

Canada

Geography

SS6G5: The student will locate select features of Canada: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Hudson Bay, St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, the Canadian Shield, and the Rocky Mountains



- Canada is located in the **Northern** and **Western** Hemispheres of the globe



- Canada is surrounded on three sides by 3 of the Earth's major oceans:
- Canada is bordered in the South by the United States: *They share a 3,000 mile long border. It is the longest unguarded border in the world*



NORTH:
Arctic
Ocean

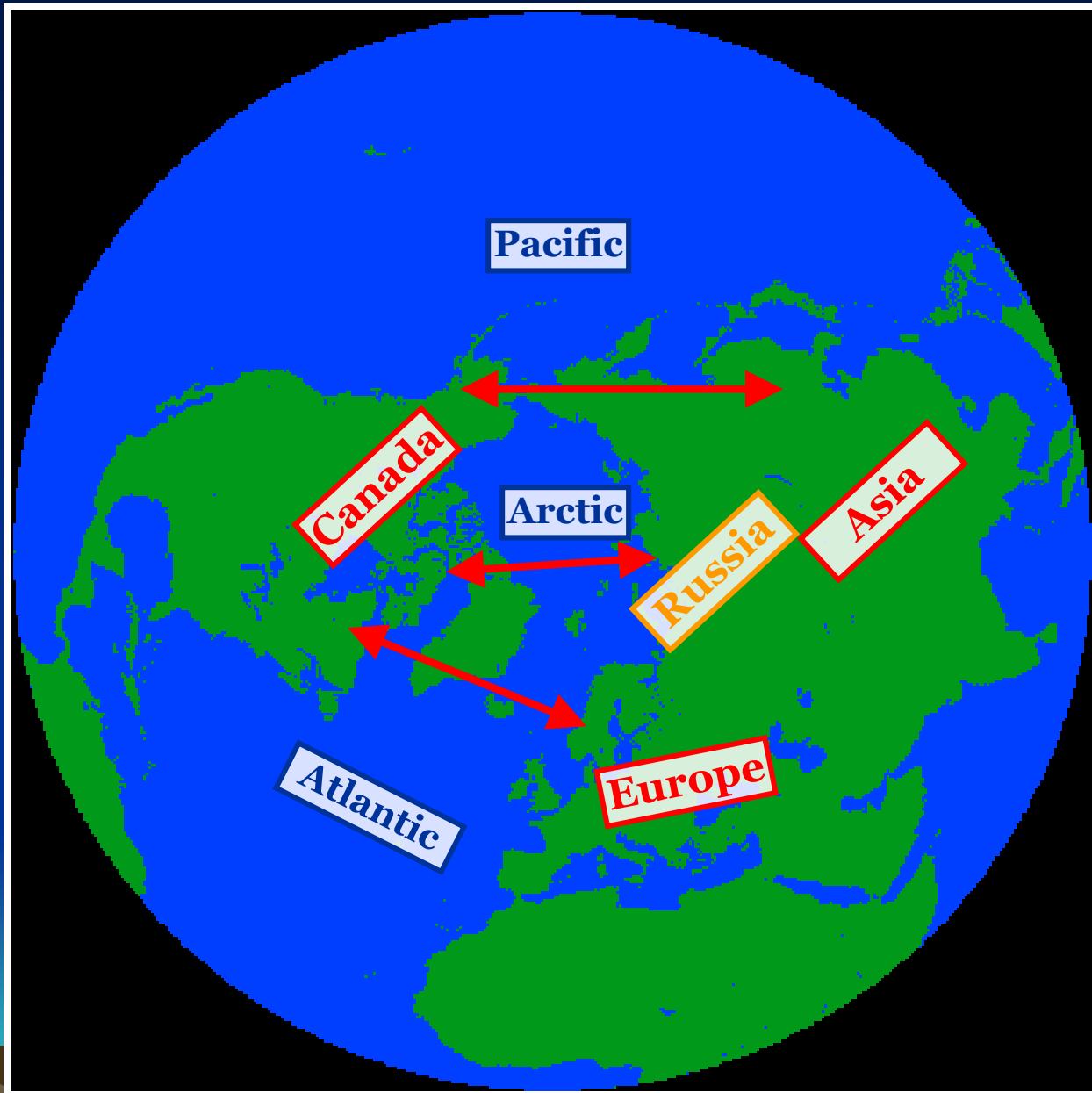
CANADA

WEST:
Pacific
Ocean

EAST:
Atlantic
Ocean

UNITED
STATES

Having coastlines along each of these 3 major oceans, along with a southern border with the United States, makes trade / travel with the rest of the world easy for Canadians



