

CANADA AND FRESHWATER

Experience and Practices

Introduction

Canada has been largely shaped by its geography — particularly its rivers and lakes, which have provided a focal point for settlement, economic development, and transportation. Aboriginal peoples have always derived physical and spiritual sustenance from water. Waterways carried furs, trade goods, and explorers, stimulating the exploration of Canada's vast interior.

Water is a key component of the modern Canadian economy: it is a fundamental resource for food production, plays an important role in virtually every modern industrial process and many recreational activities, and provides an essential element for urban development across the country. It is the lifeblood of the environment, essential to the health and survival of plants, animals, and people. Water has played, and continues to play, a special role in the growth of our nation and is an integral part of the Canadian identity. Its importance is strongly reflected in Canadian art and literature.



Stormy Weather, Georgian Bay (1920).
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