

GEOGRAPHY

Province to Province



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Canada, My Country (Social Studies for Early Grades)

Canada's Natives Long Ago (Native studies for Elementary Grades)

Courage and Conquest, Discovering Canadian History (Pre-Confederation history for Elementary Grades)

Africa, A Land of Hope (Social Studies for Elementary Grades)

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Flowing through the spectacular Bonnet Plume Range of the Mackenzie Mountains in northern Yukon, the Snake River has become renowned for remote beauty, hiking and white water canoeing.

A hiker with a large backpack and trekking poles is walking on a narrow dirt path through a dense forest. The path is surrounded by lush green ferns and other vegetation. In the background, tall, slender trees rise vertically, and a soft, golden light filters through the canopy, creating a misty atmosphere. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**BRITISH
COLUMBIA
THE PROMISED LAND**

THE PROMISED LAND

If all the world's a stage, British Columbia is one of its most dramatic sets. It is an ice-capped, forest-floored, mineral-rich, water-blessed mountain domain. It is a land of abundance, opportunity and magnificence. Untamed, restless and bold...it is a land for the young, for dreamers, doers and for those who still seek a challenging life. It is an impudent land, here cultivated, there wild, often benign, sometimes angry, always active. 'Energetic' describes it best.

Herbert L. McDonald. *British Columbia: Challenge in Abundance*.
(Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of British Columbia, 1966).

The southern part of British Columbia was originally called Columbia, after the Columbia River. When it became a British colony in 1858, Queen Victoria named it British Columbia. On July 20, 1871, it became the sixth province to join the Dominion of Canada. Lush vegetation, a moderate climate, and incredible scenery make this a paradise for many - their Promised Land.

Steller's Jay



Screeching shatters the silence of the evergreen forest. Is the noisy Steller's Jay protecting its nest, or warning of danger? Larger than the Blue Jay, the Steller's Jay can be 30-34 centimetres long. It is the only western jay with a peaked crest on its head. Foraging for pine seeds and acorns in treetops, it can also rob the eggs and young of small songbirds. Its all-purpose beak can hammer, crack, probe or tear to reach its food. Steller's Jays stay year round in the coniferous forest ranging from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountains.

Pacific Dogwood



The Pacific Dogwood tree grows up to 18 meters high producing big white flowers in spring and red berries in autumn. The flower centres are yellow.

Economy

The economy of British Columbia is linked integrally to the forest industry since two-thirds of the province is forested. The generous rainfall and mild climate produce very tall, straight trees. More than 60% of Canada's lumber comes from British Columbia.

What do camels have to do with B.C.?

In 1854, camels were used to build the Cariboo Trail into the interior of B.C. Wild camels were still seen up to 1925.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Colour all the symbols appropriately.

Research and describe the meanings of the symbols of the shield.

Pacific Dogwood



Steller's Jay

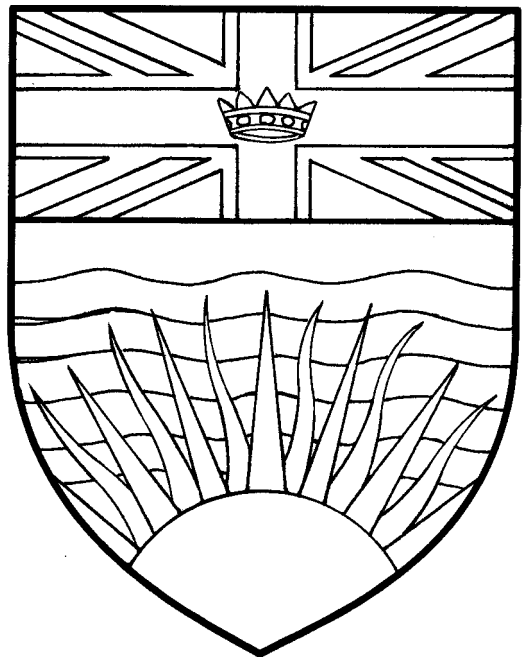


British Columbia Shield

Union Flag: _____

Wavy Bars: _____

Sun: _____



THE LAND

British Columbia has some of the most spectacular scenery and the most diverse climate of all the other provinces. The province is completely in the *Western Cordillera* region, except for a small section in the northeast corner which lies in the *Plains* region. Three groups of mountain ranges run north and south with a plateau in the centre.

