

NAME: _____

THE GREAT LAKES REGION

LOCATION AND LANDFORMS

The Great Lakes region is found along the southern part of Ontario and Quebec. You will find all of the Great Lakes in this region.

Many people live in this region because of the beauty and the closeness to an important natural resource- water. Besides the lakes, this region has beaches, wetlands, rolling hills, islands and dunes.

Draw a snapshot of what you might see in the Great Lakes region:



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HISTORY

First Nations people have always stayed near water and this region has a lot of that natural resource. In fact, more than 120 First Nations groups have been known to live in this region at some point! Two of these groups were the Haudenosaunee [how-den-o-show-nee] and the Ouendat [wen-dat] (also known as the Huron).

The First Nations people lived off the land by hunting, growing and gathering. They grew and ate foods such as pumpkins, squash and beans, foods that grew well in the rich soil of this region.

The life of these people changed a lot once European explorers landed in the Great Lakes region. Jacques Cartier came first in 1534, sent by the King of France. Jacques mission was to find a route to China. Instead, he found the Gaspé Peninsula and happy Haudenosaunee people living off the land.

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain founded the settlement of Quebec. He brought with him a crew and settlers, who began cutting down trees to build homes. Soon the settlers began taking over much of the region as the settlement, called New France grew larger and larger.

The British and French fought nonstop over who was in charge of this region. In 1759, the British attacked the French colony of Quebec. The French settlers were upset and worried that they would lose their culture with the British in charge. The British passed the Quebec Act in 1774. It said that the French settlers and people of the region would be able to keep their religion, speak their own language as well as their own culture. The Quebec Act was the first step towards Canada being bilingual- which means to have two official languages.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

The Great Lakes region has a lot of natural resources including trees, soil, minerals, animals and fish.

Pine, maple and oak are just some of the trees that are logged in the Great Lakes region. Lumber and paper were created from these trees, though more and more forests were cut down for cities and now there are less trees to log.

The soil in the Great Lakes region is known for being very rich and ideal for growing crops. Almost 25% of all the crops grown in Canada are grown in this region! Barley, wheat, oats, grapes and apples are just some of the food that is grown here.

Coal is a natural resource that is found in large quantities in this region. You can also find lead, nickel, gold, silver, iron, zinc and copper. Natural gas and oil are also found in this region. These minerals are gathered by drilling into rocks found in the area.

All sizes and shapes of animals can be found in the Great Lakes region. Mammals such as moose, black bears, wolves and squirrels roam the woods. Snakes, lizards and snapping turtles can be found as well as many types of fish such as pike, trout and sturgeon.

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CLIMATE

The climate of the Great Lakes region is very predictable and the region does not experience extreme hot or cold temperatures. Climate means the general weather in an area over time. An easy way to think of it is to think of how the weather “usually is” in a certain region.

Fall and winter are mild, with the first frost coming in the fall and the winter temperature ranging from -3 to -9 degrees Celsius. In more northern parts of the region it can get colder.

Spring and summer are beautiful in this region! April is a dry month and receives little rain, summer has warm temperatures and lots of nightly thunderstorms in June, July and August. The average summer temperatures is around 21 degrees Celsius.

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JOBS

The fertile soil has many farmers and agricultural workers in this region. The large supply of minerals also means there are many miners in this area, as well as steel manufacturers. The beautiful sights mean that the Great Lakes region requires many people to work in the tourism industry and be hosts to the tourists that visit from all over the world.

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