

# CANADA'S CAPITAL CITIES

Grade 4-6



## About This Book

Study each of Canada's capital cities. Learn about their land size, population, location, historical and cultural landmarks. Activities include mapping skills, research, art, math, creative writing, science, reading, language, research. Plus Information Cards and Answer Keys!

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Item #J1-33

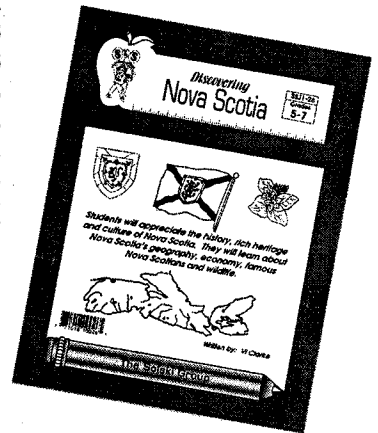
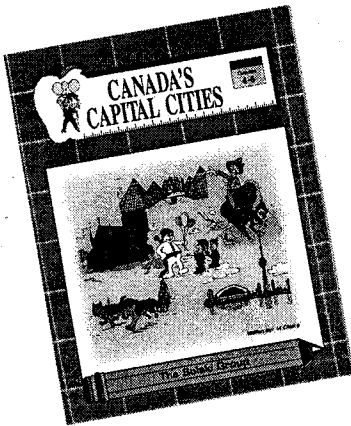
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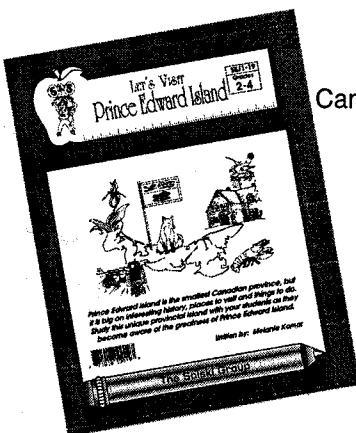
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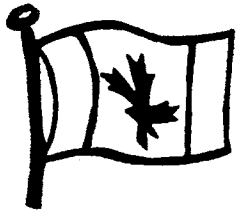


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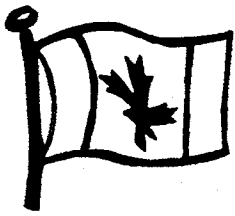
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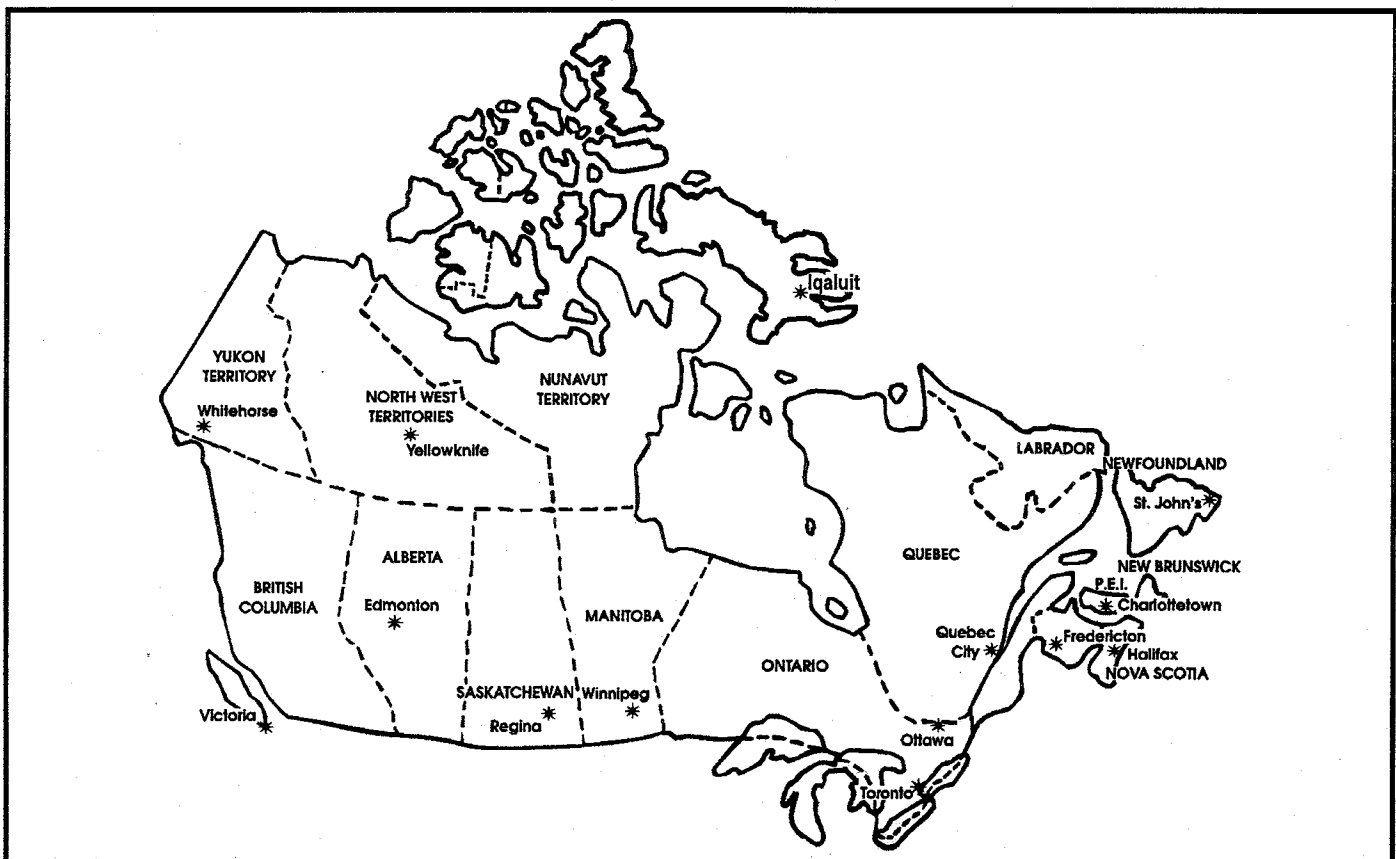