The *Island Mountains* are a series of underwater peaks, some of which break the surface and form a network of islands all along the coast. Vancouver Island is the largest, and the Queen Charlotte Islands are also a large group. The islands protect the mainland from storms, creating a sheltered water passage for fishing boats.

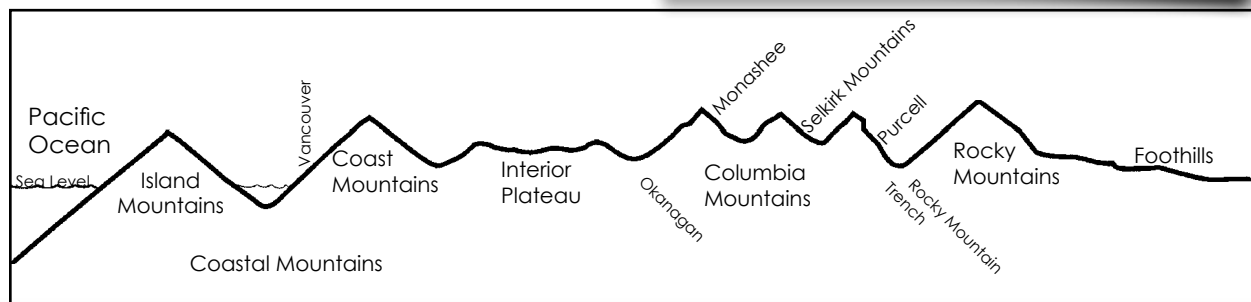
The *Coast Mountains* extend the length of the province. They trap moist air blowing in from the Pacific Ocean and keep the cold Arctic air out. These mountains keep the temperature at the coast more moderate than anywhere else in Canada: warmer in winter, and cooler in summer.

The Island and Coast Mountains together are called the *Coastal Mountains*. The natural region of this area is the *Pacific Maritime*. The long growing season and abundant rainfall produces lush vegetation.

Sandwiched between the coastal and interior ranges is a series of rugged, rolling hills with stretches of flat land along river valleys called the *Interior Plateau*. Fruits and vegetables are grown in the southern Okanagan Valley. North of farmland, the grasslands provide a place for cattle to graze. Moisture, blocked by the Coast Mountains, fails to reach the plateau so that there is far less rainfall than in the coastal areas. Some southern parts of the valleys are actually deserts, with rattlesnakes, lizards and cacti.

The *Interior Mountain* region is made up of several mountain ranges. The Columbia Mountains consist of several ranges: the Cariboo, Monashee, Selkirk and Purcell Mountains. The Rocky Mountain Trench separates these ranges from the Rocky Mountains, which run along the B.C./Alberta border in the south, and north to the Yukon border. The Rocky Mountains are high and spectacular. Visitors sometimes refer to all the western mountains as the Rockies.

The fifth region, the *Northeast Lowland* in the top corner of the province has both hilly and flat terrain. The Peace River area of this region is good land for crops and cattle while the north corner contains swampy, sparse, spruce forests.

