



## Land of Lakes Canada

During the last Ice Age, nearly all of Canada was covered by a massive ice sheet. Thousands of years later, the landscape still shows the scars of that icy earth-mover. Surfaces that were scoured by retreating ice and flooded by Arctic seas are now dotted with millions of lakes, ponds, and streams. In this false-color view from the Terra satellite, water is various shades of blue, green, tan, and black, depending on the amount of suspended sediment and phytoplankton; vegetation is red.

The region of Nunavut Territory is sometimes referred to as the “Barren Grounds,” as it is nearly treeless and largely unsuitable for agriculture. The ground is snow-covered for much of the year, and the soil typically remains frozen (permafrost) even during the summer thaw. Nonetheless, this July 2001 image shows plenty of surface vegetation in midsummer, including lichens, mosses, shrubs, and grasses. The abundant fresh water also means the area is teeming with flies and mosquitoes.