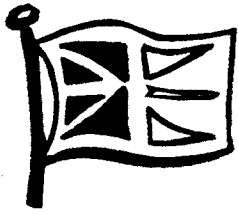
## Canada's Capitals - An Introduction

Canada is the second largest country in the world having a land area of about 9 976 185 km<sup>2</sup> (3 851 809 sq. miles). There are over 25 million Canadians.

Canada is an independent country. It is part of the British Commonwealth and the British Queen is the Head of State. The Canadian nation is made up of ten provinces and three territories. In 1999, a new territory called Nunavut was created. It is part of the Northwest Territories. Each province has its own provincial government and controls many of its own affairs such as highways and education. Québec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were the first provinces to join a single Government of Canada in 1867. Within four years, Manitoba and British Columbia also joined and the new Canada stretched from sea to sea. By 1905, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta were added. In 1949, Newfoundland became the tenth and last province to join the Canadian Confederation. The three territories of Canada are The Yukon Territory, The Northwest Territories and Nunavut. They are largely uninhabited and remain Canada's last true areas of wilderness.

The map which follows shows Canada's ten provinces and three territories, along with their capital cities. The largest province is Québec which covers 1 667 926 km<sup>2</sup> (643 986 sq. miles). The smallest is Prince Edward Island covering 5 656 km<sup>2</sup> (2 184 sq. miles). About one third of Canada's population lives in Ontario.





# CANADA'S CAPITAL CITIES



## St. John's

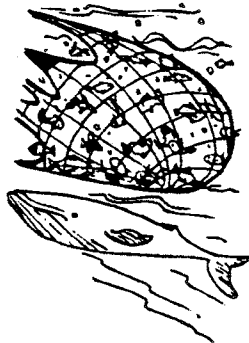
### Capital of Newfoundland and Labrador

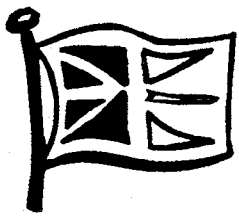
One of the oldest cities in North America is St. John's, the capital city, principal port and commercial centre of the province of the island of Newfoundland and mainland Labrador.

St. John's achieved much of its importance because of its geographic position. It is closer to Europe than any other city in North America. It is the place where Marconi, an Italian inventor, received the first ever trans-Atlantic wireless transmission on Signal Hill in 1901. In 1919, Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Brown flew from St. John's Newfoundland to Clifton, Ireland, completing the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. St. John's is where Britain staked its first colony and fought its final battle with France in the Seven Years War. It is the home of North America's first Court of Justice, set up in Trinity in 1615.