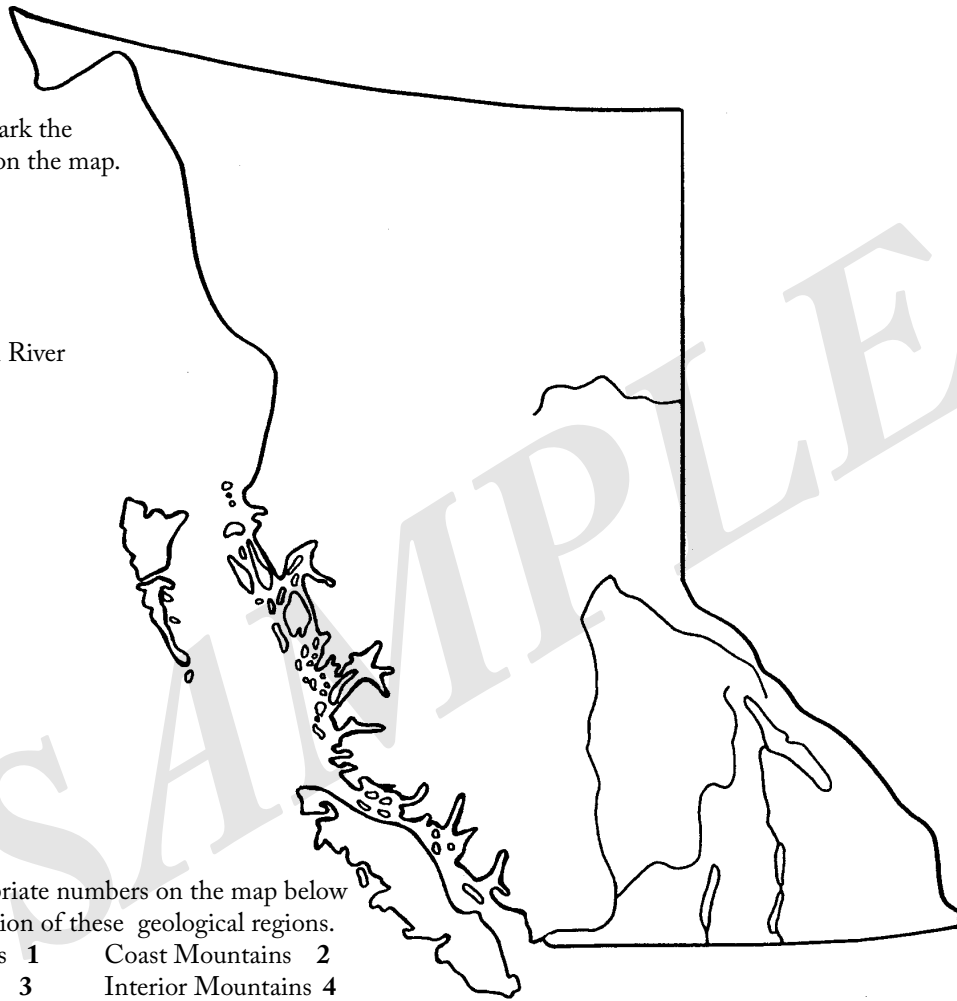


Why is it incorrect to refer to the Western Mountains as The Rocky Mountains?

GEOGRAPHY

Using an atlas, mark the following places on the map.

- Victoria
- Vancouver
- Kamloops
- Peace River
- Fraser River
- North Thompson River
- Columbia River
- Okanagan Lake

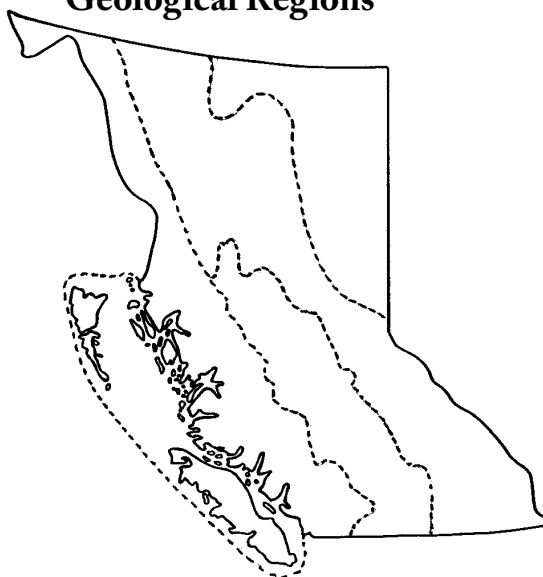


Write the appropriate numbers on the map below to show the location of these geological regions.

