

## **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.



## **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 \_\_\_\_\_.



### **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?

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