

Settlement Patterns and Ways of Life in Canada

3.1 Introduction

James is a sixth grade student in Pond Inlet, a town in Nunavut. Nunavut is in the far north of Canada. When James goes to school in January, the sun never comes up. If he looks out his classroom window in the dark winter months, all he sees are streetlights and the lights of cars. Some of his classes are taught in English. Others are in Inuktitut, the language of the Inuit. James and most of the other sixth graders also speak Inuktitut at home. In their language, the town's name is Mittimatalik.

Compare James with Marie, a sixth grader in Quebec City. Marie is French Canadian. All of her classes are in French. It is always light outside when she is in school. Marie can see many people on the streets outside her school. James and Marie live in the same country. But their experiences are very different.

Canada is a large, very diverse country. It is often called a **plural society**. This term reflects the fact that its people have come from many countries and cultures. While most people share a Canadian identity, many also keep the traditions of their parents and grandparents.

Canadians often divide their country into five **regions**. In this chapter you will learn about these regions. You will look at how differently people live in each one. You will also find out how location influences the way people live.

Essential Question

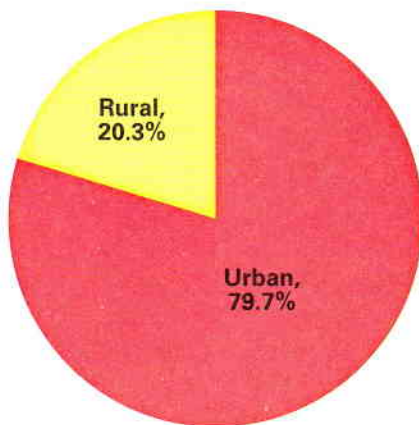
How does where you live influence how you live?

This illustration shows the five regions of Canada. Each region has a different climate. Each region's history and economy are different too. These differences affect how people live in Canada. Keep this illustration in mind as you try to answer the Essential Question.

Graphic Organizer



Canada's Population



Most Canadians Live in Cities

Eight out of 10 Canadians live in urban areas. Only one fifth live in rural areas. Most Canadians live in the ecumene as well. This is found in the southern part of the country, mainly the southeast.

3.2 The Geographic Setting

In area, Canada is the world's second largest country. It covers most of the northern part of North America. The United States is its neighbor to the south. The two countries share a 5,000-mile-long border. This is the longest unguarded border in the world.

Canada's Three "Founding Peoples" The first people to settle in Canada probably came from Asia tens of thousands of years ago. They crossed over a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. In time, they became the Inuit and other Native American groups. These native peoples still live in Canada. Today they are known as Canada's first "founding peoples."

Canada's second and third founding peoples came from Europe. Colonists from France settled Quebec in the 1600s. Later, English colonists settled on the Atlantic coast. In the 1700s, France and England fought a war for control of North America. When the war ended in 1763, France agreed to give up Canada to England.

During the 1800s, large numbers of English settlers came to Canada. But the French-speaking people held on to their language and way of life. Meanwhile, Canada also attracted settlers from Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Norway, and Germany. By the early 1900s, Italians, Ukrainians, and Jews were arriving from southern and eastern Europe. Some settled in the big eastern cities. Others began farms on the flat land in Canada's center. Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino people came from Asia as well. Many of them settled along Canada's Pacific coast.

All of these groups have helped shape Canada's plural society. Its founding peoples have kept their languages and traditions. Newer settlers have also held on to traditional ways from other cultures. Yet all are Canadians.

A Thinly Settled Country Canada is large in area but small in population. In 2001, just over 30 million people lived there. That is fewer people than lived in the state of California.

Nearly 8 out of every 10 Canadians live in an **urban** area. These are areas in or around cities. The rest of the population make their homes in **rural** areas. These are parts of the country that are not near cities.

Most of Canada's people live within 100 miles of the United States. This strip of land lies within Canada's **ecumene**. An ecumene is any region that is well suited for people to live there permanently.

