

NAME: _____

THE ATLANTIC REGION

LOCATION AND LANDFORMS

This region includes parts of Quebec, as well as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. This region is sometimes called the "Appalachian Region".

The Atlantic region is covered in many mountains and lowlands. Lowlands are formed when glaciers move over valleys and carve out rock. Lowlands have good soil for farming.

There are many coasts, river and lakes found in the Atlantic region. On the coasts, there are sandy beaches that people enjoy visiting in the summer.

Draw a snapshot of what you might see if you were in the Atlantic Region:



THE ATLANTIC REGION

HISTORY

The first people to live in this area were the First Nations people. The Mikmaq, Maliseet and Beothuk lived off the land by hunting, fishing and growing crops such as corn and beans.

Some of these people were nomadic, which means they travelled around the region depending on the season. The Mikmaq made easy to assemble homes called wigwams from different types of trees. The people of this region ate well from the land- berries, moose, cod and onions were all hunted or grown for them to enjoy.

The first explorers to come to Canada, landed in the Atlantic region. In the early 1500s, Jacques Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence River. He built a fort on the bank of the river. He and his crew traded glass beads, tools and knives for the furs the Mikmaq had hunted.

These furs were taken back to Europe and the people loved them! The fur was used to make hats and warm coats. Soon, rulers of many countries were sending explorers back to the region Jacques Cartier had found, so more furs could be traded for.

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain was sent by the King of France to gather more furs. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and set up a small settlement on Jacques Cartier's first fort. The explorers were not prepared for the cold winters and they ran out of food. The Mikmaq provided them with food and medicine, helping them survive the cold weather. The French and Mikmaq had a good relationship.

For many years, the British and French fought over who was in charge of this region. Both wanted to be able to trade with the First Nations for fur.

THE ATLANTIC REGION

HISTORY

In 1776, the Thirteen Colonies (what we now call the United States) were fighting to become its own country. It had been ruled by Britain and the people of the colonies wanted to be able to rule themselves. But some people in the colonies still liked being ruled by Britain and didn't want things to change. These people were called Loyalists because they were loyal to Britain.

After Britain lost and the Thirteen Colonies started governing themselves, many Loyalists moved north to what we now call Canada. Britain promised them free land if they moved to this area.

The Loyalists that moved north were a very interesting group. They included people from Africa, Scotland, Germany and Ireland. They held many different religious beliefs and had different jobs such as farmers, lawyers, ministers and carpenters. Life was difficult at first but soon people began to live the life they had hoped for.

For the next 300 years (between 1500-1800), many more people from France, England, Scotland and Ireland would move to Canada. They came for a fresh start and because of the natural resources that were overflowing in this region.

THE ATLANTIC REGION

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Atlantic region has many natural resources. Much of the region is surrounded by water, which is one of the region's most abundant natural resources. The fish that live in the water are also an important natural resource. Salmon, halibut, herring and sole can all be found in the Atlantic Ocean. Cod is also fished in this area, though overfishing has lowered the amount of cod in the region.

Many minerals are found in this area, such as zinc, iron and gold. They are mined in the mountains of the Atlantic region. Oil and natural gas are also mined in parts of the Atlantic region.

The soil of the Atlantic region is difficult to grow many crops in because much of the land is covered in rock, but the crops that can grow in it, grow very well. Potatoes and oats are two examples of crops that farmers in this region are able to grow. Strawberries and blueberries grow commonly in the wild.

The soil allows many trees to be grown in this region. 87% of the tree covered land in New Brunswick is used for logging. This soil also allows maple trees to grow in the thick forests.

The Atlantic region is home to many interesting animals. Many types of fish are found in the water and oysters, lobsters and scallops can be found in this region as well. Seals and whales can be seen swimming in the ocean.

Over 200 types of birds are found in this region as well as caribou, beavers, bears, coyotes and moose. Polar bears can be found on the northern coast of Labrador!

THE ATLANTIC REGION

CLIMATE

Canada is a large country and the climate of each region is very different. 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.

The Atlantic region has a coastal climate. This means the winters are warmer and the summers are cooler than other parts of Canada. The climate in this region can change because of storms that grow in the Atlantic Ocean.

In fall and winter, there is rain in the Atlantic region. In winter, there are cold winds that come from the ocean and snow can fall. Some areas of the region have had as much as 100 cm of snow fall in a single day!

Spring and summer can bring nicer days to the Atlantic region. A large amount of rain falls in the spring and the summers tend to be warm but not hot, with the average temperature around 18 degrees Celsius.

Because this region is close to the ocean, it can experience many horrible storms. Rain, flooding and strong winds can turn into a hurricane and cause a lot of damage to the people and land of the Atlantic region. During these storms, people can lose electricity, schools close and some people can get badly injured.

THE ATLANTIC REGION

JOBS

The people of the Atlantic region can have many different types of jobs. One important job in this region involves aquaculture. Aquaculture is when people work together to raise fish in a protected area such as a farm, until they are big enough to be sold. Raising fish in farms, ponds or pools helps protect the fish in the wild from being overfished. Salmon, trout and mussels are just some of the species that are raised in fish farms.

Because of the beauty of this region, over 85,000 people work in the tourism industry of the Atlantic region. They help take care of visitors and show them the special sights that make the Atlantic region memorable.

People of this region also work as farmers, loggers and miners.

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