

NORTH AMERICA: CANADA & GREENLAND

CANADA*

Area: 3,850,000 sq.mi.(9,971,500 km²). **Population:** 31,750,000. **Capital:** Ottawa, 1,000,000. **Government:** Constitutional monarchy. **Language:** English 65%, French 20%; 15% speak both. **Religion:** Roman Catholic 47%; Protestant 40%. **Exports:** Timber, newsprint, autos, machinery, fish products, grains, asbestos, nickel, zinc. **Climate:** West coast is mild; southern and eastern regions have warm summers and very cold winters; north is frigid. □ Canada, which is about the size of Europe, is the world's second-largest country (after Russia). It spans North America from the Atlantic to Alaska, and shares with the United States the world's longest unprotected border. Though 7% larger than the U.S., Canada has only a tenth of the population. Most Canadians live within a 200-mile (320 km) strip along the southern border with the U.S.

Despite the significant growth of minority groups, Canada remains a nation of two cultures: English and French (both are official languages). Though France gave up its Canadian holdings to England in 1763, the French minority has resisted assimilation; today, separatist groups are moving French-dominated Quebec toward independence.

Canada has vast undeveloped resources. A wide band of forests spanning the nation enables Canada to be the world's leading producer of pulp and paper. It has the most lakes and rivers of any country (about a third of the world's freshwater supply), which provide transportation routes, irrigation, and hydroelectric power. Canada shares four of the five Great Lakes with the U.S. It has 9 lakes over 100 miles (160 km) long and 35 that are more than 50 miles (80 km) long. The Mackenzie-Peace is the longer of the two major river systems, but far more important is the St. Lawrence River Seaway network, which gives Atlantic access to most of Canada's population and industrial centers.

Canada is an independent federation of 10 self-governing provinces and 2 territories, but Canadians regard the Queen of England as their queen. Canada belongs to the English Commonwealth of Nations—a worldwide association of former colonies and current dependencies. Canada consists of six regions: (1) *The Atlantic or Maritime Provinces* are New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. These smallest provinces were settled first. They are the heart of a huge east coast fishing industry. The Bay of Fundy, separating New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, is famous for its 70 foot (21 m) tides. The scenic fjords on the coast of Newfoundland must have looked like home to the Viking explorers, who in 1000 A.D. established a short-lived colony called Vinland. (2) *Quebec* is the largest province and the only one in which the French language and the Roman Catholic religion represent the majority. More French-speaking people live in Montreal than in any other city except Paris. Quebec is almost entirely covered by the Canadian Shield (see diagram on p. 4). Mining and timber are the major industries. (3) *Ontario*, the site of Ottawa, the Canadian capital, is the most populous and industrialized province. Ontario's capital, greater Toronto, has 4 million people and is the nation's center of commerce and manufacturing. The many mines of Ontario contribute to Canada's world leadership in nickel and zinc production. (4) *The Prairie Provinces*—Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba—are home to enormous wheat farms and cattle ranches. Alberta has the world's largest national park (Wood Buffalo), and two of the most scenic (Banff and Jasper). Winnipeg, the "Chicago" of Canada, is the capital of Manitoba and a major transportation hub. (5) *British Columbia*, Canada's Pacific coast, is the most beautiful province, with its thick forests, snowcapped mountains, and fiord-lined coast. Timber and fishing are its major industries. Vancouver is the nation's busiest seaport. (6) *The Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories* occupy a third of the land area but have only 1% of the people. In April, 1999, the new territory of Nunavut will be created out of the Northwest Territory. Larger than Alaska, it will be the first major political region in North America governed by aborigines. Inuits (Canadian Eskimos) make up 85% of the area's population of 26,000. About 370,000 native Indians live to the south, across the entire nation. The North's brutal climate has not prevented extensive mining and oil exploration. Gold made the Klondike region of the Yukon famous, but is no longer the region's most valued mineral. Prosperous Canada has vast natural resources and unlimited land for population expansion. The standard of living is equal to that of the U.S. Just as the French-speaking minority strives to preserve its identity, Canadians as a whole are fearful of being swallowed up culturally and economically by their colossal neighbor to the south.

CN: (1) Color a province or territory, its name, and its outline on the large map. (2) Color the outline of Greenland on the large map and then on the globe to the right (on which Canada and its northern islands are to be colored gray).

PROVINCES

ALBERTA, EDMONTON

BRITISH COLUMBIA, VICTORIA

MANITOBA, WINNIPEG

NEW BRUNSWICK, FREDERICTON

NEWFOUNDLAND, ST. JOHN'S

NOVA SCOTIA, HALIFAX

PRINCE EDWARD I., CHARLOTTETOWN

ONTARIO, OTTAWA

QUEBEC, QUEBEC

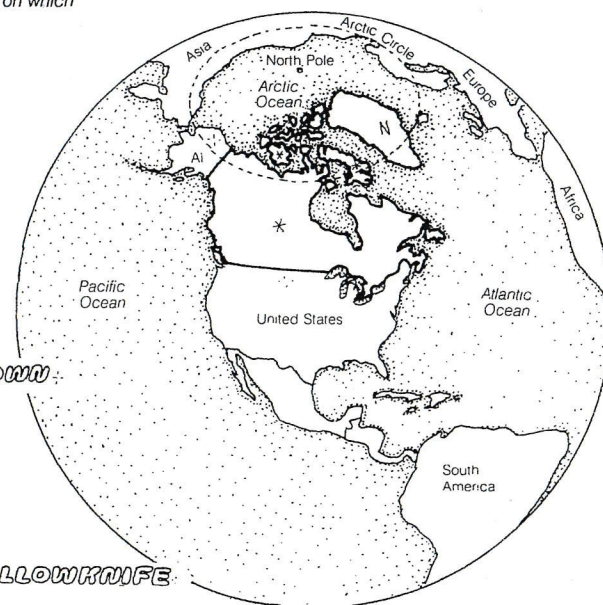
SASKATCHEWAN, REGINA

TERRITORIES

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, YELLOWKNIFE

YUKON TERRITORY, WHITEHORSE

NUNAVUT, IQUALUIT



GREENLAND N

Area: 840,000 sq. mi. (2,175,600 km²). **Population:** 59,000. **Capital:** Godthåb, 12,500. **Government:** Self-governing province of Denmark. **Language:** Danish, Eskimo dialect. **Exports:** Fish products. **Climate:** Frigid, but summers are above freezing. □ The world's largest island is also the coldest inhabited region. The population is confined to the southwest coast, which is not as cold as the ice-covered interior. Mountains fringe a giant sheet of ice, 1-2 miles (1.6-3.2 km) thick, which covers 85% of the island. The glacial ice, created under the weight of many layers of accumulated snow, is pushed into the sea, where it breaks up into icebergs that menace North Atlantic shipping. Greenlanders are descendants of Canadian Eskimos and Danish settlers (Vikings) who arrived in 982. Eric the Red coined the name "Greenland" to entice immigrants from home. He may have been misled by the coastline, which turns green during the cool summer. The generally frigid weather is at least partially responsible for the world's highest suicide rate. When the fish aren't running, unemployment is rampant. There is hope that the recent discovery of gold will bring prosperity.

