

Geography of Canada Summarizers

SS6G6 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Canada.

As the second largest country in the world after Russia, Canada is bordered by the USA on the south, the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, with the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Its location promotes trade with not only the US, but with Europe and Asia as well.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are two important waterways in Canada. These trade routes carry Canadian goods to the Atlantic Ocean so that they can be sold to consumers around the world. Some of the goods traded around the world are natural resources, i.e. gifts of nature. Timber, fish, oil, and minerals like gold, silver, diamonds are some of the main resources found in Canada. Fertile soil allows Canadian to grow an excess of crops like wheat and canola in massive amounts.

Most Canadians live in the southern portion of the country, near the US border. This is due to extreme cold in the northern regions of the country. The southeastern part of the country and the western coast have plentiful rainfall. Most Canadians live in cities like Montreal, Vancouver, and Calgary. Canada is known as an urban country due to so many people living in cities.

SS6G7 The student will discuss environmental issues in Canada.

a. Explain the major environmental concerns of Canada regarding acid rain and pollution of the Great Lakes, the extraction and use of natural resources on the Canadian Shield, and timber resources.

Acid rain is when chemicals like sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides mix with rain. The resulting damage includes polluted lakes, dead plants, and sick animals. The loss of thousands of trees hurts Canada not only in an environmental level, but on an economic one as well. Lumber companies employ thousands of Canadians and pay taxes that support the government and increase its GDP. Buildings can be damaged by the 24/7 exposure to the acid rain, too.

Canada has passed laws to control the pollutants coming from their factories and automobiles. They are working with the USA because winds are carrying pollutants from our factories to their forests. They have promoted the use of mass transit, walking, and stricter laws for auto emissions.

The US and Canada are also working together to stop the **pollution in the Great Lakes** since we share some of the water with each other. For a while, people could not swim, fish, or drink from some areas of the lakes due to the excessive pollution. Factories were using the lakes as a dumping ground for their chemical waste. Dr. Seuss even mentioned Lake Erie's pollution in his children's book called The Lorax. In 1971, the two countries signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the pollution decreased significantly.

The leftover rock from smelting, or slag, is one of the reasons that the **Canadian Shield** is polluted. The mining also results in acid rain and the run-off of chemicals into streams and rivers. Companies come into the area and mine minerals like gold, zinc, iron ore, and uranium and leave bare land and huge holes when the minerals run out and they move on to new mineral-rich areas.

Clear-cutting in Canada's forests are causing a massive problem for the country. Habitats are lost, erosion begins, and a decrease in the production of oxygen are some of the main areas of concern. The government and timber companies are working together to try to reforest the land by planting millions of seedlings each year.

USA	timber	mass transit	The Lorax	run-off
sulfur dioxide	dumping ground	uranium	St. Lawrence River	erosion c
gifts of nature	children's	cold	second	Asia
	consumers	mineral-rich	seedlings	west