



Tiled Map of Canada

This tiled map of Canada is designed to help students develop geographic-thinking skills. Here are some ideas to get your students excited about exploring Canada on this map.

Elementary (K-6)

Improve spatial literacy

Improve students' geographic vocabulary by highlighting place names and physical features such as islands, lakes, rivers and oceans using coloured shapes, crayons or post-it notes.

Teach students how to read a map by identifying the five components of all maps (legend, north-point, border, title, scale). Play a game of eye-spy or have a scavenger hunt to test their understanding. Have students use geographic terms to describe location. For example, highlight two places on the map and have students navigate between them using relative terms (left, right, cardinal directions) and absolute terms (latitude and longitude).



Learn about human geography

Discuss the differences between a political and physical map and have students display these differences on the tiled map.

Explore Canada's population distribution by having students identify the country's ten most-populous cities.

Introduce the three levels of government in Canada (municipal, province/territorial, national). Have students highlight their hometown, provincial/territorial capital and the national capital and discuss the roles and responsibilities of each.

Examine Canada's physical geography

Map Canada's landform regions and highlight the main characteristics of each. Divide students into landform region groups and have them connect landforms with the types of industries found in each.

Brainstorm Canada's diverse natural resources and discuss how humans use them. Consider political, cultural and environmental perspectives and highlight key issues and places on the map.

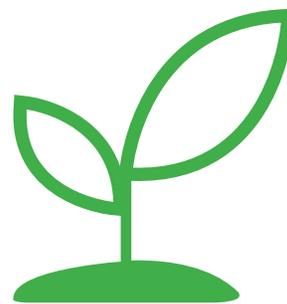
Explore environmental sustainability and stewardship. Divide students into groups each representing different physical regions and have them research various initiatives in their area that protect Canada's environment.



Explore Canada's diverse climate

Identify Canadian communities and compare their climates, natural environment, food sources and landscapes.

Have students explore how climate differs across Canada. Explain how climate changes as you move further north or closer to large bodies of water and have students create climate graphs for various regions in Canada.



Discover interrelationship

Have students use the map to help make conclusions about the interrelationships of a community's natural environment and how it sustains itself (e.g., farming in Saskatchewan, fishing in Newfoundland, etc.).

Focus on the role of freshwater in Canada and have students map their watershed, describe who lives within it and how it may be impacted by human settlement.

Intermediate/Secondary (7-12)

Improve geographic skills

- Teach students about absolute location (latitude and longitude) by giving them place names and having them determine the exact coordinates.
- Help students understand distance and scale by choosing two places on the map and using a form of measurement (ruler, string, hand) to determine the exact distance between them.
- Help students improve geographic vocabulary by placing cue cards with key terms in appropriate locations on the map.



Understand human impact

Examine how human activities impact the natural environment by focusing on Canada's natural resource development. Have students choose a different location in the country, highlight one resource that is developed there and explain the impact to the natural environment.

Teach students about environmental sustainability and stewardship by dividing them into different physical region groups and discussing initiatives to protect Canada's environment.

Map different transportation routes in Canada and the movement of people, goods and services. Discuss the patterns of human settlement, urban development and transportation networks.

Analyse, interpret and collect data

- Use this map as a base layer for your own themed maps. Divide students into groups, give each group a different theme and have them use colours, props or pictures to tell a story.
- Explore Canada's population distribution by having students identify Canada's ten most-populous cities. Have students explore where humans live, where they migrate, push/pull factors and how they use the land.

Examine the geography of current events

Examine media stories across Canada, map their locations and highlight various perspectives and viewpoints. Discuss how these issues are covered locally, provincially/territorially and nationally.

Have students choose a different area in Canada, research common issues in the region and how they are addressed. Create a class discussion on the different roles and responsibilities between provincial/territorial governments and the federal government.



Explore Canada's physical environment

Divide students into different landform region groups and have them label, research major characteristics and create a collage of images of their region.

Examine physical processes and patterns by highlighting Canada's major watersheds, weather trends and/or geologic formations. Discuss the connections between these patterns and human settlement.