Canada's Waterways

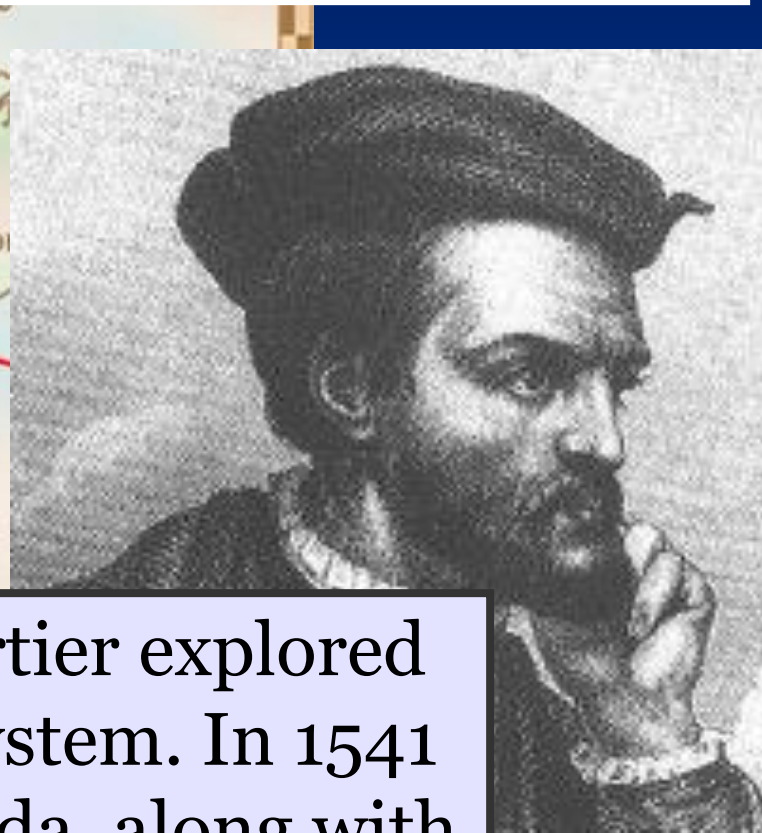


St. Lawrence River



The St. Lawrence River is located in **Eastern** Canada; stretching from Lake **Ontario** to the Atlantic Ocean

The St. Lawrence River played an important role in Canada's history: Allowed European explorers to easily travel farther into North America



The French explorer Jacques Cartier explored much of the St. Lawrence river system. In 1541 he led an expedition back to Canada, along with a few hundred colonists, to found New France.

Today, the St. Lawrence still plays an important role in Canada: Source of fresh water, fish, & is still a valuable trade/travel route



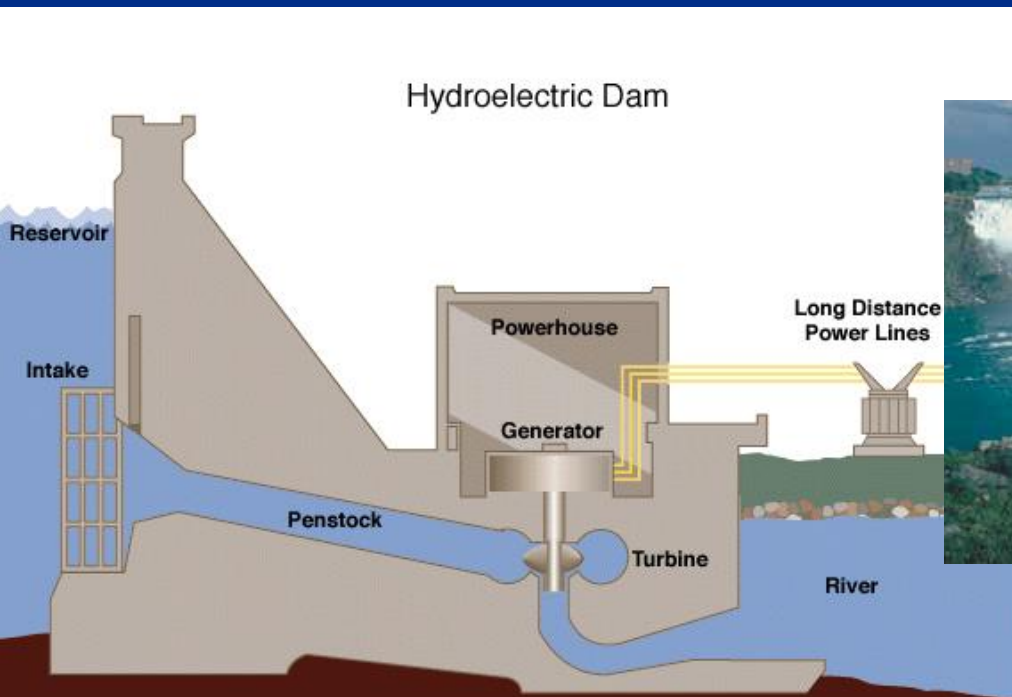
The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are located in southern Canada, four of which form part of the **border** between Canada and the U.S.



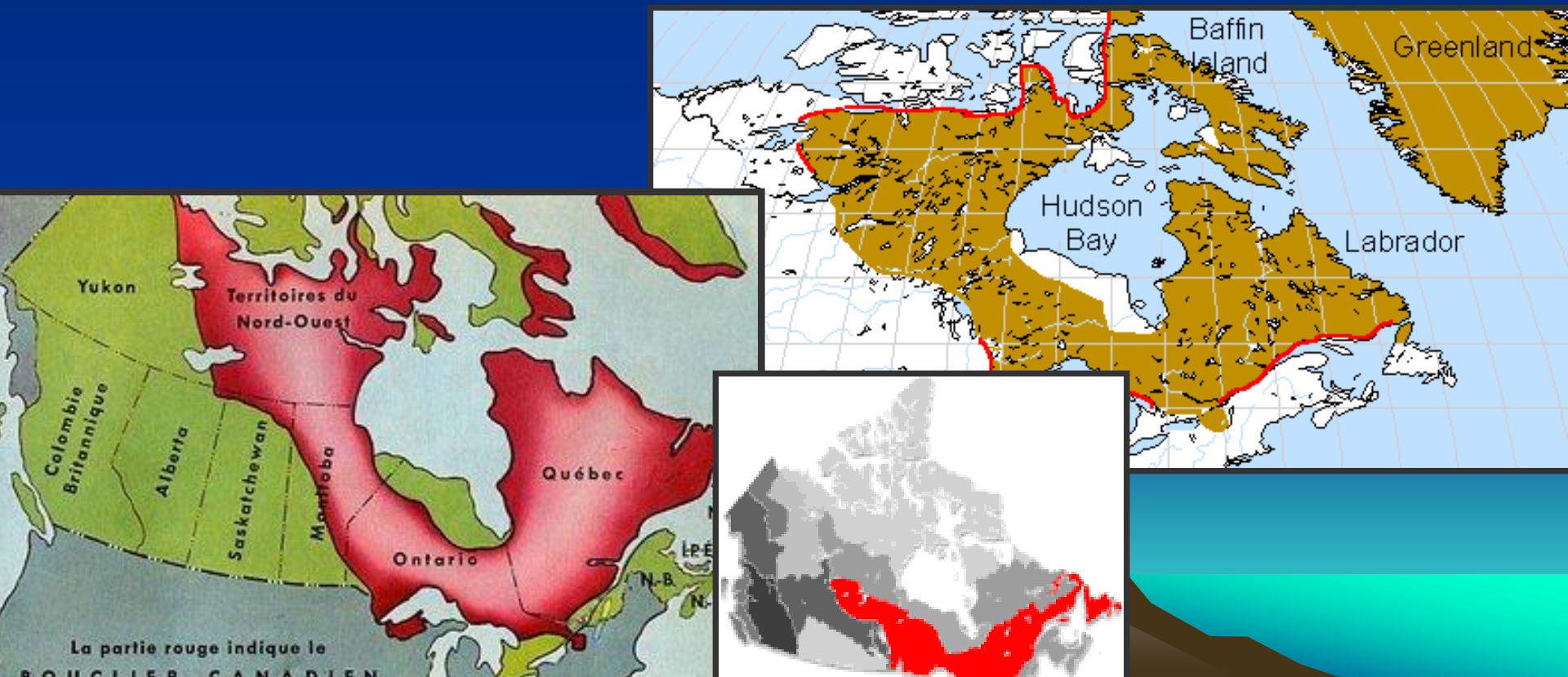
Only Lake Michigan is unshared, lying in and completely controlled by the U.S.