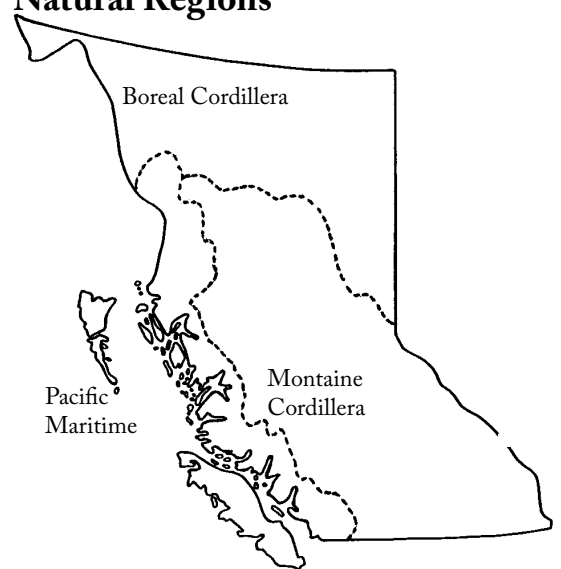
- Island Mountains 1
- Coast Mountains 2
- Interior Plateau 3
- Interior Mountains 4
- Northeast Lowland 5

Colour the two small maps.

Geological Regions



Natural Regions



FORESTRY

The sweet smell of pine, blazing red maples, crunching leaves, flitting birds—Canadians love their forests! Forests conjure up memories of vacations, afternoon walks, and discovery. It's no wonder for almost half of our total land area is covered in forests.

Canada is in first place as a world exporter of forest products. More goods come from the forest industry than fish, farm, and mineral products put together. One of every ten Canadians works in some area of the forest industry.

Logging

Logging involves harvesting the trees, transporting the wood to mill sites, and reforestation. Timber is a renewable resource when proper care is taken. In the past, forests were cut with little thought given to the development of new trees. Now, government regulations require logging companies to replant and plan ahead so that forests are available for future generations.

Though logging restrictions are more stringent than in the past, many environmentalists are not satisfied. In British Columbia, where mature trees can be 200 to 1,000 years old, environmentalists have clashed with foresters in an effort to save “old-growth” forests. Both the effect on the environment and the economy are important considerations in this dispute.

Wood Processing

Wood processing includes all the steps from cutting lumber in the sawmill to the production of wood products which are available on store shelves. In *primary* wood processing, sawmills prepare the lumber for use in construction and to sell to manufacturers. In the *secondary* industries, the manufacturers produce items such as sports equipment, furniture, flooring, matches, doors, and so on. Look around your room and count how many products you can see that are processed from wood.



Lumberjack or Logger?

In the 1800's foresters of the east became known as lumberjacks. That term died out and they are now called loggers. In B.C., they have always been called loggers.

Pulp and Paper

The biggest component of the forest industry is pulp and paper. Canada supplies one third of the world's newsprint for newspapers and more than half of all the newspaper used in the United States. Canada also exports wood pulp, which is the prepared fiber used to make paper. Black spruce, abundant in the boreal forest and too small to be sawn into lumber, has dense long fibers excellently suited for making paper.

Danger to our Forest Resources

Forests are threatened not only by logging, but also by insects, which destroy large tracts of forest each year. In eastern Canada, the spruce budworm is the most devastating pest, eating the buds and needles of softwood conifers. In B.C., the pine bark beetle destroys many large pines. Chemical pest killers (pesticides) can cause damage to the environment and other wildlife, therefore, scientists continue to look for new ways to fight these bugs.

Another naturally occurring threat is a forest fire. Forests in remote areas may have been ignited by lightning but fires close to human habitation are often started by careless people. Forest firefighters concentrate on protecting homes, recreational areas, and logging zones, leaving distant fires to die out on their own.

In the past, all forest fires were thought to be a devastating hazard which should be eliminated completely. Now, forest managers realize fires are not just destructive, but can be productive, opening the way for new, healthier growth. Fires clear stands of old wood that can choke out young trees. The ash left in the soil provides nutrients for new growth. Two trees, the black spruce and the lodgepole pine, actually need fire to release the seeds from the cones.

