canada/outlinemap/ for a Canadian outline map.)
- Climate and weather are important features of a nation's geography. Encourage students to conduct research about the types of weather common to various regions of Canada. Small groups can then present weather reports to the class which summarize their findings. (See weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada_e.html for information about weather across Canada.)
- The Northern Lights are an amazing occurrence in northern Canada. Students can research more about this beautiful sight (see ds9.ssl.berkeley.edu/auroras/story.html for a helpful explanation). Share with students the folktale *Ulaq and the Northern Lights* by Harriet Peck Taylor (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998). Students can compose their own folktales about the Northern Lights.
- In small groups, students can select a Canadian province or territory, and conduct research about the area's climate, landforms, bodies of water, population and natural resources. Using this information, students can create travel guides for the territory or province describing the land and people.
- Regions can be divided in many different ways, based upon what feature is used to group them (e.g., landforms, natural resources, climate). Encourage students to discuss different ways of dividing Canada into regions, based on various criteria. Which of these divisions do students feel is the most useful? Why?
- Your class can play a guessing game to find out more about the amazing animals that live in Canada! Students can select animals that make their homes in Canada, and can conduct research about them (e.g., what they look like, what they eat, where they live). Then, students can stand in front of the class and give clues about their animals as others make guesses as to which animals they are.