The four Great Lakes that do form part of the U.S./Canada border (*Superior, Huron, Ontario, & Erie*), also provide fresh water, fish and hydroelectricity for the people of Canada.



Canadian Shield

The Canadian Shield (*also called the Boreal Shield*), covers a large portion of **Eastern** & **Southern** Canada, wrapping around the **Hudson** Bay



- **The Canadian Shield:**

- Rough, rolling landscape with thin, rocky soil
- Many lakes and rivers provide water & fish
- MOST important resource (*in abundance*) throughout the Canadian shield are minerals (*from iron ore, to nickel, to silver & gold*)



The Rocky Mountains

Located in the Western portion of Canada, the Rocky Mountains stretch over 3,000 miles (from British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in the U.S.



- **SS6G6** The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Canada.
 - (A) Impact on where people live
 - (B) Impact on trade



- Canada is the largest country (*in area*), in the Western Hemisphere
- But, only about 33 million people live in Canada.
- Canada's population is much **smaller** than both Mexico's and the United States'
 - Mexico's population is 3 times Canada's population
 - The United States population is 9 times Canada's population



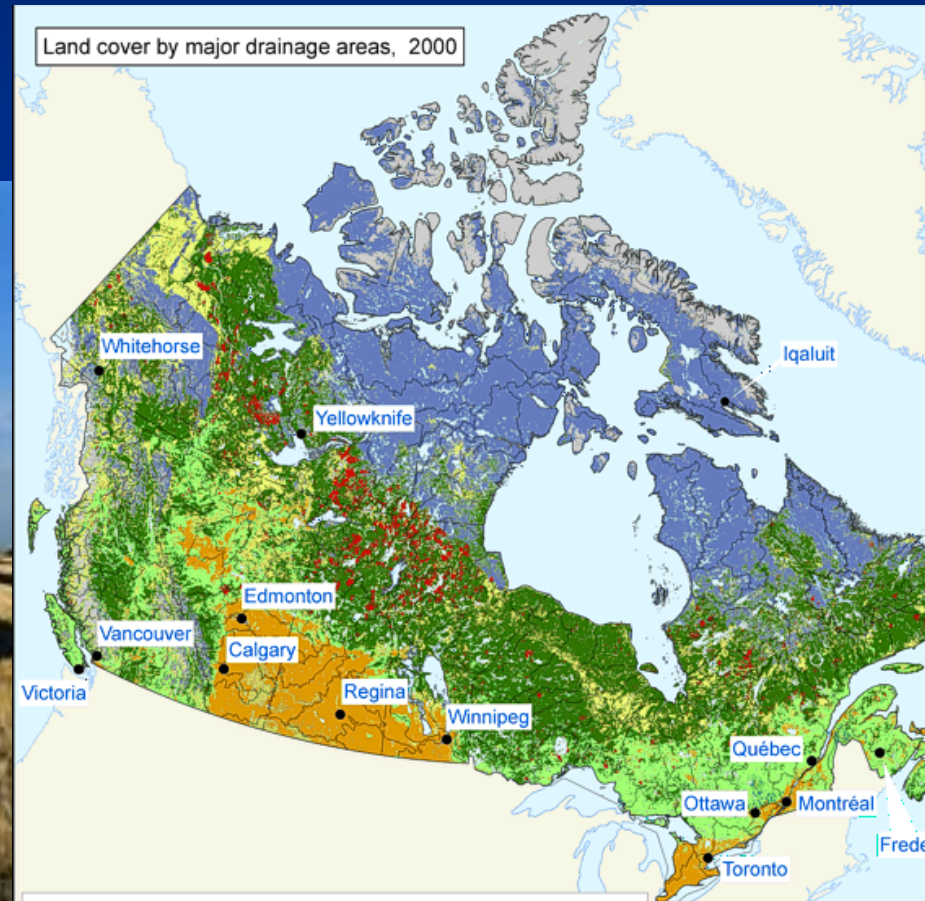
The reason that Canada's population is so much smaller, (while Canada is very large in size), is that much of Canada's land lies in a part of the Northern hemisphere where the climate is **harsh** and living conditions are **difficult**