Many Americans think that Canadians' lives are just like theirs. This is not the case. It is true that many Canadians live close to the United States. It is also true that Canada and the United States are each other's most important trading partners. And it is true that they are good allies. But there are many differences between the two countries. Some of these are political. Others are economic, and some are cultural.

► Geotermms

ecumene a geographic region that is well suited for permanent settlement by people. Areas not included in the ecumene are generally too dry, too cold, or too rugged for permanent human settlement.

plural society a society in which different cultural groups keep their own identity, beliefs, and traditions

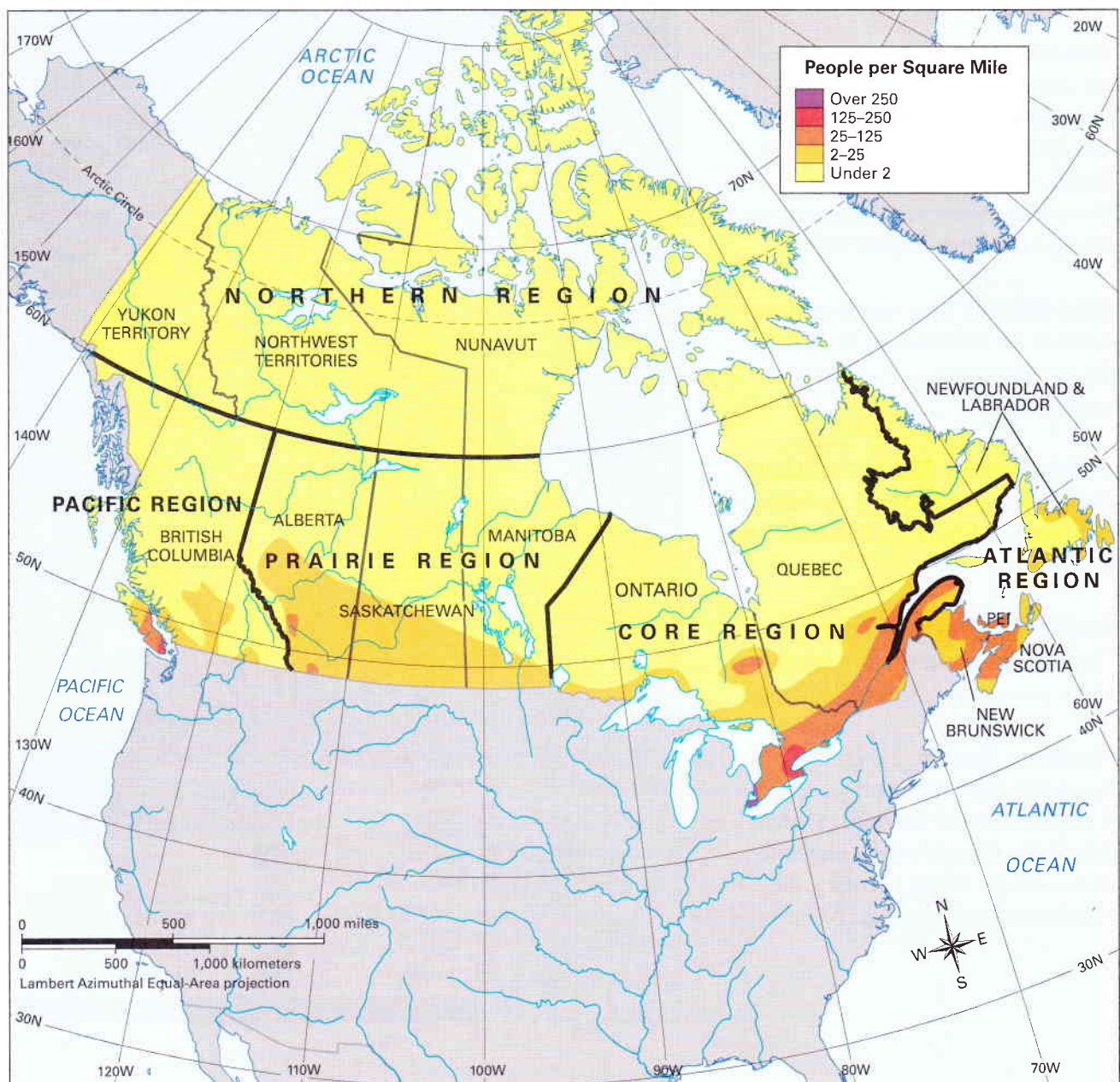
rural found in or living in areas that are not close to cities

