

Let's Visit Nova Scotia

Grades 2-4

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Let's Visit **NOVA SCOTIA**

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List of Vocabulary

Provincial Words

mayflower (trailing arbutus) (flower), Halifax (capital city), munit haec at altera vincit - "one defends and the other conquers" (motto), "Canada's Ocean Playground" (nickname), red spruce (tree), agate (gemstone), stilbite (mineral), "Farewell to Nova Scotia" (song), "Land of Evangeline" (nickname)

Famous Places

Citadel National Historic Park, Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, Province House, Cape Breton National Highlands National Park, Fortress Louisbourg, Miner's Museum, Kejimikujik National Park, Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park, Cobequid Mountains, Sable Island

Major Cities

Halifax, Dartmouth, Sydney, Glace Bay, Cheticamp, Louisbourg, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Lunenburg, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Meteghan, Wolfville, Springhill, New Germany, Annapolis Royal, Truro

Bodies of Water

Atlantic Ocean, Strait of Canso, Cabot Strait, Lake Bras d'Or, Minas Basin, St. Mary's Bay, Mersey River, Lake Rossignol, Shubenacadie River, St. Mary's River, Northumberland Strait, Bay of Fundy, Annapolis River

Famous People

Angus McAskill ("Cape Breton Giant"), Anna Swan ("Nova Scotian Ginatess"), Joshua Slocum (sailor), Abraham Gesner (geologist and inventor), Anne Murray (singer), Joan Clark (author), Izaak Walton Killam (financier), Hugh McLennan (author), Rita MacNeil (singer), Hank Snow (singer), Alexander Graham Bell (Inventor of the Telephone), Samuel Cunard (shipbuilder), Joseph Howe (Politician), Robert Stanfield (Politician), Sarah McLachlan (Singer/Songwriter)



Principal Products

milk, pork products, lobsters, paper products, coal, gypsum

Animals

white-tailed deer, black bear, moose, wildcat, beaver, mink, muskrat, raccoon, otter, red fox, caribou, bobcat, chipmunk, snowshoe hare, porcupine, skunk, marten, cougar, coyote

Fish and Shellfish

cod, haddock, flounder, herring, mackerel, swordfish, trout, pollock, halibut, lobster, scallop, oyster, mussels

Birds

blue jay, redstart, yellow goldfinch, black-capped chickadee, bald eagle, double-crested osprey, great blue heron, starling, grackle, phalarope, shearwater

Teacher Information

Nova Scotia

General

Nova Scotia joined confederation on July 1, 1867. Its capital is Halifax, which is also the province's largest city with a population of over 113 000 people. The provincial flower is the mayflower, also known as trailing arbutus. The population of Nova Scotia is 903 700 (1991), ranking it seventh among the provinces; the area is 55 491 square kilometres, which is 0.6 percent of Canada, making it the second smallest province behind only Prince Edward Island.

Location

Nova Scotia is the eastern most province in Canada. It borders the Atlantic Ocean. New Brunswick is its link to the rest of mainland Canada. Across the Northumberland Strait is Prince Edward Island and the United States (Maine) is across the Bay of Fundy.



Geography

Almost completely surrounded by water, this Maritime province is known as Canada's Ocean Playground. Nova Scotia consists of the mainland peninsula and Cape Breton Island. There are also about 3 800 small islands off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Scenic Nova Scotia contains low mountain highlands, valleys, lakes (more than 3 000), rivers, streams, hilly ranges and forests (77percent of the land is still covered with forests). It also has 7 570 kilometres of coastline - including the coastlines around all the islands!

Climate

Summers in Nova Scotia are foggy, due to the mix of warm and cold currents from the surrounding bodies of water. These currents also moderate the temperature of this Maritime province, compared to mainland Canada. It is seldom warmer than 56 degrees Celsius in the summer. - 5 degrees Celsius is an average winter temperature, although it can dip to negative 15 along the north coast. Rainfall averages 150 to 230 centimetres per year, with the Atlantic coast area receiving the most rain.

Capital City

Halifax is Nova Scotia's capital but Halifax and Dartmouth together are known as the twin cities. They "grew up" together and "live" across the Halifax harbour from each other. Halifax was founded by Cornwallis's settlers in 1749; Dartmouth was founded a year later.

Halifax has quite a military past. It was the North American assembly point for troops, supplies and ships laying ready for battle in both World Wars.

Today, Halifax is home to Dalhousie University, Victoria General Hospital, Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children, and the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra.

Entertainment in Halifax includes attending plays, concerts, festivals, symphonies, and beaches or going sailing, swimming, or skating.



Let's Visit **NOVA SCOTIA**

History

John Cabot, an Italian navigator, discovered Nova Scotia around 1497. Although he claimed the land for King Henry VII of England, the British did not begin to settle there for another two centuries. Like Cabot, other explorers searching for a sea route to Asia, stumbled upon Nova Scotia. In 1534 Jacques Cartier claimed the land for King Francis I of France. But, like the British, the French were more interested in getting Nova Scotia's resources back to their country than in settling the land. The British were interested in the fur trade and the French in the offshore fishing banks.

Both of these European groups disturbed the Natives that were already on the land. Forced onto reservations, many of the Natives died of starvation or of European diseases such as smallpox and measles.

Nova Scotia became a ping-pong ball between the British and the French. In 1632 a European treaty gave control of Nova Scotia to France. But, the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713 returned the mainland peninsula to Britain, leaving Cape Breton Island with France. Then, in 1763, the Treaty of Paris ended French rule in Canada. Cape Breton Island became part of the Nova Scotia colony. In 1749 more than 4 000 colonists were sent to Nova Scotia from England and Scotland.

People

Nova Scotia means "New Scotland". About twenty-five percent of the people living there are of Scottish descent. Those of British descent (Scottish, Irish and English) account for over seventy percent of the population. Eleven percent are descendents of French Acadian settlers. German-Canadians, Blacks and Micmac Native Americans are other ethnic minority groups.