Climate of Canada

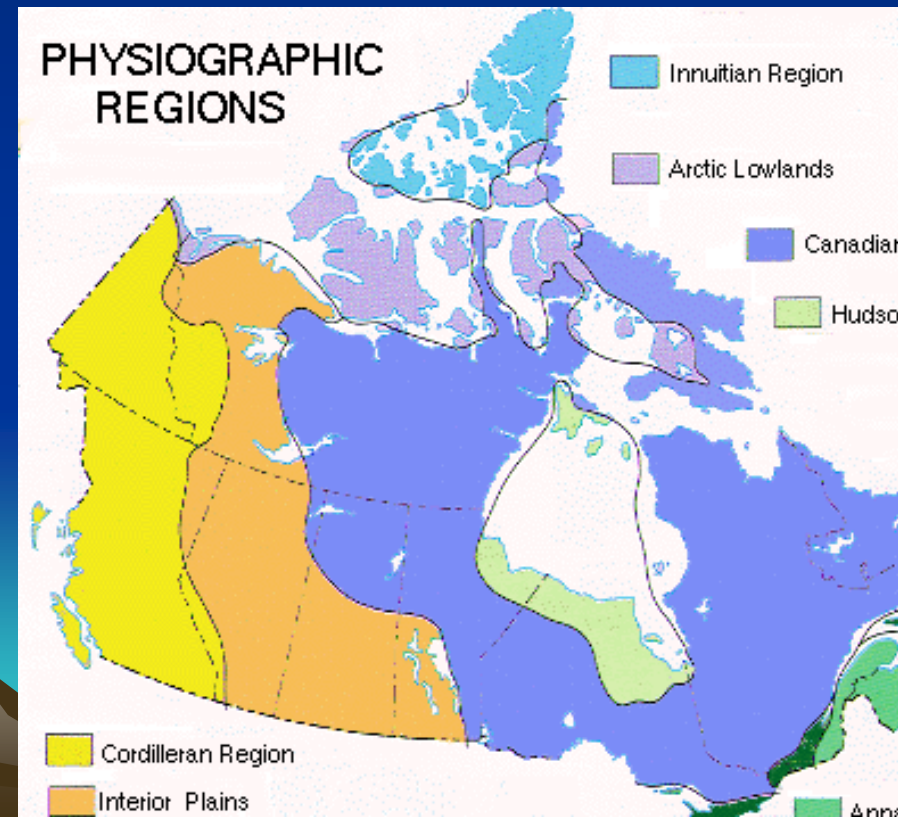
- Most of the southeastern part of Canada has a humid continental climate.
 - It has warm to hot summers & cold winters
 - There can be up to 60 inches of precipitation per year



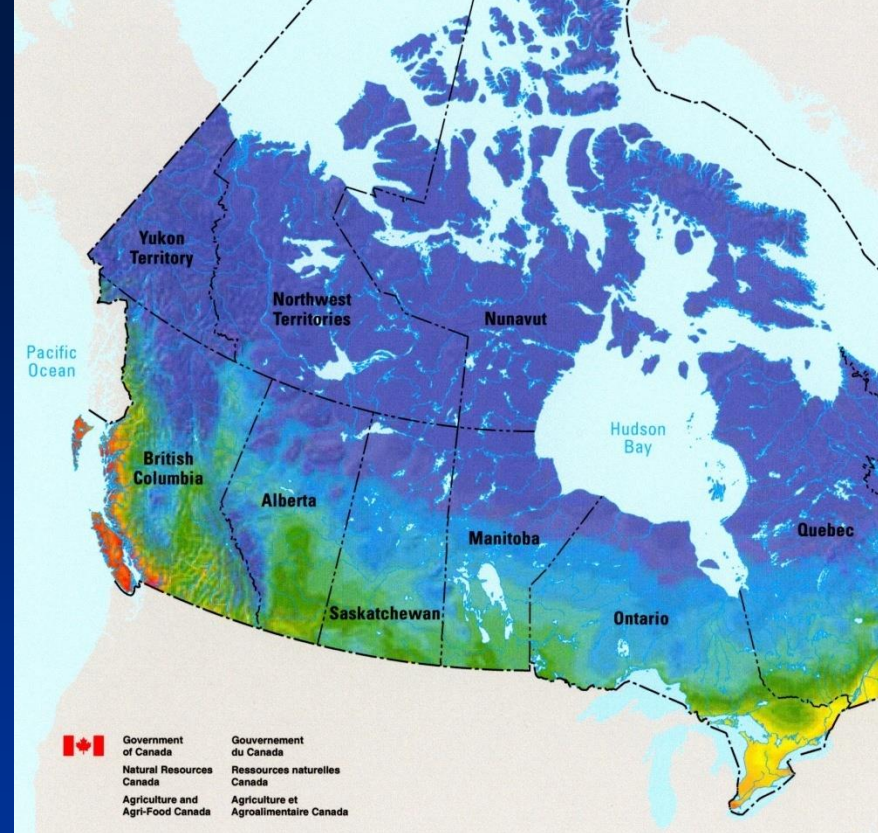
- The climate in the southern and central parts of Canada allow for a **long** growing season
- Canada's central plains are an important source of canola, **wheat**, and other **grains**

