Location, Climate, Natural Resources, and Population in Canada

NORTHERN CANADA

MOUNTAINS AND THE WEST

THE PRAIRIES

CENTRAL CANADA

EAST COAST

Standard: SS6G5 – Explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Canada.

Element: a. Describe how Canada's location, climate, and natural resources impact trade and affect where people live.

# Location

Canada is located in the northern extent of the North American continent. At over 3.8 million square miles, it is the largest country in North America, and the second largest country in the world after Russia.

Mexico

Guaternals

Puerto Rico

Larger than U.S.

Uni

Ireland

Mauritania

## CLIMATE

The climate in Canada varies tremendously. The nation's Pacific coast is mostly temperate with substantial precipitation. Southeastern Canada, along the Atlantic coast, has a humid continental climate.

> Because of the warm Atlantic Coast, Southeastern Canada is humid.

CLIMATE

Central Canada's climate is not moderated by ocean currents, and as such tends to experience cool summers and long, cold winters. Without the Atlantic Ocean for warmth, the central section is colder with much longer winters.

Winter conditions can last past April in the central section. The northern extent of the country ranges from subarctic to arctic temperatures. Because of the extreme cold, very little people live in the northern region of Canada.

CLIMATE



The coldest temperature ever recorded in Northern Canada was -81 degrees Fahrenheit!!!

### POPULATION

Most of Canada's population is concentrated in the south of the country, within 100 miles of the U.S. border. This population distribution is partly the result of Canada's hard northern climate extremes, but also because of U.S.-Canadian economic cooperation along their shared 3,000-mile border.

WHITEHORSE

Almost 90% of Canada's population lives within 100 miles of the U.S

This Blue line shows 100 miles from U.S. POPULATION

The population is especially dense in the Great Lakes / St. Lawrence region of southeastern Canada where manufacturing jobs and commercial shipping routes are most heavily concentrated.

People naturally live where employment is readily available. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence regions have abundant jobs because of its access to transportation.

> Looking at this map you can see the amount of jobs along the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes

NATURAL RESOURCES

In terms of natural resources, Canada has an abundance of mineral wealth: iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, diamonds, and silver. Majority of all of these minerals are located in the Canadian Shield. This accounts for the large number of mining jobs in and around the Canadian shield.

Samples of the minerals mined in the Canadian shield.

#### NATURAL

Resources

The Canadian shield was created by a glacier scrapping over its surface many years ago. By doing so the glacier scrapped off the top layer of the soil exposing the world's richest area in terms of mineral ores.

All mining jobs are located within the green section on this map.

Canadian Shield

NATURAL Resources

Canada's central prairie provinces grow cereal grains, particularly wheat because of the long growing season and good rainfall. These are exported to other countries and traded for goods and services that are not available in Canada.

Majority of all Canada's Wheat comes from here. NORTHERN CANADA

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#### NATURAL

Resources

Canada also boasts a large timber industry with many forest bigger than some entire countries. Because of the number of tributaries flowing into the Great Lakes, Canada uses the rivers to transport the timber to all areas of the world. Over 42% of Canada is covered in forest! Remember Canada is the second biggest country on Earth. This makes for an abundant Natural Resource!

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NATURAL

RESOURCES

Canada creates a large amount of its power needs by using its large number of rivers for hydroelectric

power. Canada is the 3rd largest producer of hydroelectric power in the world and produces enough to supply over 63% of its overall energy needs.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Hydroelectric power works by placing a large turbine at the bottom of the dam. With so much pressure the large turbine spins as the water is released through a small opening at the bottom.
This creates clean and renewable energy.

Think of a hydroelectric dam as a large hamster wheel, instead of a hamster spinning the wheel the water does creating energy.