



Let's Visit the
**NORTHWEST
 TERRITORIES**

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Let's Visit the **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Objectives

1. To provide students with the opportunity to study The Northwest Territories.
2. To familiarize students with the location of The Northwest Territories in Canada, North America and the World.
3. To provide students with the opportunity to locate communities and bodies of water found in The Northwest Territories through the use of different types of maps.
4. To make students aware of the importance of The Northwest Territories and their relationship to the rest of Canada.
5. To acquaint students with important centres and landmarks found in The Northwest Territories.
6. To introduce famous people who lived or live in The Northwest Territories.

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 Northwest Territories**. 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. Hancock, L. **Discover Canada - Northwest Territories**. Grolier Ltd.; ©1993
6. Kelly, Lisa. **Welcome to The Northwest Territories. (Shawn and Jessica's Great Canadian Adventure)**. Primary People's Press Limited; © 1995

N.B. The Primary People's Press Ltd. 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 **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

List of Vocabulary

Provincial Words

mountain aven (flower), Yellowknife (capital city), gyrfalcon (bird), "Canada's Last Frontier" and "Land of the Polar Bear" (nicknames), jack pine (tree)

Famous Places

Ellesmere Island, Ellesmere National Park, Mount Barbeau, Banks Island, Magnetic North Pole, Lancaster Sound, Baffin Island, Banks Island, Victoria Island, Mackenzie Mountains, Auyuittuq National Park, Arctic Circle, King William Island, Keewatin, Franklin, Mackenzie, Boothia Peninsula

Major Cities

Sachs Harbour, Resolute, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Inuvik, Aklavik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Rae-Edzo, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay, Nanisivik, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Repulse Bay, Fort Smith

Bodies of Water

Beaufort Sea, Lancaster Sound, Arctic Ocean, Lancaster Sound, Baffin Bay, Victoria Strait, Davis Strait, Cumberland Sound, Hudson Strait, Frobisher Bay, Hudson Bay, Great Slave Lake, Liard River, South Nahanni River, Mackenzie River, Great Bear Lake, Coppermine River, Hudson Bay, Baker Lake

Types of Industry

oil and gas, tourism, fishing

Animals

shrew, bat, pika, hare, squirrel, porcupine, mice, voles, lemming, wolf, arctic fox, muskrat, marten, mink, wolverine, beaver, lynx, grizzly bear, polar bear, caribou, moose, wood bison, musk-ox, mountain goat, Dall's sheep



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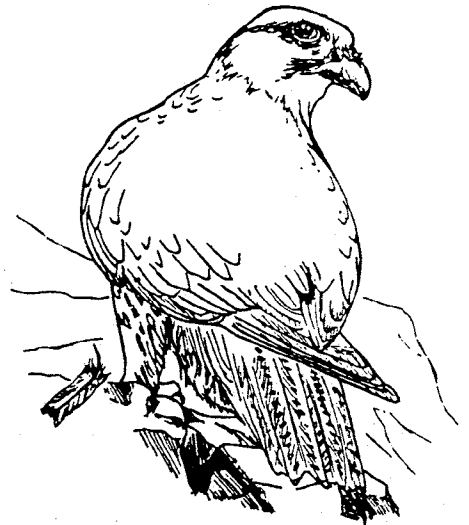
Famous People

Henry Hudson (explorer); Pitseolak Ashoona (artist); Kenojuak Ashevak (Inuit artist); Margot Kidder (actress); Helen Kalvak (graphic artist); Agnes Nonogak (graphic artist); Peter Pitseolak (photographer); Kananginak Pottoogook (sculptor); Nancy Pukingrnak (carver); Susan Aglukark (singer/songwriter); John Amagoalik (head of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada); Pitselolak Ashoona (Inuit artist); George Blondin (Writer of Dene Legends); Ethel Blondin-Andrew (First Aboriginal Woman Elected to Parliament); Nellie Cournoyea (First Aboriginal to be elected as a Premier in Canada); Clennell Haggerston ("Punch") Dickens (Pioneer Bush Pilot); George Erasmus (Fought for Aboriginal Rights); Etuangat (Elder, Carver, Storyteller, Whaler); Sharon and Shirley Firth (Twins - skied in four Olympic Games); Jim Green (Radio Broadcaster, Journalist, Storyteller, Author); Rosemary Kuptana (Produces Inuit television shows); Michael Kusugak (Author of Children's Books)