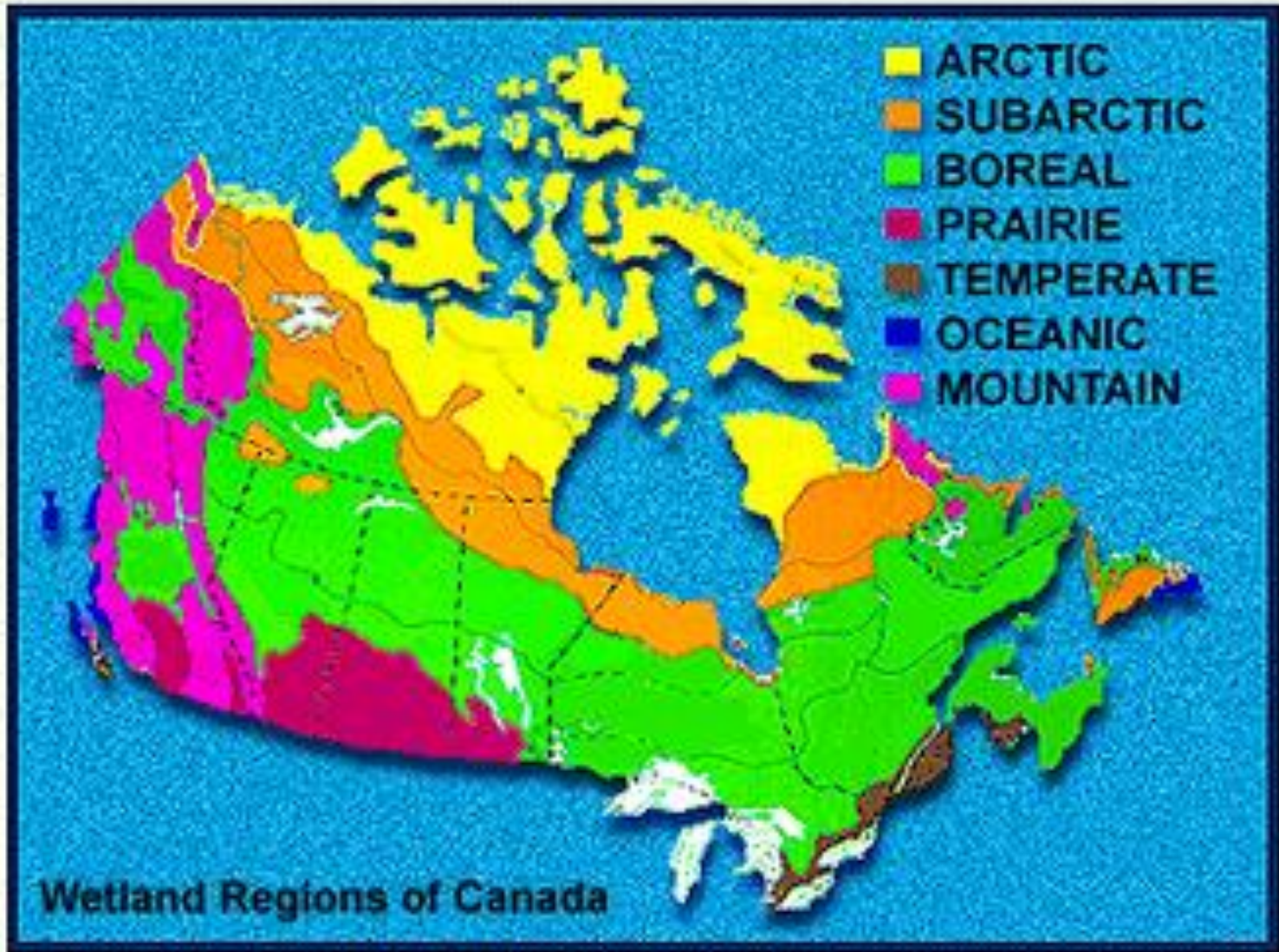


- The area in Canada along the Pacific coast has a temperate climate
 - The ocean cools the region in the summer and keeps it warmer in the winter
 - It can receive up to 100 inches of rain in a year (mostly in the winter)



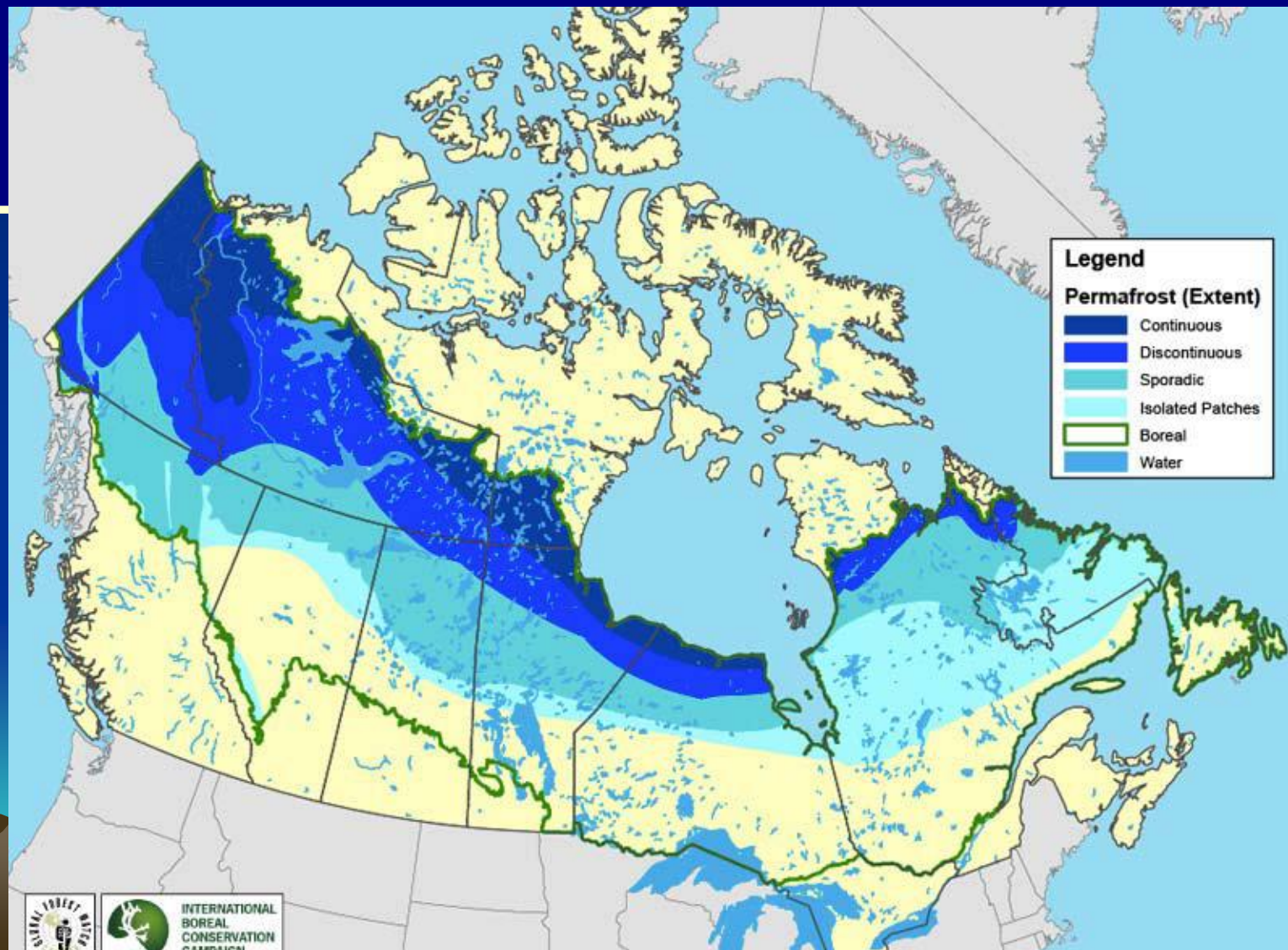
- Northern Canada has a **subarctic** climate
 - It is *much* colder in this region of the country
 - Here they have long, cold **winters** and **short, cool** summers
 - It is possible to have temperatures below freezing even during the summer





