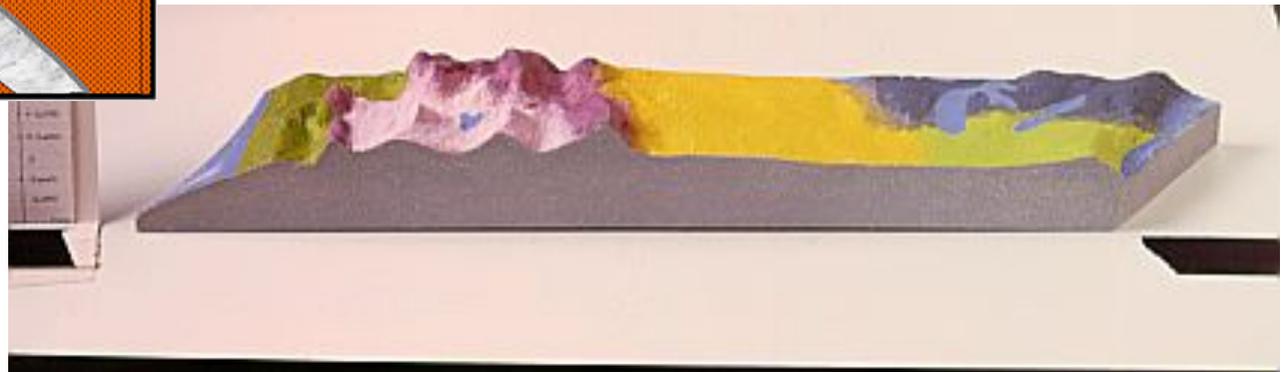
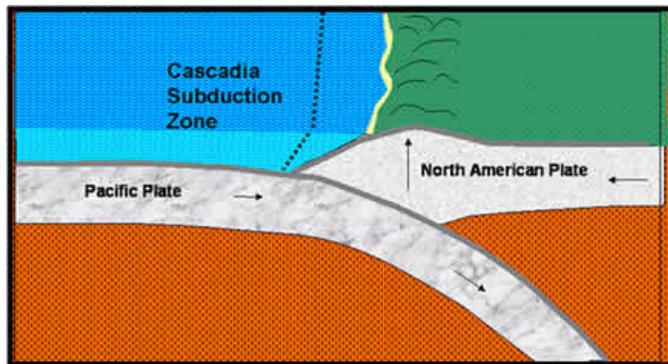


# Landform Regions of Canada

The movement of the earth's plates, and the resulting folding, faulting, and volcanic activity, have combined with the forces of erosion and weathering to create a

variety of landscapes that affect the way we live.



A **Landform Region** is an area of the Earth with a unique set of physical features.





