

North America--Canada

North America's most northern part is Canada. Canada is a country consisting of ten provinces and three territories. It is the second largest nation in the world. Its Arctic Islands extend north, way beyond the Arctic Circle, while its southern boundary is along the northern United States, a north-south distance over 1500 miles. In some places Canada is wider from east to west than the United States.

Canada has extremely cold winters, especially above the Arctic Circle. The far north is covered with ice and snow. Not many people live in the tundra. In the summer the snow and ice melt and small wildlife grows in the wet ground. Vast grasslands lie south of the tundra, followed by forest land which accounts for 35% of Canada's terrain. Farms and cities are in the very southern part where the weather is not so extreme. Canadian summers are warm and moist. More rain falls in the western part of Canada than in the east.

In spite of its huge land area, Canada is not densely populated. About 2.5 persons live in one square mile. The most populated area is in the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Lower Great Lakes regions.

Only 7.2% of the land is cultivated, but Canada is one of the world's leading producers of barley, fruits, oats, wheat, rye, and timber. Ranching and dairy farming are important, too, but agriculture only accounts for 4% of Canada's production. Industry is responsible for 31%. Canada is one of the top mining and manufacturing nations. The main industrial area is along the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Lower Great Lakes regions where goods may be easily transported.



Color the map to show the tundra, grassland, forest land, and farms and cities.
tundra = grey grassland = yellow forest land = green farms/cities = red