This is a 'Permafrost' Map of Canada:

(Permafrost is when the soil in an area stays permanently frozen).

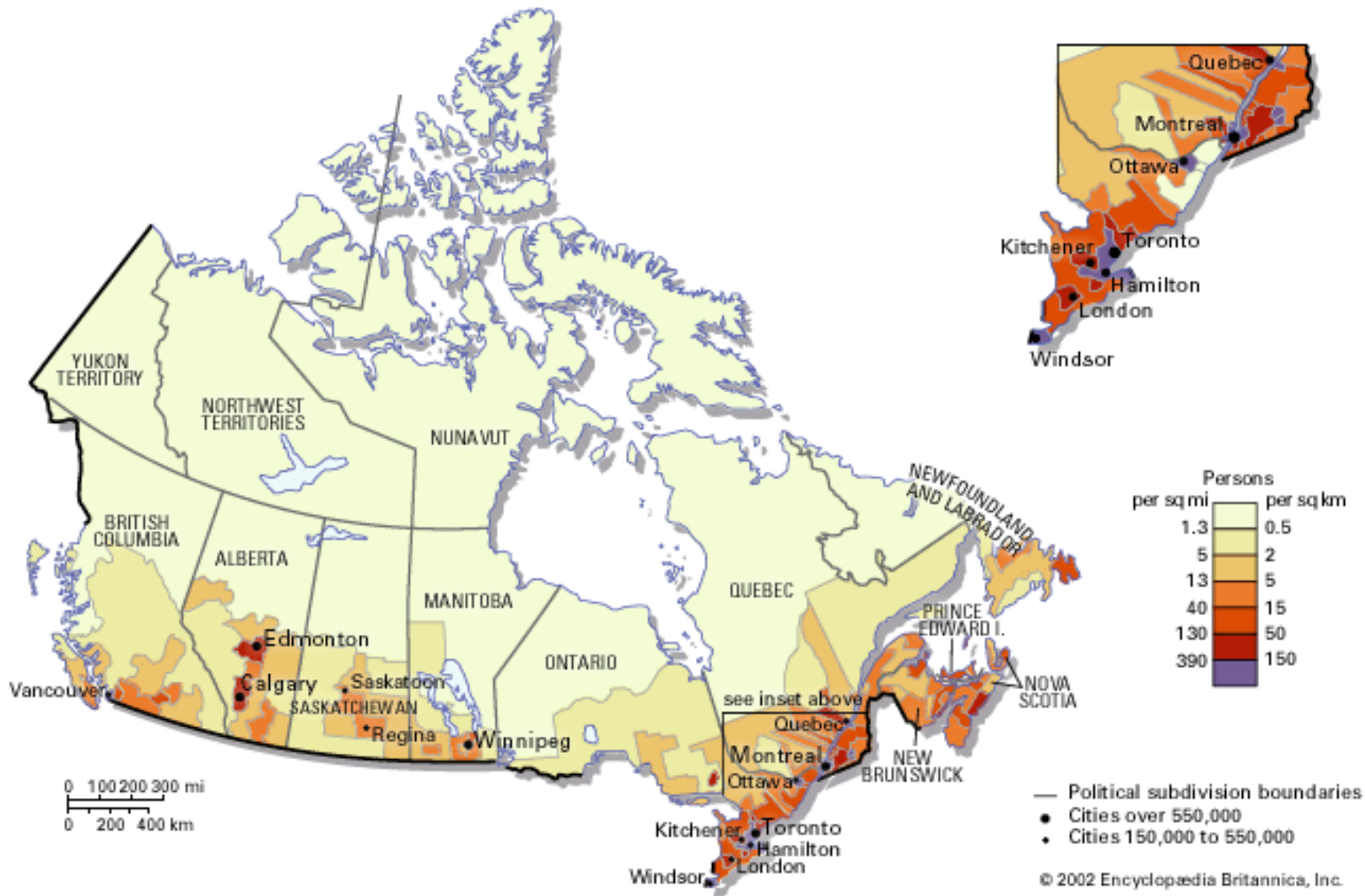


90% of Canadians live in the Southern region of Canada (*within 100 miles of the Canada / U.S. border*)

Most of these people live toward the east and central parts of the country

Most Canadians live in towns or cities, only about 20% live in rural areas





Canada's Political Boundaries/Divisions

- Because so many people in Canada live such a small portion of the country I (*within 100 miles of the Canada / United States border*)
- And Because so few people in Canada live in such a large portion of the country: (*in the northern regions*)
 - Canada has chosen to divide its land into two different types of political divisions (*we divide our country's land into states here in the U.S.*)
 - **Provinces**
 - **Territories**

- Canada has **10** provinces (*These are similar in their structure and purpose to our own States. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, & New Brunswick*)
- Canada has **3** territories (*These are all located in the northern regions of Canada where there are far fewer people and thus less reason to formalize these areas into provinces*)