# Canada can be Divided into 7 Landform Regions:

**1. Western Cordillera**

**2. Interior Plains**

**3. Canadian Shield**

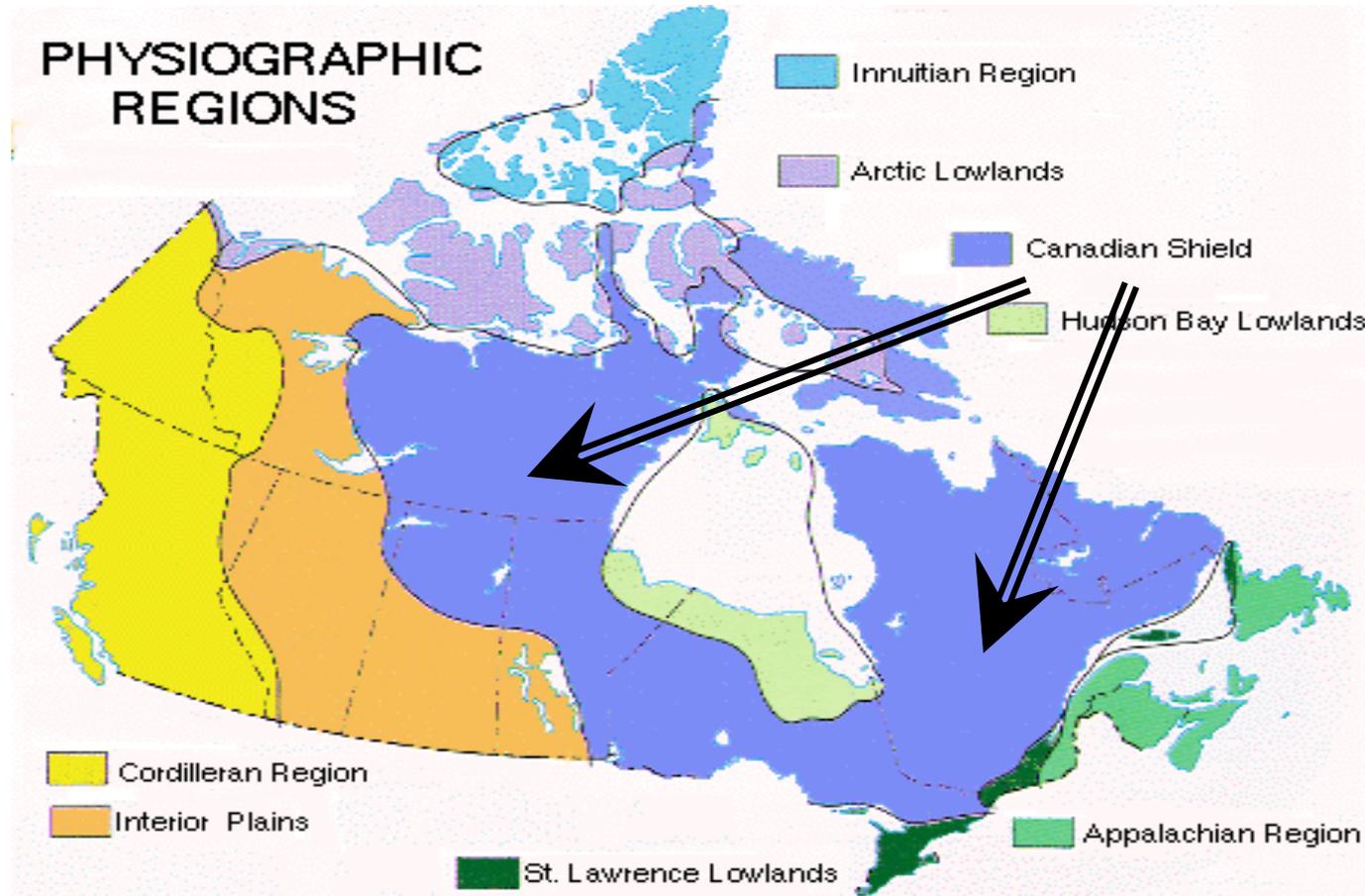
**4. Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Lowlands**