urban found in or living in a city

Canadians Cling to the Border

Canada has only about one tenth as many people as the United States. Much of the Canadian north lies outside the ecumene. It is so cold that few people choose to live there. Most of Canada's people live within 100 miles of the U.S. border.

Population Density of Canada



3.3 Canada's Five Regions

Canada is divided into provinces and territories. There are 10 provinces. Each has its own government. In this way, provinces are much like states in the United States. Territories are areas that have too few people to be provinces.

Geographers often divide Canada into five large regions. They are outlined in black on the map you see here. As you will learn, each region has its own geography. Each also has its own history and way of life.

Atlantic Region This region lines the Atlantic coast of Canada. It includes the provinces of Labrador and Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Some of these provinces are islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

Core Region This region stretches north of the Great Lakes. It includes the two large provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Prairie Region This region covers Canada's central plains. It includes the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Pacific Region This region is on Canada's Pacific coast. It is made up of the province of British Columbia.

Northern Region This region lies to the north of the provinces. It reaches far into the Arctic Ocean. It includes Canada's three territories. These are the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.





3.4 Settlement Patterns: Who Lives Where?

Imagine that you could spread Canada's people out evenly. About eight people would live in every square mile. But Canada's people do not live like this. Outside of the large cities, an average of only two people live in every square mile.

The Atlantic Region This was the first area where Europeans settled in Canada. They came because fishing was so good in the North Atlantic. Until recent years, most people here made a living by fishing. But the ocean has been overfished. The government now limits fishing to make sure there will be fish in the future. As a result, many people have moved away.

The Core Region Most Canadians live in Canada's core region. This region has three of Canada's largest cities. They are Toronto, Montreal, and the **capital city** of Ottawa. In the past, people came to Ontario to work in its many factories. More recently they have come for jobs in banks, computer companies, and other businesses.

The Prairie Region About 5 million people live in the three prairie provinces. Farming was once the main activity here. Today the oil and gas business is booming in Alberta. As a result, Alberta is the fastest-growing province in Canada. Its biggest cities are Edmonton and Calgary. Both are popular urban areas.

A Population on the Move

Parts of Canada lost people between 1996 and 2001. Other parts gained people. The numbers show the percent of the loss (–) or gain (+) compared to the 1996 population. Although Nunavut shows a large population growth, its total population in 1991 was only 27,000 people.

Population Change in Canada, 1996–2001



The Pacific Region British Columbia is home to more than 4 million people. Most live around the city of Vancouver or Victoria. People also live on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Many people from Asia have moved to this region. This is because of its location on the Pacific Ocean.

The Northern Region This is the largest region in land area. But it has the fewest people. Only about 100,000 people live in all three territories. The region is costly to live in because it is so far from other places. There are so few roads that goods are often flown in by plane.

3.5 A Plural Society: Who Speaks What?

If you walked around Toronto, you would hear people speaking many different languages. Of course, you would hear English and French. But many other cultural groups live there as well. Toronto has one of the most multicultural school districts in the world. More than half the students in the city speak a language other than English at home.