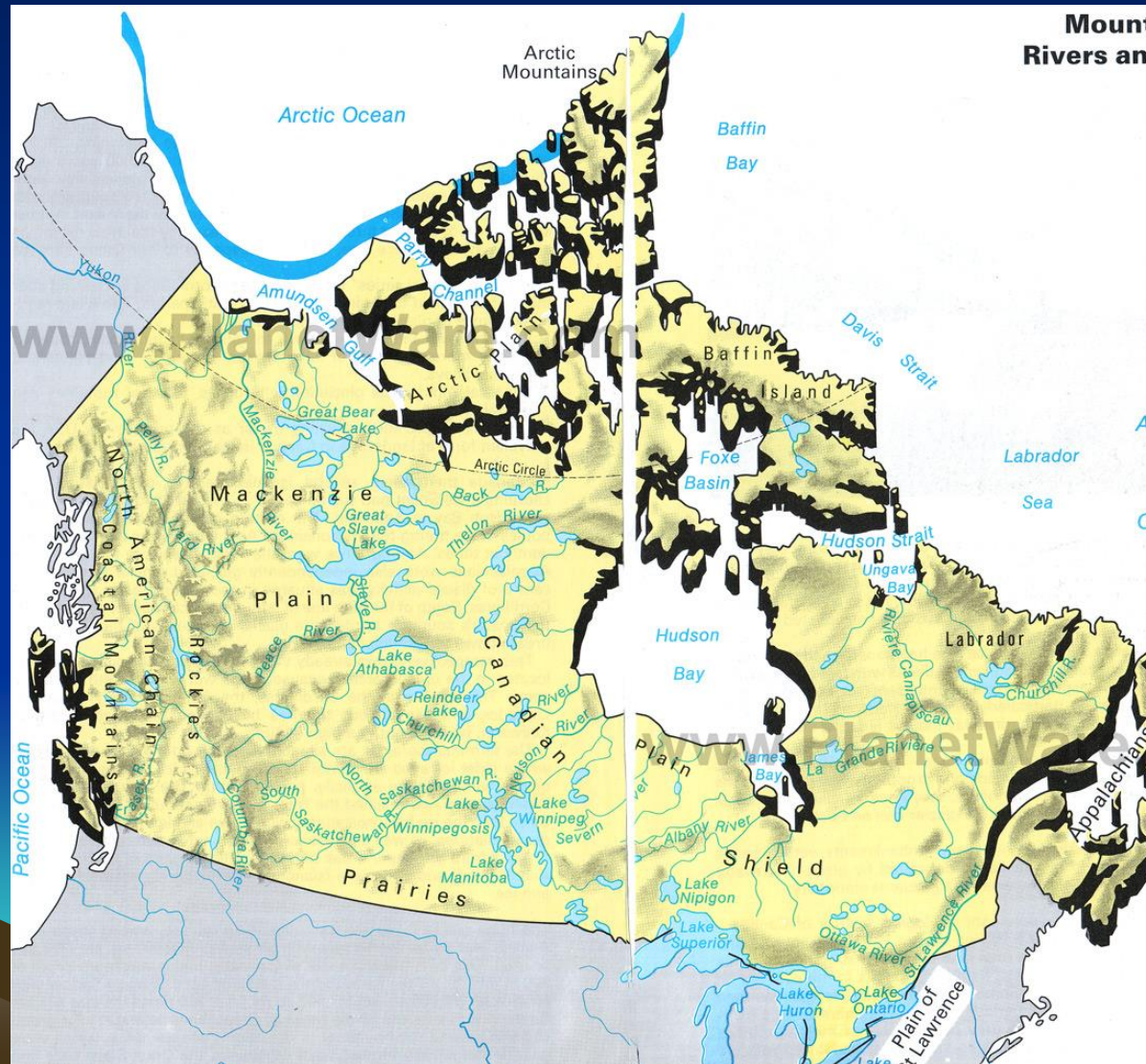
CANADA Political Map 0 km 300 600 900
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Natural Resources of Canada

- Canada is rich in natural resources
- Some of their most important of these resources (*found primarily in the Canadian Shield*), are iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, diamonds, and silver



Canada's large number of lakes and rivers are an excellent source of fish, fresh water, and hydroelectricity