**5. Appalachian**

**6. Hudson Bay Lowlands - Arctic  
Lowlands**

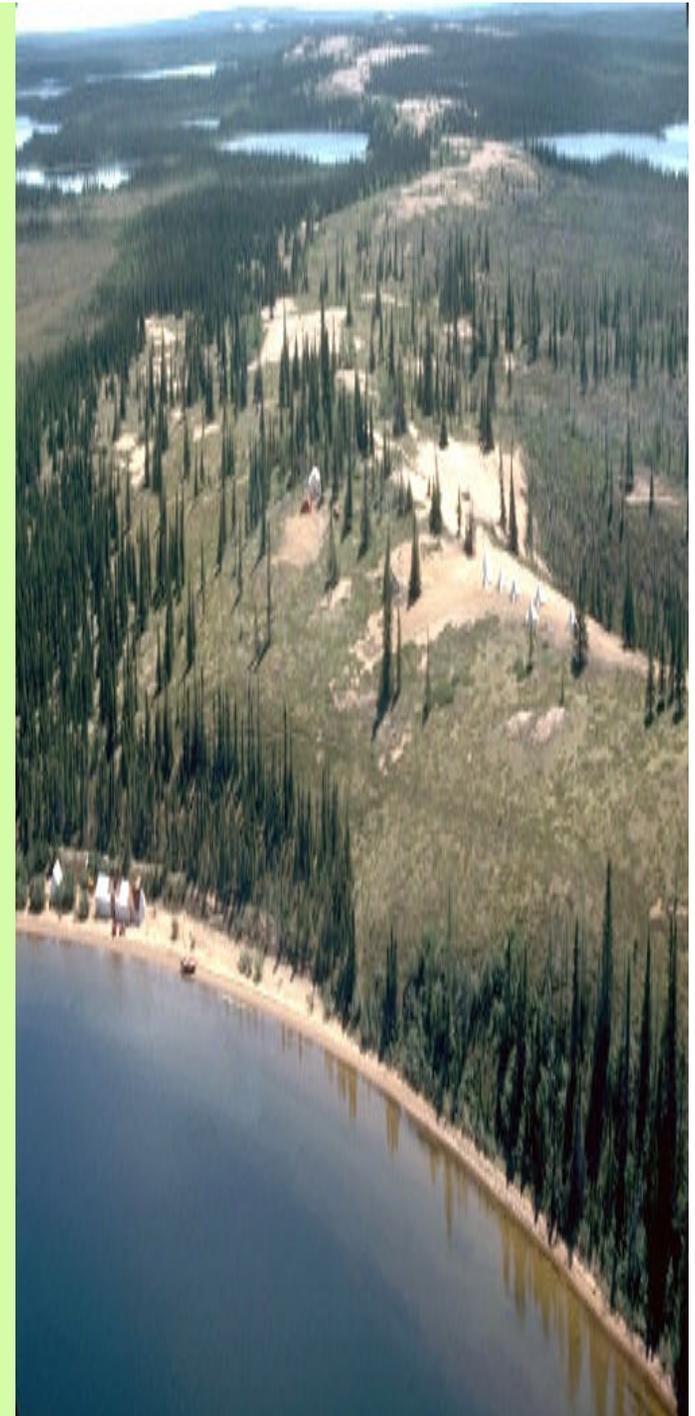
**7. Innuitian Mountains**

# Landform Regions of Canada

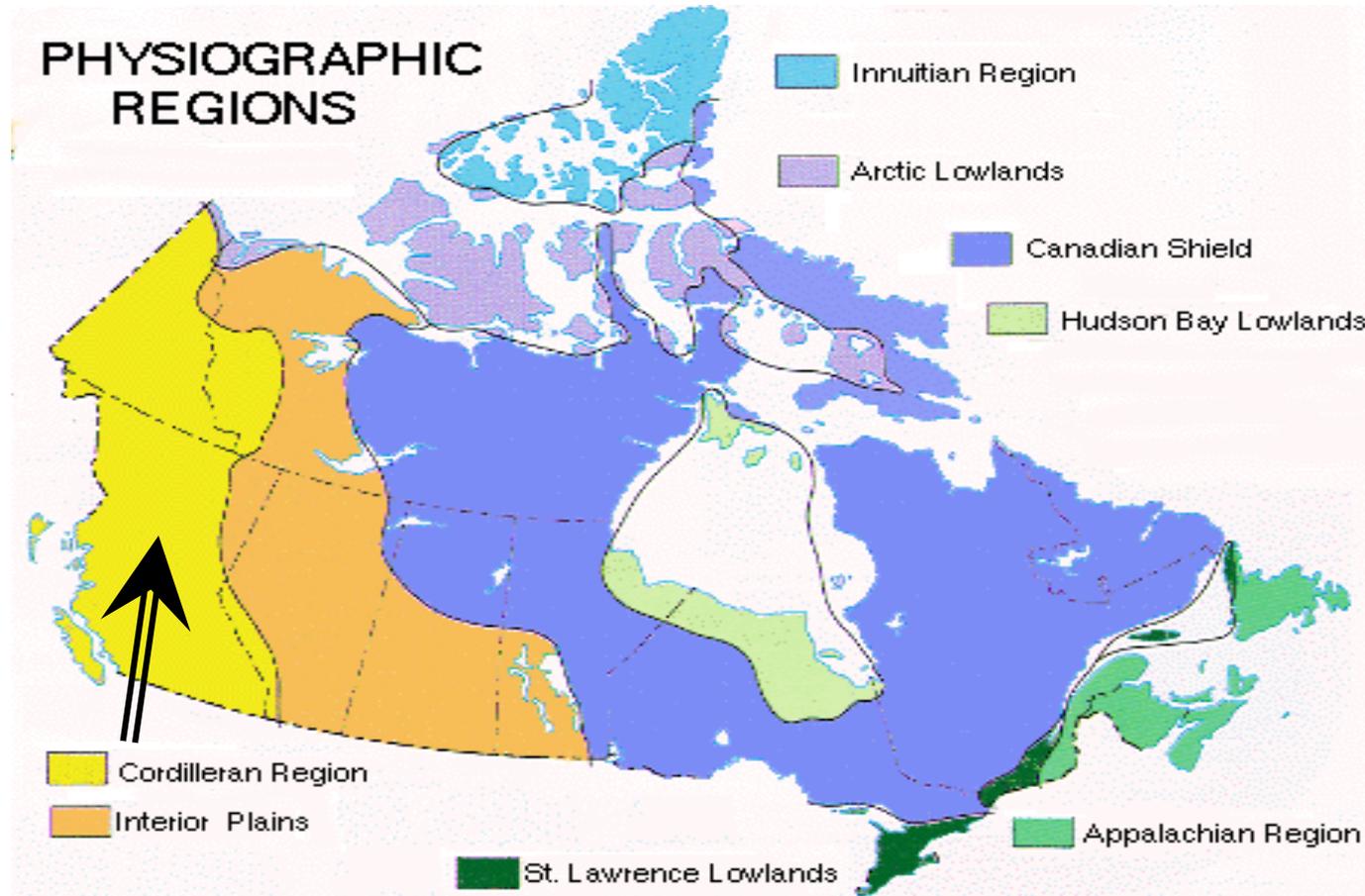


# Canadian Shield

- **Location:**
  - Covers more than half of Canada, including most of Nunavut, Quebec, Labrador, Ontario, and Manitoba, and a large part of Saskatchewan and lesser parts of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.
- **Physical Features:**
  - Relatively **flat with rounded hills** of metamorphic rock, which are actually the roots of ancient mountains
  - Some of the **world's oldest rocks** can be found here, at or near the surface of the ground
  - In the last ice-age, glaciers scraped soil away and formed **many small lakes**
- **Biological Features:**
  - Covered by **boreal forest in the south, and tundra in the north**
  - Many mammals such as moose, caribou, wolverines, weasels, mink, otters, beaver, grizzlies and black bears are present
- **Resources:**
  - **Sparsely populated, farming is poor because the soil is too thin**
  - **Rock contains large quantities of valuable metallic minerals** such as lead, gold, nickel, copper and zinc
  - Ideal for recreation due to scenic waterfalls, lakes, rock outcrops, and vast forests

