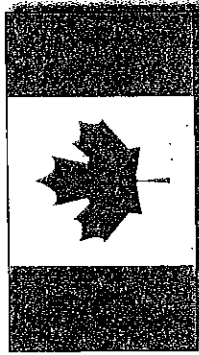


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Canada: Close-Up



Both French and English explorers and settlers came to what is now known as Canada in the late seventeenth century. The British gained control when they captured the French city of Quebec in 1759. In 1931, Canada was declared to be a self-governing **dominion** within the British Empire. Today, it is a **constitutional monarchy**, with a parliamentary system of government. This means that the king or queen of England is the official head of state. However, elected members of Parliament run the country. A prime minister heads the government. The **prime minister** is the head of the political party that has the majority of members in the House of Commons, which is one of the two houses of Parliament.

Canada has ten **provinces** and three **territories**. The provinces are political divisions, much like states in the United States. The territories have more limited government, since so few people live there.

### Provinces

- The eastern provinces include: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. Fishing is a major industry in these provinces. Other industries include mining, forestry, and tourism.
- **Quebec** is Canada's largest province. Four out of five residents of Quebec speak French; **French** was declared the official language of Quebec in 1974. Many of Quebec's citizens want the province to separate from Canada and form its own country.
- The central provinces are Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Agriculture is a major industry in this region. Farmers raise cattle and a variety of crops. Industry and oil production have increased in the region in recent years.
- British Columbia is Canada's most western province. The **Rocky Mountains** cover most of British Columbia's land. **Vancouver**, in British Columbia, is Canada's major port on the Pacific Ocean.

### Territories

- Canada's three territories are the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Territory, and Nunavut. These territories are mostly tundra, which has poor soil and a cold climate but is rich in mineral deposits. Nunavut separated from part of the Northwest Territories in 1999; it is home to many of the **Inuit**, who are also known as Eskimos.
- Canada and the United States share a 4,000-mile border. It is the world's longest **unfortified** border. The two nations are major trading partners. Trade with Canada is about 20 percent of the total of U.S. **exports**. Canada's trade with the United States is about 74 percent of its **imports**; and 86 percent of its exports.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway make up Canada's most important waterway. Completed in 1959, the Seaway allowed Montreal and Toronto to become ports for ocean-going **vessels**.

## Knowledge Check

### Matching

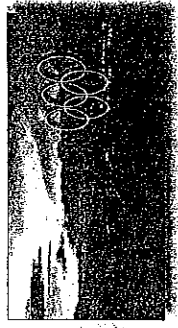
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Inuit           | a. official language of Quebec           |
| _____ 2. Quebec          | b. major port on the Pacific Ocean       |
| _____ 3. Vancouver       | c. cover most of British Columbia's land |
| _____ 4. French          | d. also known as Eskimos                 |
| _____ 5. Rocky Mountains | e. Canada's largest province             |

### Multiple Choice

6. How many provinces does Canada have?
- 3
  - 7
  - 5
  - 10
7. This is Canada's most western province.
- British Columbia
  - Quebec
  - Newfoundland
  - Nova Scotia

### Did You Know?

Canada has hosted the Olympics three times: the Summer Games in Montreal (1976); the Winter Games in Calgary (1988) and Vancouver (2010).



### Constructed Response

Canada is a constitutional monarchy. Explain how this type of government works. Use details from the reading selection to support your answer.

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