



Let's Visit The **YUKON TERRITORY**

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Let's Visit The **YUKON TERRITORY**

Objectives

1. To provide students with the opportunity to study the territory of the Yukon.
2. To familiarize students with the location of the Yukon in Canada, North America and the World.
3. To provide students with the opportunity to locate towns, cities and bodies of water found in the Yukon through the use of different types of maps.
4. To make students aware of the importance of the Yukon and its relationship to the rest of Canada.
5. To acquaint students with famous tourist attractions found in the Yukon.
6. To introduce famous people who live or lived in the Yukon.

List of Resources

1. Hocking, A. **The Yukon and Northwest Territories**. McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited; ©1979.
2. Le Vert, S. **Let's Discover Canada - The Yukon Territory**. Chelsea House Publishers; ©1992.
3. McNeill Wells, K. **Colourful Canada**. The Copp Clark Publishing Company.
4. Krueger, R. and Corder, R. **Canada - A New Geography**. Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada Ltd.; © 1982.
5. Schemenauer, E. **Hello Whitehorse**. GLC Publishers Ltd.; ©1986.
6. Tempelman-Kluit, A. **Discover Canada - Yukon** Grolier Ltd.; ©1994
7. Kelly, Lisa. **Welcome to the Yukon Territory (Shawn's and Jessica's Great Canadian Adventure)**. Primary People's Press Limited; © 1995

N.B. The Primary People's Press Limited produces a set of books on the Canadian Provinces and Territories. There is one book for each province and territory. These books are useful during the study of the Canadian Provinces.



Let's Visit The **YUKON TERRITORY**

List of Vocabulary

Provincial Words

fireweed (flower), Whitehorse (capital city), raven (bird), "land of the midnight sun" (nickname), lazulite (gem)

Famous Places

Bonanza Creek, Signpost Forest, Robert Service Cabin, Kluane National Park, Selwyn Mountains, Richardson Mountains, British Mountains, Porcupine Plateau, Ogilvie Mountains, Yukon Plateau, Coast Mountains, St. Elias Mountains, Pelly Mountains, Liard Lowland, Mackenzie Mountains, Herschel Island

Major Cities

Old Crow, Dawson City, Mayo, Elsa, Keno, Faro, Ross River, Whitehorse, Teslin, Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Beaver Creek, Carmacks

Bodies of Water

Beaufort Sea, Firth River, Babbage River, Peel River, Porcupine River, Yukon River, Klondike River, Stewart River, Macmillan River, Pelly River, Teslin River, Liard River, Aishihik Lake, Tagish Lake, Lake Laberge, Kluane Lake, Blow River

Famous People

Pierre Berton (historian; writer), Chief Isaac (Chief of Moosehide band), Johnny Johns (singer; poet), Samuel T. Johnston (politician), Angela Sidney (writer), Elijah Smith (Native rights activist), George Mercer Dawson (geologist), Sir Samuel Benfield Steele (an original Mountie), Martha Black (naturalist), Robert Campbell (explorer), Robert Service (poet), Jane Vincent (Olympic athlete)

Types of Industry

mining, tourism, forestry



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Trees

black spruce, white spruce, lodgepole pine, trembling aspen, balsam poplar, birch, tamarack, willow, alder

Animals

grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, coyote, moose, mule deer, caribou, Dall's sheep, mountain goat, cougar, polar bear, seal, walrus, squirrel, hoary marmot, hare porcupine, fox, beaver, wolverine, mink

Birds

bald eagle, golden eagle, owl, hawk, peregrine, gyrfalcon, goose, swan, loon, duck, sparrow, swallow, lark, bluebird, chickadee, jay, raven

Fish

salmon, lake trout, Dolly Varden trout, arctic grayling, arctic char, rainbow trout, northern pike, whitefish, ling cod

Teacher Information

The Yukon Territory

General:

The Yukon Territory joined confederation on June 13, 1898. Its capital is Whitehorse, which is also Yukon's largest city. The provincial flower is the fireweed. The provincial bird is the raven (called **crow** by the Yukon Natives). The population of The Yukon Territory is 27 300 (1991); the area is 482 515 square kilometres, which is 4.9% of Canada.

Location:

The Yukon Territory is located in the extreme northwestern part of Canada. It is shaped like a triangle. The southern part of the triangle is bordered by British Columbia. Canada's other territory, the Northwest Territories, are to its east and the United States (Alaska), is to its west. The Beaufort Sea is located at the tip of the triangle.



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Geography:

The Yukon is a rugged territory of mountains, plains, plateaus and valleys. There are several rivers flowing through the plateaus and mountain regions of the Yukon. There are also two deep geological faults, in and around the Yukon Plateau, caused by stresses in the earth. They are called the Tintina Trench and the Denali Fault.

Climate:

The Yukon Territory is located in the Subarctic climate zone. The temperature can dip to as low as -40 degrees Celsius or colder. Some areas reach as high as 30 degrees Celsius or warmer. However, average temperatures are less extreme, and generally around the freezing point, plus or minus fifteen degrees. Winter is a long, dark, cold season in the Yukon. There is very little snowfall.

The nickname, "Land of the Midnight Sun", comes from the fact that during the summer twilight lasts almost until sunrise! (This makes up for the fact that there is very little sunlight during the winter.)

History:

It is believed that the Native American peoples may have reached the Yukon 20 000 years ago. During the ice ages, Siberia and Alaska were connected by land where the Bering Strait now lies. The Yukon Natives' culture belongs to the Athapaskan's.

The Yukon was one of the last parts of the New World to be explored by the Europeans. The spreading fur trade first helped to establish this area, as did the desire to find the Northwest Passage, a sea route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. However, it wasn't until the later part of the 19th century that any real activity from settlers happened in this Arctic land.

In 1896, George Washington Carmack struck gold near the Klondike River. Thus, the Klondike Gold Rush began. Prospectors overcame many hurdles to create a population boom in the area, which proved to be one of the richest sources of gold in North America.



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After the rush, which lasted about seven years, the population began to steadily decline, from a high of about 40 000 at the peak of the gold rush to only 4 300 by 1931. The Yukon was forgotten by all but a few hunters and wilderness lovers.

Since the 1940's, new chances for employment have somewhat maintained the territory's population. The first chance was building a road through Canada connecting Alaska to the lower American states. The second chance was the building of the Canol (Canadian Oil) Pipeline. Currents jobs can be found in mining, government services and tourism.

Industry:

Mining is the main industry in the Yukon Territory since the discovery of major gold deposits in 1896. Gold is currently less important than zinc.

Tourism is the second largest private industry. There are almost 200 000 tourists visiting the Yukon yearly.

The government is the Yukon's main employer, providing jobs for over 5 000 people in 1992.

Capital City:

More than two-thirds of the Yukon's population lives in the capital city of Whitehorse. It lies on the west bank of the Yukon River.

Many of the attractions for tourists have a gold rush theme. Downtown Whitehorse has an interesting blend of modern government buildings and old log cabins that are still in use.

People:

Although there are fewer than 30 000 residents of the Yukon, people from all over have settled in this territory; however, most of its population is made up of other Canadians.