The forest, one of Canada's most extensive renewable resources, provides beauty, shelter, jobs, and innumerable products for our homes. Forests are not only ours to enjoy but to look after as well.

Was Paul Bunyan a real person?

Did you know that the tall tales of lumberjack Paul Bunyan were likely based on a logger from Ottawa? Born in Montreal, Joe Montferrand became the amateur boxing champion of Quebec. As a rafting foreman on the Ottawa River, he became known as one who ran faster, jumped higher and hit harder than anyone else. When he battled 10 Irishmen on a bridge, the story was retold over and over until it was said that he fought 150 men. These legends were repeated in shanty camps across the nation and each tale became "taller" as it was repeated.



If you planned to bicycle across Canada, would it be better to go from west to east or from east to west? Cyclist Mandy Joselin pedalled 100 km. each day for 75 days, travelling from Vancouver to St. John's. She advised that since prevailing winds across the country blow from the northwest, by starting in the west you will have advantageous winds 75% of the way.

Renewable Resources: resources such as timber, fish, and animal life reproduce and renew themselves.

Non-renewable Resources: resources like petroleum, minerals and coal, once removed from the ground are gone forever.

Helicopters are used in the challenge of putting out forest fires

FORESTRY QUIZ

1. As an exporter of forestry products, in what place does Canada rank in the world?

- a) third place b) first place c) fifth place d) tenth place

2. Is timber a renewable resource or a non-renewable resource? Explain why.

3. In British Columbia environmentalists have clashed with the forest industry over what issue?

4. Match the process or product to the appropriate area of the forest industry.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Logging | furniture |
| Wood Processing | newsprint |
| Pulp and Paper | replanting trees |
| | construction lumber |
| | wood pulp |
| | harvesting trees |
| | baseball bats |

5. What two insects are very destructive to Canada's forests?

6. Name two reasons why forest fires can be good for a forest.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Population

B.C.:	4,455,207
Victoria:	358,100 (provincial capital)
Vancouver:	2,391,300

B.C. Hazards - Earthquakes

B.C. is both spectacular and hazardous. The province lies in a high risk earthquake zone. In 1946, an earthquake on Vancouver Island caused the chimneys of a school to collapse into the classrooms. Fortunately, it was Sunday and no children were in the building. In 1964, an earthquake in Alaska caused a tidal wave 7 metres high. The coastal city of Port Alberni was hit the hardest as cars and houses were thrown into the air and logs were slammed through buildings. Thankfully, the people had been evacuated and no one was harmed.

Storms

B.C.'s rocky coastline, combined with ferocious storms, have caused many shipwrecks throughout history. About 2000 vessels get into trouble each year in B.C. waters, keeping the Canadian coastguard busy and appreciated.

Avalanches

The highways department in B.C. has a special branch just to look after avalanche danger on the roads. Around 1600 avalanches occur each year near highways and the specialists often use explosives to make the snow fall before it can become a serious threat. People are killed each year in avalanches, usually while snowmobiling, skiing, or snowboarding.

Colour the population bar graph.

See library books on B.C. (adult & children's library section 917.11).

Also: Mark Zuehlke, *Fun B.C. Facts for Kids*. (1996).

History Highlights

Natives of North Pacific Coast, and Plateau live in B.C.

- 1778 James Cook lands at Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island
- 1793 Alexander Mackenzie reaches Pacific Ocean by land.
- 1794 George Vancouver maps coast
- 1857 Gold discovered in Fraser Valley
- 1858 B.C. becomes a colony
- 1871 B.C. joins Confederation with the promise of a railway link
- 1885 Railway finished



Our New Canadian Flag

On Parliament Hill, February 15, 1965, Canadians proudly watched the first official unfurling of the National Flag of Canada. Governor General Georges P. Vanier read the following:

"Bless, O Merciful Father, this Flag and grant that this banner of our nationhood may proudly fly over a people devoted to the pursuit of righteousness, justice, and unity; whose faith and hopes are grounded in Thee, who art the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords."

The rugged West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island is a favourite destination for hikers.