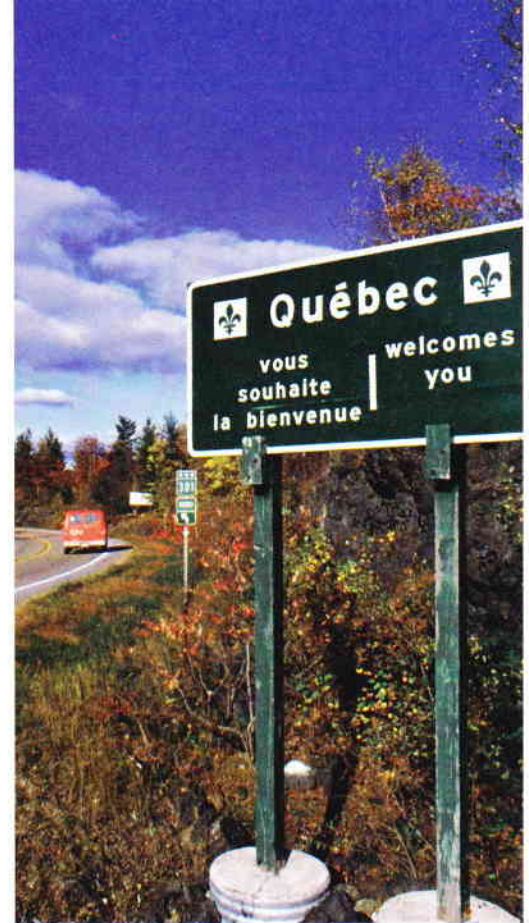
The Atlantic Region Most people in this region speak English as their first language. Their families came from Great Britain to farm or fish many years ago. Some French speakers settled here as well. French remains their first language.

The Core Region In Ontario, most people speak English. But in Quebec, most people speak French. Other languages spoken here include Chinese, Italian, and Portuguese. For many years, Canadians argued about which language their government should use. Now both French and English are its official languages. Some people in Quebec think their province should be a separate country. In 1995, the people of Quebec voted on this question. They decided to stay part of Canada, but it was a close vote.

The Prairie Region European settlers first came to this region to farm. Now, oil in Alberta attracts newcomers. English is the first language for more than four out of five people in this region. But people who speak French, German, and Ukrainian have moved here too.

The Pacific Region Here, English is the first language. But many people from Asia also live in this region. Chinese is the second most common language. People from India speak Punjabi. People from the Philippines speak Tagalog.

The Northern Region Almost two thirds of the people in the north speak English as their first language. Many are English-speaking Canadians who moved here to work for the government. Most of the founding peoples, such as the Inuit, have kept their cultures. The Inuit continue to speak Inuktitut.



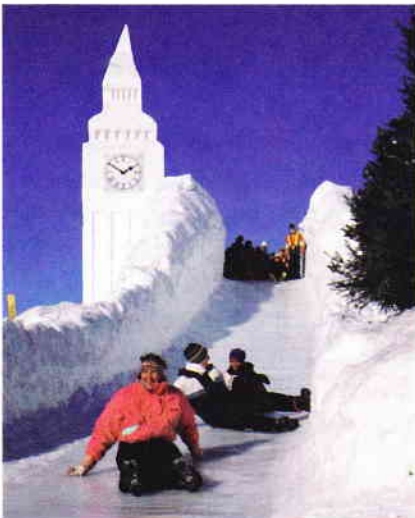
Canada's Official Languages

Canada has two official languages. Signs all over the country are in both English and French. The 2001 census showed that about 22 percent of Canadians speak French most often at home. Almost 68 percent speak English most often at home. The third most spoken language is Chinese.



Surf's Up in the Winter

In the winter, storms slam into Vancouver Island, often creating 15-foot waves. Winter surfing is attempted by only the most dedicated surfers. To survive the cold, they wear rubber suits with hoods, gloves, and booties.



Winterlude: A Festival of Winter

Winterlude celebrations take place in Ottawa in February. Here, people play on an ice slide in a park. In the background is a snow sculpture of one of the Parliament Buildings. These buildings are the center of the national government.

3.6 Having Fun in the Cold

Winters are long and summers are short in this northern country. Canadians have adjusted by finding ways to have fun in all seasons. In summer, for example, people use the Rideau Canal in Ottawa for boating. But in the winter the canal freezes. For a few months it becomes the longest skating rink in the world.

