

WATER

Canada has about a quarter of the world's known fresh-water volume. Fresh water forms over 7.6 per cent of the total area of the country.

Four of the five Great Lakes lie partly in Canada.

Some of the largest lakes situated entirely within Canada are Great Bear (12,275 square miles), Great Slave (10,980 square miles), Winnipeg (9,465 square miles), and Athabasca (3,120 square miles).

The St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes are one of the world's great waterways, and carry deep-sea shipping more than 2,280 miles from the Atlantic Ocean into the heart of the country.

The longest river in Canada is the Mackenzie (2,635 miles), which flows into the Arctic Ocean.

CLIMATE

Canada's climate is greatly influenced by its mountain ranges, plains and water surfaces.

The mountain ranges of the Cordilleran region prevent humid Pacific air from reaching the interior, and also prevent the westward flow of cold Arctic air from reaching the West Coast.

The central plains of the North American continent form a corridor for the flow of warm air north from the Gulf of Mexico and cold air from north to south and east. This air movement creates sudden and drastic weather changes in Canada's interior.

The large water surfaces in Central and Eastern Canada (Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes) produce considerable modification in the climate.

Canada's lowest official temperature reading was -81°F. , recorded at Snag in the Yukon Territory in February 1947. The highest official temperature reading was 115°F. , recorded at Gleichen, Alberta, in July 1903.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

The combined area of the Atlantic Provinces — Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island — is 208,148 square miles, 5.5 per cent of the total area of Canada.



NEWFOUNDLAND

Area: 156,185 square miles

Population: 505,000

Capital: St. John's

The long arm of Labrador on the eastern boundary of Quebec belongs to the Canadian Shield; the island of Newfoundland is a continuation of the Appalachian Highlands. The highest point on the mainland is 5,160 feet and, on the island, 2,672 feet. The island's surface dips generally east and northeast, with rugged coasts in the south and east, fringed with islets. Peninsulas, bays, lakes and river basins on the island all lie in a northeast to southwest direction. Fresh water covers about 13,140 square miles of the province.

The temperature is moderate, with frequent high winds. Precipitation is heavy and nearly constant, with rain or snow on an average of 201 days a year at St. John's. The island has a yearly average of 45-55 inches.

Fish, particularly cod, is Newfoundland's best-known resource. Off the coast of Newfoundland lies the world's most extensive fishing-ground, the Continental Shelf.