Canada’s Landform Regions

Reference: Making Connections, Chapter 12

Using the textbook as a reference, fill in the missing information in the paragraphs below.

The Canadian Shield

The shield is under most of Canada and parts of the ________________. More than ______km of Canada is covered by it. It contains some of the world’s oldest rocks (____ years old). Two types of rock; ________________ and ________________ form most of the shield. These rocks contain minerals such as ________________ and ________________ in great quantities. Because of this, the Canadian Shield is often called the “storehouse of ________________”. Minerals were deposited in the shield as ________________ slowly intruded and cooled.

Many cities and towns, such as ________________ in Ontario or ________________ in the Northwest Territories, rely on the mining industry for jobs. The shield is ill suited for ________________ due to thin soils, but is ideal for ________________.

The plentiful water flow has made the region an excellent source of ________________ energy. Since the outer portion of the shield is lower than the centre (similar to a ________________), most of the rivers flow towards its centre and into ________________.

The Lowlands

Surrounding the Canadian Shield are the following three lowland regions:

a) ________________

b) ________________

c) ________________

The sediments that form the bedrock under these regions were ________________ from the Shield. The weight of the upper layers of sediments compressed the lower layers of sediments into ________________ rock.
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Interior Plains
The Interior Plains are part of the Great Plains of North America that stretch from the _______________ Ocean to the __________________. The Interior Plains were often covered by shallow __________________ seas. During the _______________ era, coral reefs formed close to the surface of these seas. The reefs are now thousands of metres below the surface of the land and they contain much of the ______ and ______ found in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mineral deposits also lie below the surface. _______________ is a mineral used as fertilizer in Canada and around the world.

______________ erosion resulted in _____ different levels of _______________ each separated by an _______________.

Glacial deposits produced a _______________ landscape. The soil of the Interior Plains is _______________ and _______________, and as a result crops such as _______________ _______________ are grown in many locations. The area is known as Canada’s _______________. Where it is too dry for crops, farmers raise ____________.

Great Lakes and St Lawrence Lowlands

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands consists of two parts separated by a thin piece of the _______________. These lowlands have bedrock formed of _______________ rock from the Palaeozoic era. Many escarpments can be seen in this region; the best known is the _________________, which extends from ________________ to ________________. Glaciers helped create a rolling landscape in the _______________ portion of this region.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is the most _______________ region and it is well suited to agriculture because of its _______________ and _______________. The flat land also makes this region ideal for _______________ routes and the development of ____________.
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Hudson Bay-Arctic Lowlands
The area around Hudson Bay and James Bay is very ________ and covered by ________ forest. This region has a layer of __________ rock on top of the ancient rock of the Shield. The Arctic Lowlands are in Canada’s far north and have a gently __________ landscape. This region contains coal, _________ and __________ deposits.

The Highlands
Canada's highlands are made up of three mountainous areas:

a)
b)
c)

Appalachian Mountains
The Appalachian Mountains are the ________ highland region and were formed about __________ million years ago. The layers of sedimentary rock are rich in deposits of ________ - ________ minerals such as __________. Millions of years of __________ have reduced the Appalachians’ jagged peaks to rolling mountains and hills.

Innuitian Mountains
The Innuitian Mountains are found in Canada’s ____________________. They are very tall mountains (over ________ metres in height). This region contains mostly ________ rock, but also ________ and ________ rock. Since these mountains are ________ than the Appalachians, ________ has not had time to reduce them to rounded hills. This region is cold and barren and many areas are covered by ________ and ________________.

Western Cordillera
The Western Cordillera is on the ___________ coast of Canada. The mountains are very high and rugged which means they are geologically ___________. The many mountains and valleys run in a __________ - ________ direction, but we need transportation routes that run in an __________ - ________ direction. There are very few ________________, or gaps, which allows highways and railways to cross over.
This region has Canada's only remaining ____________________ (apart from those in the Arctic).

There are three major divisions in the Western Cordillera. They are:

a)  
b)  
c)  

The Eastern Mountains contain the _____________ and _______________ Mountains.
The Interior Plateaus is a series of rugged plateaus between the _____________ and the______ _____________ Mountains. Glacial and river deposits have made the valleys excellent for ____________. One of these is the _____________ valley.
The Coast Mountains are made up of the ________________ on the mainland and extend onto ______ Island.

Look at the footer on each of the four pages you have. Try to determine what it represents. What do you think it is? Why? How can you prove your answer?