The Atlantic Region This area has a fairly mild **humid continental** climate. Winters can be very wet. Halifax, for example, gets five inches of **precipitation** in January alone.

Nova Scotia is said to be the birthplace of ice hockey. The story goes that Canadians were unhappy spending the long winter months indoors. They knew of a game that is like field hockey. Someone thought to put on skates, and ice hockey was born. Today ice hockey is popular in the United States too.

The Core Region The southern part of this area has a humid continental climate. Toronto's average temperature in July is a pleasant 63°F.

Every February, Canadians celebrate Winterlude in Ottawa. People ice skate and ride sleighs along the Rideau Canal. There are races and figure-skating contests. You can learn how to make ice carvings. Or you can eat at a cafe carved from ice!

The Prairie Region The southern part of this region has a **semiarid** to humid continental climate. The northern part has a **subarctic** climate. In Churchill, the average January temperature is a frosty -16°F.

Churchill is called the "Polar Bear Capital of the World." Once a year, more than 1,000 migrating polar bears pass through this town. People travel each year to Churchill to see this event.

The Pacific Region The coast of British Columbia has a **marine west coast** climate. In Vancouver, January temperatures average 37°F. This is much warmer than most parts of Canada.

Winter surfing is a popular sport off the Pacific coast. Large waves from winter storms challenge surfers there. Farther inland lie the Coast Mountains and the Rockies. The high altitudes here mean long, cold winters. You will find some of Canada's best ski resorts in this region.

The Northern Region Much of this area is treeless **tundra**. The most northern part has very few plants. The southern part has a subarctic climate. The temperature in the town of Whitehorse in July averages 57°F.

The all-terrain vehicle has replaced the dog sled in the north. But people still love to compete in dog sled races. A long-distance race can cover 1,000 miles and take up to two weeks.

3.7 Different Traditions and Needs: What's Built Where?

Let's say you are visiting the Museum of Civilization, a short trip from Ottawa. You see houses of Canada's native peoples. Later you look at a lumber camp. Then you walk past an oil derrick or a fishing village. You soon see how people's needs and traditions, as well as their locations, have led them to build different kinds of structures.

The Atlantic Region Lighthouses dot the coast in this region. This is because of the importance of fishing. Lighthouses help sailors figure out their position on the ocean. They let ships know that land is near and warn of dangerous rocks. Canada still has about 275 lighthouses in operation.

The Core Region Many buildings here combine British and French influences. The Parliament Buildings in Ottawa were built in the Gothic revival style. British and French settlers brought this style from Europe. These large stone buildings have tall, pointed windows and carved ornaments. Another example of this style is the Château Frontenac. This is a famous hotel in Quebec City.

The Prairie Region Farms cover the southern part of this region. The typical farm sits on hundreds of acres. Beside the barn is a silo. This is a tall structure for storing grain. Farmers in this rural region usually grow spring wheat. This crop is planted in the spring and harvested in late summer. It grows well in climates with harsh winters.

The Pacific Region British influence is strong here. Victoria was the first city in British Columbia. It is known as the most British of Canadian cities. Some buildings there look almost like castles.

The Northern Region This region has long, cold winters. In the past, some Inuit made winter igloos from snow blocks. The word *igloo* means "house." Igloos can also be made of other materials, such as sod, stone, or wood. Today, most Inuit have houses made from kits. Such a house is put together from sections made in factories. Inuit live in widely scattered villages along the Arctic Ocean or Hudson Bay.



A Variety of Building Styles

Each region of Canada has its own styles of buildings. Sometimes these styles grow out of the needs of the people living there. Sometimes they reflect ideas that settlers brought with them from Europe about what buildings should look like.

3.8 How People Make a Living

Canada is rich in **natural resources**. Furs and lumber were early exports. Today oil and minerals are important as well. Even so, most Canadians today work in service industries. These industries produce a service for people rather than goods. Examples include restaurants, dry cleaners, and banks.