Though it is a busy progressive port, St. John's retains many historic buildings and sites. To salute the city's birthday, St. John's celebrates Discovery Day in June. The most popular reminder of the city's past is the St. John's Regatta held in August. Dating from at least 1826, it is considered one of the oldest organized sporting events in North America. The Regatta takes place on a lake called Quidi Vidi.

St. John's became the capital of Newfoundland when it became a province in 1949. Today it has a population of about 95 800. John Cabot, the explorer was probably the first European to visit the area in 1497. He likely named it for St. John the Baptist since he arrived on his feast day. Many explorers and fishermen were drawn here in the 1500's because of the perfectly sheltered harbour and rich fishing waters. St. John's covers 83 sq. km (30 sq. miles) on the Avalon Peninsula at the southern end of the island of Newfoundland.



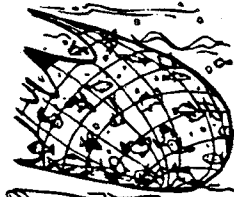


# CANADA'S CAPITAL CITIES



## St. John's

### Facts and Figures



1. Shade in Newfoundland and Labrador on the map. Label St. John's the capital city.

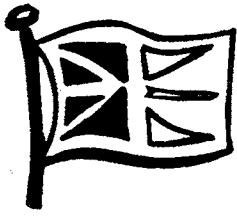


2. a) Where is St. John's located?  
b) How large is the city in area?
3. The populations of several of Canada's largest cities are listed below. Read the information and answer the questions.

City	Population
St. John's	95 770
Halifax	114 455
Toronto	2 400 000
Montréal	1 017 666
Québec City	167 517
Ottawa	313 987
Winnipeg	616 790
Regina	179 178
Edmonton	616 741
Calgary	710 677

- a) Which is the largest city?
- b) Which cities have more than 500 000 people?
- c) Write the populations of St. John's and Montréal in words.
- d) Round each population to the nearest thousand.

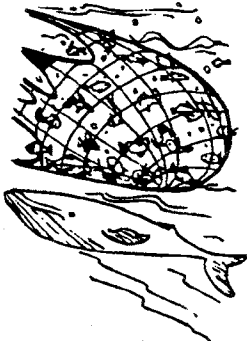
4. Why were explorers and fishermen attracted to the area in the 1500's?
5. When did St. John's become the capital of Newfoundland?
6. Draw and colour the provincial flag and coat of arms for Newfoundland. Tell the significance of the symbols.
7. What is the provincial motto?
8. What is the provincial flower?
9. What is the provincial bird?



# CANADA'S CAPITAL CITIES



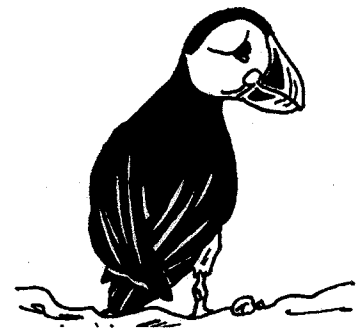
## St. John's - Landmarks



Rising 160 metres (525 ft.) above the narrow approach to St. John's Harbour is Signal Hill. In the eighteenth century, Newfoundland was coveted by both England and France for its rich fishery. Because of its strategic location, the area saw many battles between the English and the French for control of Newfoundland and its fisheries. The British defeated the French in 1762 in the last battle between the two countries in North America. Because of its height and position at the mouth of the harbour, the site was also an important communications post. Signal Hill was known in the 18th century as the Lookout, and there residents would watch for flags hoisted on incoming ships and inform harbour pilots and customs officials. In 1901, Marconi received the first wireless signal there. A summer tradition since it was first performed as a centennial celebration in 1967, the Signal Hill Tattoo re-enacts military exercises performed by the Royal Newfoundland Companies garrisoned at Signal Hill.

Other landmarks and special places to see while visiting St. John's are listed below. Write one or two sentences telling of their significance.

1. *Cape Spear National Historic Site*
2. *Newfoundland Museum*
3. *Newfoundland Freshwater Resource Centre*
4. *Ocean Sciences Centre*
5. *Bowring Park*
6. *Commissariat House*
7. *Witless Bay*



Have you ever visited any of these special attractions? If so, which was your favourite?

Are there other landmarks in St. John's that you would recommend to visitors?