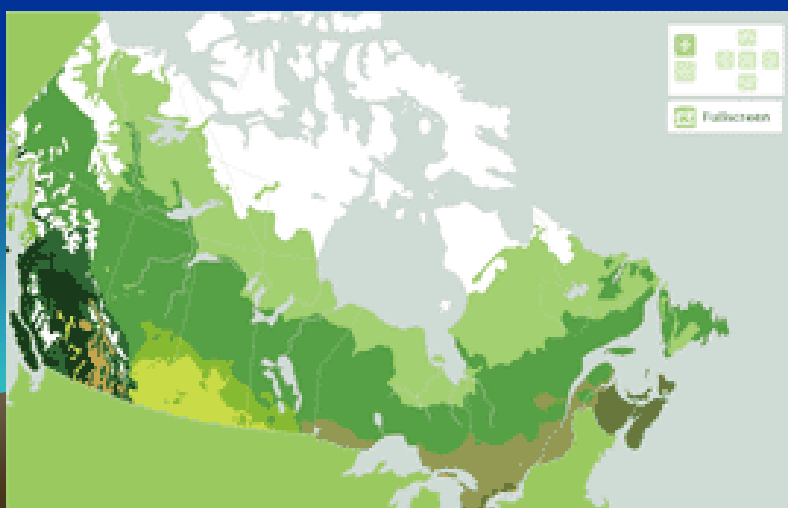
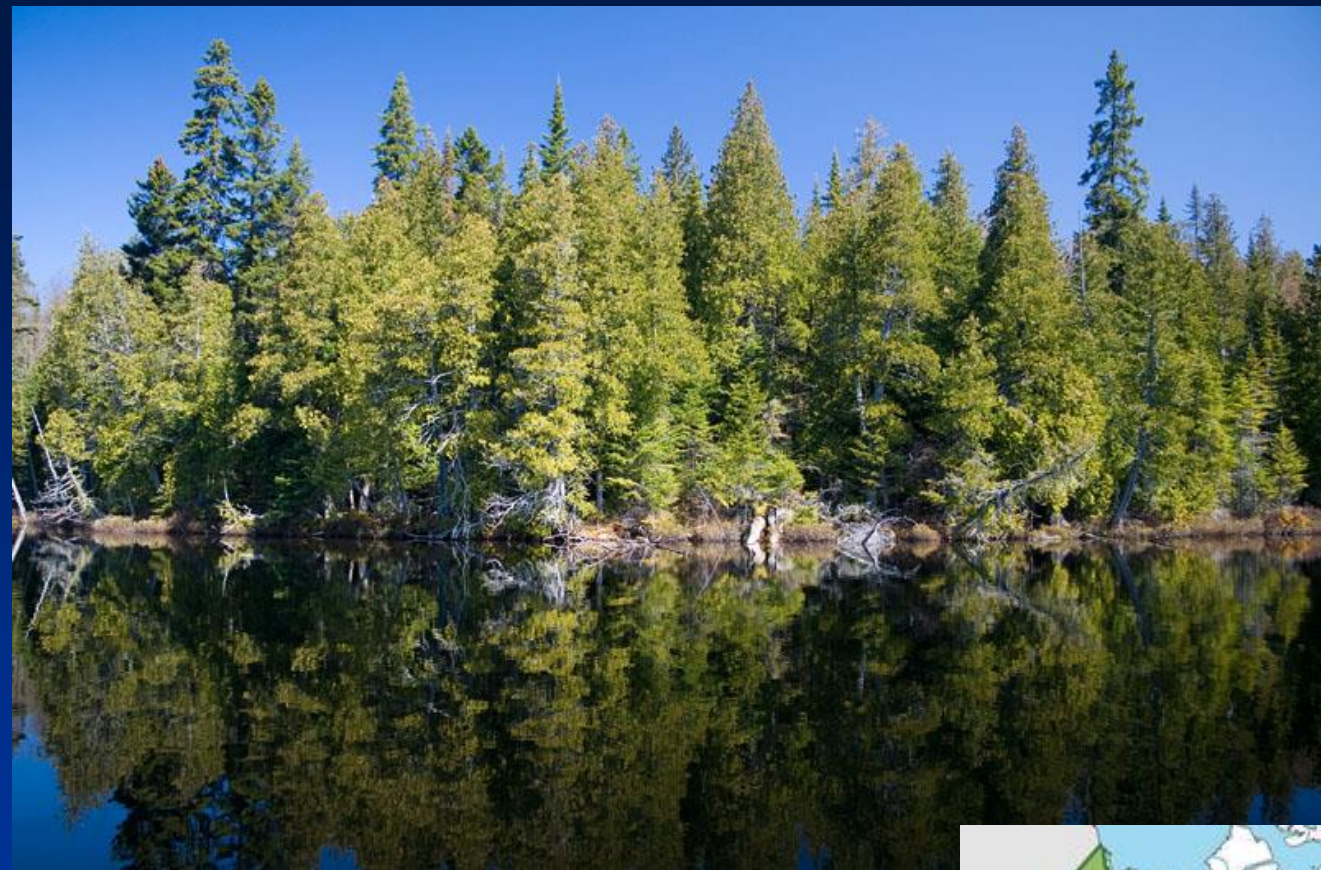
- Good soil in Canada allows farmers to grow crops for the people of Canada with enough left over to trade with other countries
 - About 5% of Canada's land is arable (*farmable*)
 - While this may seem like only a small amount of land, 5% of Canada is actually quite large (*remember that Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere*)





- Forests in Canada are a major **natural** resource with an abundance of **timber**, which is harvested in Canada to be used by its own people as well as **traded** with other countries around the world.
- The forests are also home to abundant wildlife

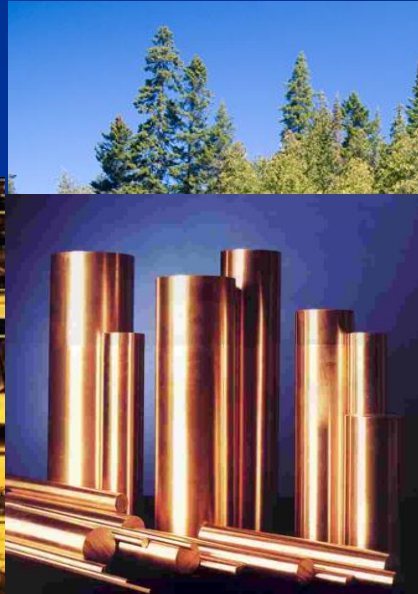
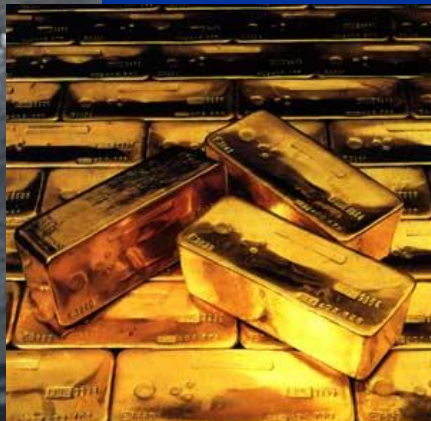




- Canada also has a large supply of natural energy resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas
 - They have enough to supply their own needs and sell the rest to other countries



- Review of Canada's Natural Resources:
 - Minerals found in the Canadian Shield (iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, diamonds, & silver)
 - Fish, fresh water, hydroelectricity from lakes & rivers
 - Many crops due to good soil
 - Timber & wildlife from the forests of Canada
 - Coal, oil, & natural gas



- Because many of the natural resources of Canada are located in remote areas of the country, small communities are found spread across the country where mining, logging, and farming are important
 - Goods from these areas are shipped by rail or highway to larger cities for trade with other parts of Canada and the world
 - An excellent system of highways, railroads, and air transportation have been built throughout Canada and adapt to the colder climate





CANADA

Road Map