The Atlantic Region In the 1800s, this region had a strong economy. Good fishing in the Atlantic Ocean made it easy to make a living. But, as you read earlier, overfishing has led to limits on fishing. That, in turn, has put many people out of work.

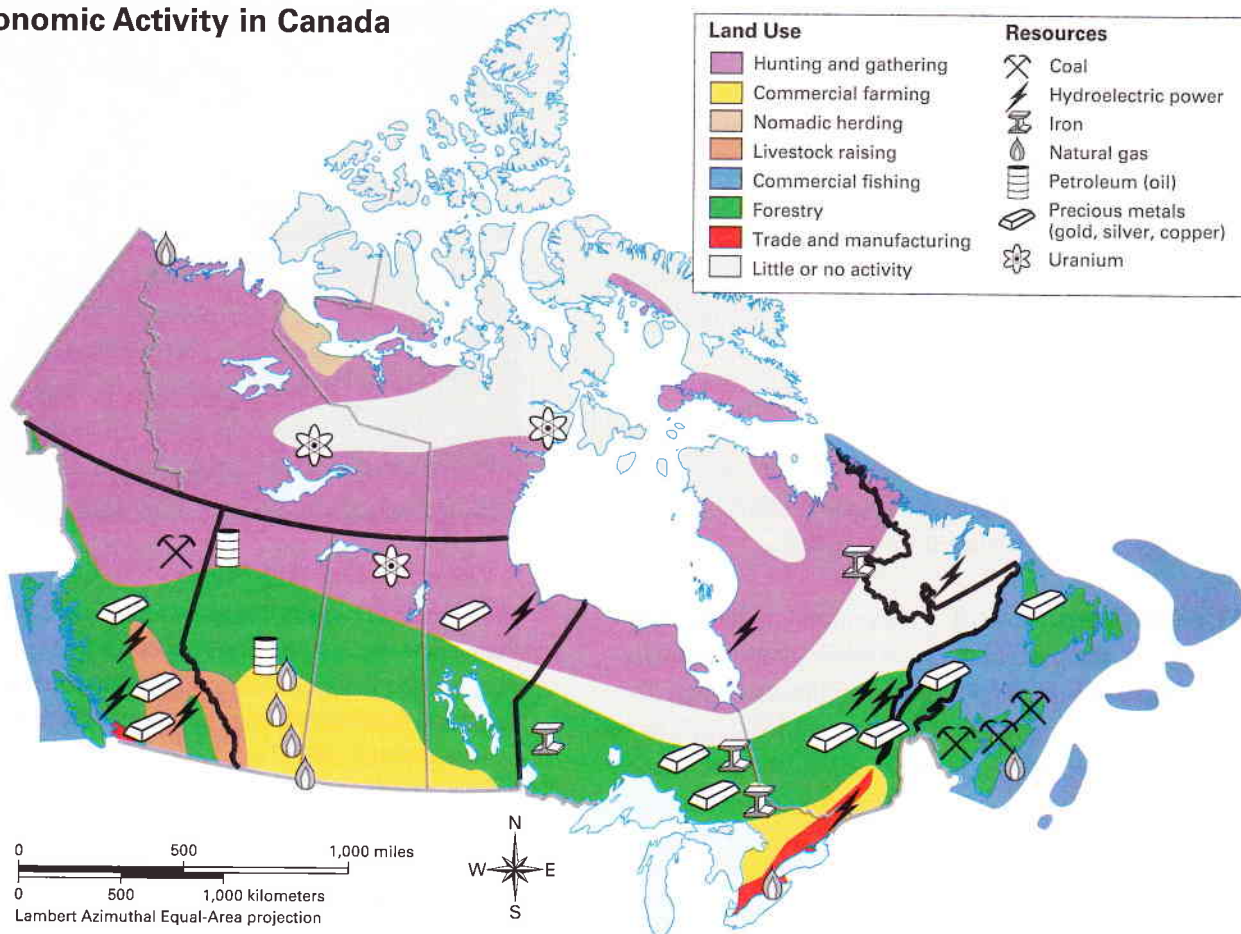
Coal mining and farming are also economic activities here. But poor soil limits farming to small patches of good land. **Forestry** is a growing industry. Forestry companies produce lumber and pulp for paper.