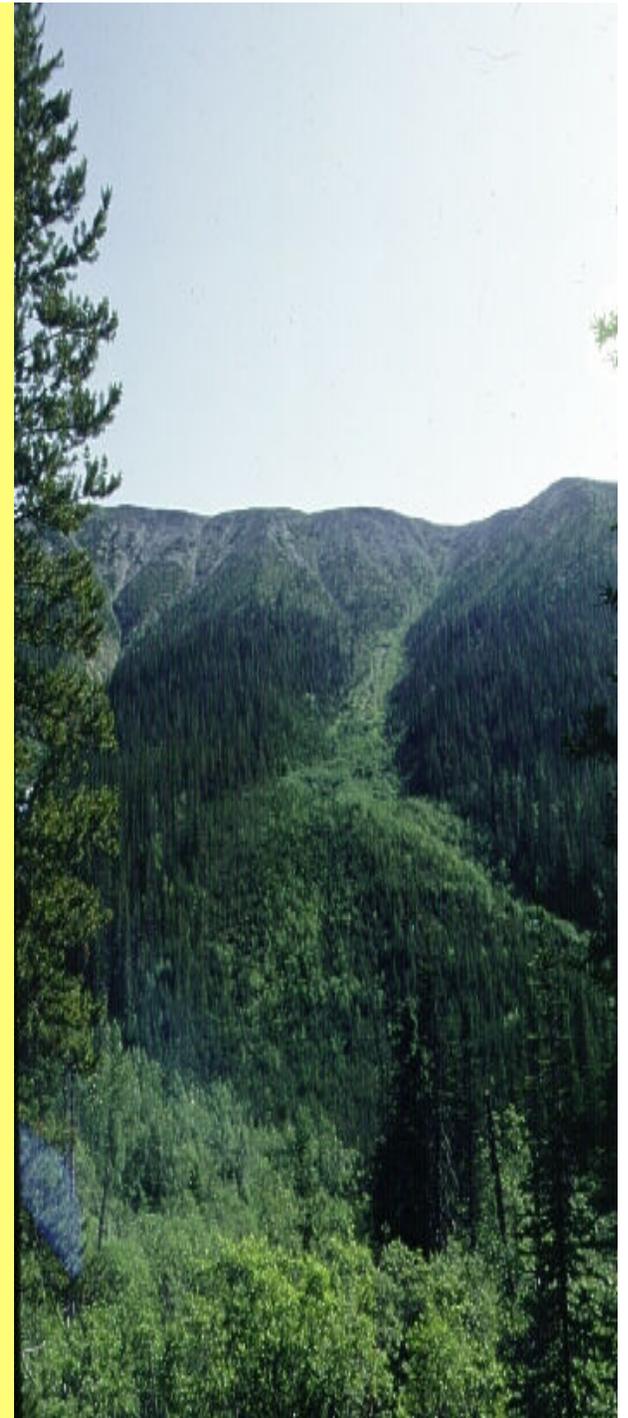


# Landform Regions of Canada



# Western Cordillera

- **Location:**
  - Along the **western edge of Canada**, covering most of **Yukon territory and British Columbia and western Alberta.**
- **Physical Features:**
  - Range after range of high, sharp-peaked **mountains separated by plateaus and valleys, running North to South**
  - **Created recently by the collision of the North American and Pacific plates**
- **Biological Features:**
  - Herbs, lichens and shrubs at higher elevations and various types of coniferous forest and grasslands at lower elevations
  - Several species have adapted to **the harsh climates of the higher elevations**, including Mountain Goat, Gyrfalcon, White-tailed and Willow Ptarmigan, Water Pipit and Rosy Finch
  - Mule Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk, Stone Sheep, Grizzly Bear and Black Bear are common at lower elevations.
- **Resources:**
  - **Lightly populated, travel is difficult**
  - **Rich in minerals, timber, and sources of hydro electricity**