Birds

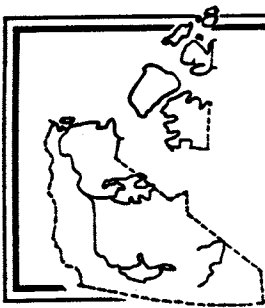
Summer: ducks, geese, swans

All Year: snowy owl, rock ptarmigan, gyrfalcon, raven



Fish

polar cod, grayling, walleye (pickerel), great northern pike, arctic char, dolly varden, lake trout, whitefish



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Teacher Information

The Northwest Territories

General

The Northwest Territories joined confederation on July 15, 1870. Its capital is Yellowknife. The provincial flower is mountain avens. The provincial bird is the gyrfalcon. The population of The Northwest Territories is 55 000 (1991); the area is 3 379 684 square kilometres, which is 33.9% of Canada, making it the largest of any Canadian province or territory.

Location

The Northwest Territories are located in the northern part of Canada, from the sixtieth parallel to the north pole. To the east of The Northwest Territories is a new territory called "Nunavut". Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are the provinces to the south. Canada's other territory, the Yukon, is to the west of the Northwest Territories. Some areas of the Northwest Territories are north of the Arctic Circle.

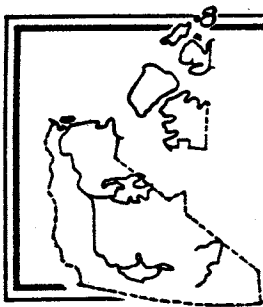
Geography

Three-quarters of The Northwest Territories lies on the Canadian Shield, an area of vast bedrock formation. These territories are covered by more than 132 090 square kilometres of fresh water lakes and rivers. Some parts of the Canadian Arctic are still covered by glaciers or land ice.

The Northwest Territories has a wide range of geographical features including a short coastline, canyons, plains, glaciers, lakes, ice caves, mountains and meadows.

The Canadian Shield covers three-quarters of The Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This area is a horseshoe of solid bedrock that is two to four billion years old.

Due to inclement climate, some areas have not been mapped or even explored.



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Climate

Contrary to popular belief, The Northwest Territories gets less snow than many of the provinces. It rains so infrequently that much of the Arctic is classified as desert regions.

Temperatures dip to a frosty 50° C below zero in the winter but can reach as high as 40° C in some Subarctic areas in the summer.

However, it is the harsh winds and nine months of winter that make The Northwest Territories the coldest place in Canada. Depending on the region, there are only 40 to 100 days that are free of frost.

History

The earliest known inhabitants of The Northwest Territories are called the Pre-Dorset people. They hunted walruses, seals, whales, musk-oxen, caribou and polar bears by using lances and bows and arrows.

The Dorset people supplanted the previous group around 700 B.C. They were a more sophisticated culture than the Pre-Dorset people and were able to travel on water and across frozen tundra in kayaks and hand-drawn sleds. It is not certain what caused the decline of this culture.

New people called the Thule arrived in the Canadian Arctic around A.D. 1200. They are the ancestors of today's Inuit people. The Inuit culture grew from Thule roots starting around 1600. They were nomadic hunters and gatherers. There was a close sense of kinship among this group. They lived north of the tree line.

South of the tree line lived the Athapaskan-speaking people, ancestors of today's Dene (pronounced DEH-nay) people. These nomadic groups lived by gathering wild plants, hunting, fishing and trapping.

At times, the Dene and the Inuit would cross paths as they were each following their respective herd of animals in the Barren Land. They sometimes had wars. The Dene referred to the Inuits as *Eskimos* which means "eaters of raw flesh".

This term was meant as an insult and it is no longer used.