The Core Region Most of Canada's factories are located here. This region is also a strong farming center. More than a third of Canada's farm products are grown here. Recently, the region has become a large producer of **hydroelectric power**. This is electricity generated from flowing rivers. Some power plants are located on rivers in northern Quebec. Others are found near Niagara Falls or along the St. Lawrence River.

Canada's Plentiful Resources

This map shows the natural resources found in Canada. The location of natural resources tells much about a region's economy. It also shapes land use in a region.

Economic Activity in Canada



The Prairie Region This region produces half of the country's farm products. Its southern plains are good for raising grains. Mining is also important. More than half of Canada's minerals are mined here. They include coal, nickel, copper, zinc, and uranium.

Much oil is trapped in the oil sands of northern Alberta. This area is thought to contain more oil than the entire Middle East. It is expensive to separate oil from the sand. But because demand for oil is high, Alberta's oil business is booming. The same is true in Edmonton, one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada.

The Pacific Region Forestry and fishing are important in British Columbia. But now newer industries have passed these by. Both metals and coal are mined in this region. The shipping industry is growing as well. Shippers on the coast carry Canadian products to all parts of the world. Many rivers have been dammed to produce hydroelectric power. Much of the electricity generated in the region is sold to the United States.

The Northern Region Some native peoples still follow the nomadic, or wandering, life of herders and hunters. But most are settled in small villages. Because there is little business in most villages, jobs are few. Canadians from the south sometimes come here to work for short periods. They find jobs with the government, churches, or mining companies. Many people in the territories believe that there are undiscovered precious minerals still to be found here.

3.9 Beginning to Think Globally

In this chapter, you have learned about settlement patterns and ways of life in Canada. You have read about the different groups that make up Canada's plural society. You have learned about urban and rural areas in Canada.

For the most part, people have settled in Canada's ecumene. But not all Canadians live in the ecumene. Some people live in the subarctic region of Canada. A few even live in the far northern tundra zone.

This variety of settlement is found in many places around the world. Consider Australia, for example. Many aborigines, the native people of Australia, choose to live in remote **deserts**. There they are able to keep their way of life. But they face other problems, such as lack of work and the challenge of keeping their culture alive. Think about these relationships between location and ways of life as you explore settlement patterns around the world in the next section.



Living Outside the Ecumene

People who live outside the ecumene have adapted to harsh conditions. This Inuit hunter is warmly dressed even on a summer day.

3.10 Global Connections

This map shows where people live around the world. The areas in purple are the most densely populated regions. These are population hot spots in the global ecumene. The gray areas are very thinly populated. They lie outside the global ecumene. Notice that different parts of the ecumene have different population densities. Why do you think this might be so?

What climate zones are likely to be found in the global ecumene?

The climates found in the ecumene are neither too hot nor too cold. People can live there comfortably. Areas outside of the ecumene often have extreme temperatures. Few crops can be grown in such climate regions. That helps explain why they are not part of the ecumene.

Which physical features are likely to lie outside the global ecumene? Some of Earth's physical features are not well suited for human settlement. Very few people live in major deserts. These areas are too dry to support life. Most mountainous regions are thinly settled. They are too rugged for most people. Many large swamps also lie outside the ecumene.

What might life be like for people who live outside the ecumene? Most of the world's people live within the global ecumene. However, some people live in less populated areas. They survive by finding ways to stay warm, keep cool, find water, or keep dry—even in the harshest conditions. In later chapters, you will look at different ways people adapt to living in extreme environments outside the ecumene.

Ecumene Around the World

