

NAME: _____

THE CANADIAN SHIELD REGION

LOCATION AND LANDFORMS

The largest region in Canada, the Canadian Shield covers almost half of the entire country! This horseshoe shaped area covers most of Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, as well as parts of northern Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The Canadian Shield is home to many interesting landforms. Rocky hills, massive forests, bare tundra and rolling hills are all a part of this region. This region is also home to many bogs called muskegs.

Draw a snapshot of what you might see in the Canadian Shield region:



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HISTORY

The First Nations people were the first people to live in the Canadian Shield region. The Algonquin, Innu, Ojibwa and Cree were just four of the groups that lived in this area. They were nomadic groups, which meant they moved often rather than setting up a permanent shelter. The lack of food was a reason for their need to travel. The people of this region hunted bear, moose and beaver. They gathered berries and other edible plants.

The Innu were very inventive and developed technology to help them travel to far corners of the region. Birchbark canoes were used in the summer and snowshoes were used in the winter. These people also invented the toboggan- a long sled used to carry belongings when travelling.

While the First Nations were living quietly in the Canadian Shield region, the Atlantic region and Great Lakes region were busy with new explorers. These explorers grew curious of what lay beyond the regions they knew and two trading companies- the North West Company and the Hudson Bay Company sent employees out to explore the Canadian Shield region.

In 1771, a Hudson Bay employee named Samuel Hearne was one of the first people to reach the Canadian Shield region. Peter Pond, a North West company explorer, mapped the part of the region.

Few European explorers stayed in the Canadian Shield permanently. The explorers encountered many challenges as they explored this region- thick forests, angry animals, massive waterfalls and ferocious insects were all dealt with. As with other regions, the First Nations helped both the English and French explorers so they could survive the terrain and journey across the land.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

The soil of the Canadian Shield is not good for growing crops but there are many other natural resources to make up for it! Thick forests, minerals, water, animals and fish are all found in this region.

The rocky surface doesn't stop many different types of trees from growing in this region. Birch, aspen, fir and spruce are all found in the Canadian Shield region. Many of these trees provide the wood for Canada's pulp and paper industry.

Minerals such as nickel, copper, gold, iron and silver are found in this region. The copper found is used to make wire, the gold is used for jewelry and coins. Nickel is used to make coins.

The Canadian Shield has an abundance of water. This water is used to produce hydroelectricity which is used to power homes, businesses and cities. The hydroelectricity is also sold to the United States.

With so much water, you can bet the Canadian Shield has many types of fish! Bass, pike, trout and perch are just some of the many fish found in this area.

Skunk, moose, deer, caribou, lynx, black bear and wolf are some of the mammals who live in the Canadian Shield. If you visited this region you could also see owls, eagles, snakes and turtles!

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CLIMATE

The Canadian Shield is so massive, the climate varies depending on where you are.

In the northern part of the region, it can be cold year round and it is difficult for many plants and trees to grow. The winters are long and cold. Summers are short.

It can be very rainy in the Canadian Shield as well. August is a rainy month and rain can fall one out of every three days!

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JOBS

As in other regions, the natural resources found in the region help determine what kinds of jobs the people have. There are many miners, loggers and tourism workers in this region.

Would you want to live in this region? Why or why not?