# Appalachian Mountains

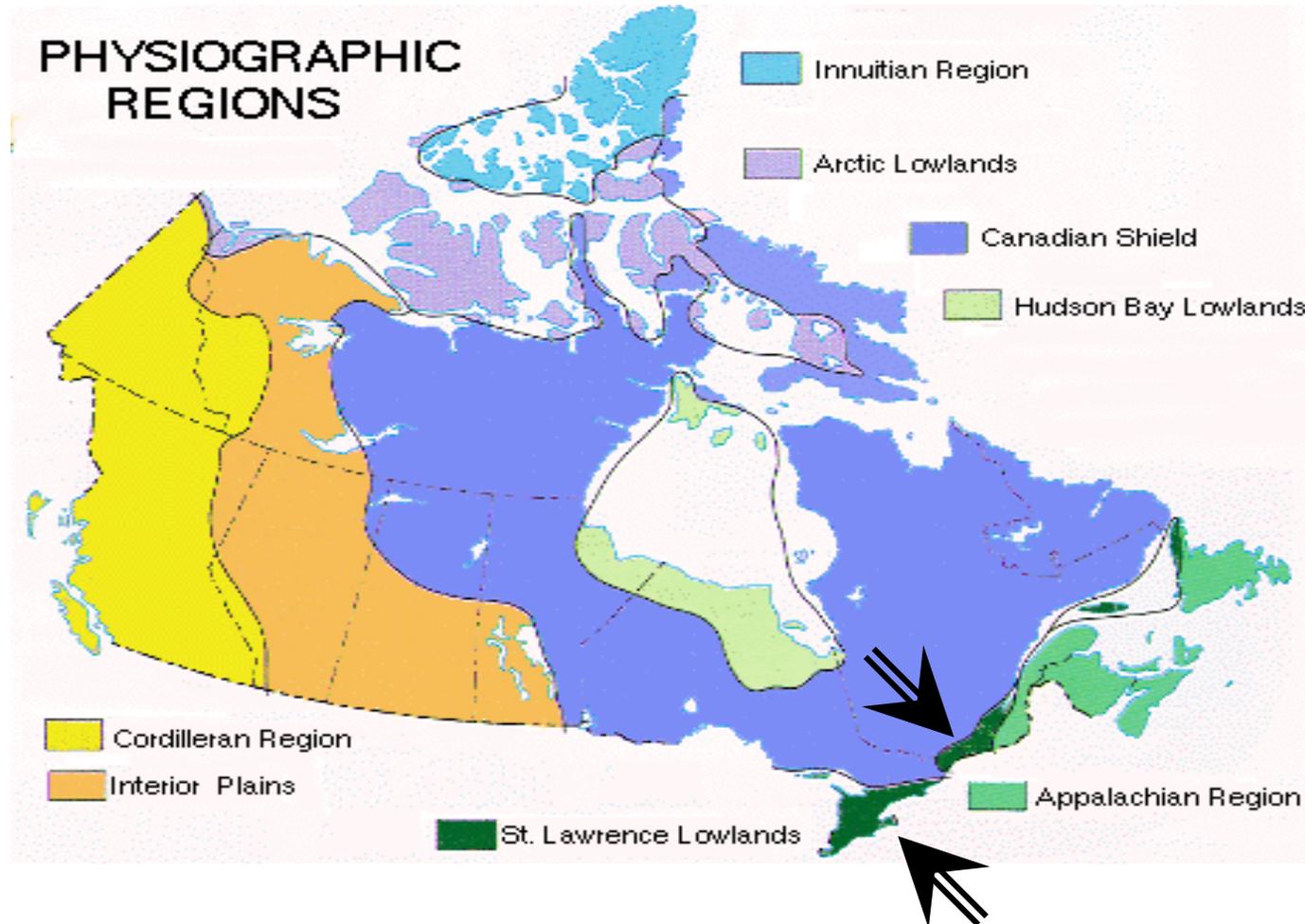
- Location:
  - Covers some of **southern Quebec, and most of the Atlantic Provinces**
- Physical Description:
  - **Oldest highland region in Canada**, created when the North American plate collided with Europe and Africa about **300 million years ago**
  - **EROSION has rounded the mountains over time**, creating a landscape of rolling mountains and hills
- Biological Description:
  - The Appalachians are characterized by a wealth of **large, beautiful deciduous broadleaf (hardwood) trees**.
  - During the 19th and early 20th centuries the Appalachian forests were subject to severe and destructive logging and land clearing
  - Animals that characterize the Appalachian forests include **squirrels, rabbits and deer**, which have greatly increased in abundance as a result of the elimination of the Gray Wolf and the Eastern Cougar or Mountain Lion by European settlers
- Resources:
  - **Long ocean bays provide deep harbours for ocean freighters**
  - **Sedimentary rock rich in non-metallic minerals such as coal**, with some igneous and metamorphic rock containing metallic minerals such as iron and zinc

# Innuitian Mountains

- **Location:**
  - A mountain range in Canada's Arctic territories of **Nunavut and the Northwest Territories**
- **Physical Description:**
  - In some locations they measure **over 2,500 meters in height, and 1290 km in length**
  - Shaped at a time when the North American Plate moved northward
  - They are **younger than the Appalachians**, and so erosion has not yet rounded them significantly
- **Biological Features:**
  - They are **above the tree line, preventing any vegetation from existing**
- **Resources:**
  - Largely unexplored, due to the **hostile climate**. They are named after the northern indigenous people, who live in the region.

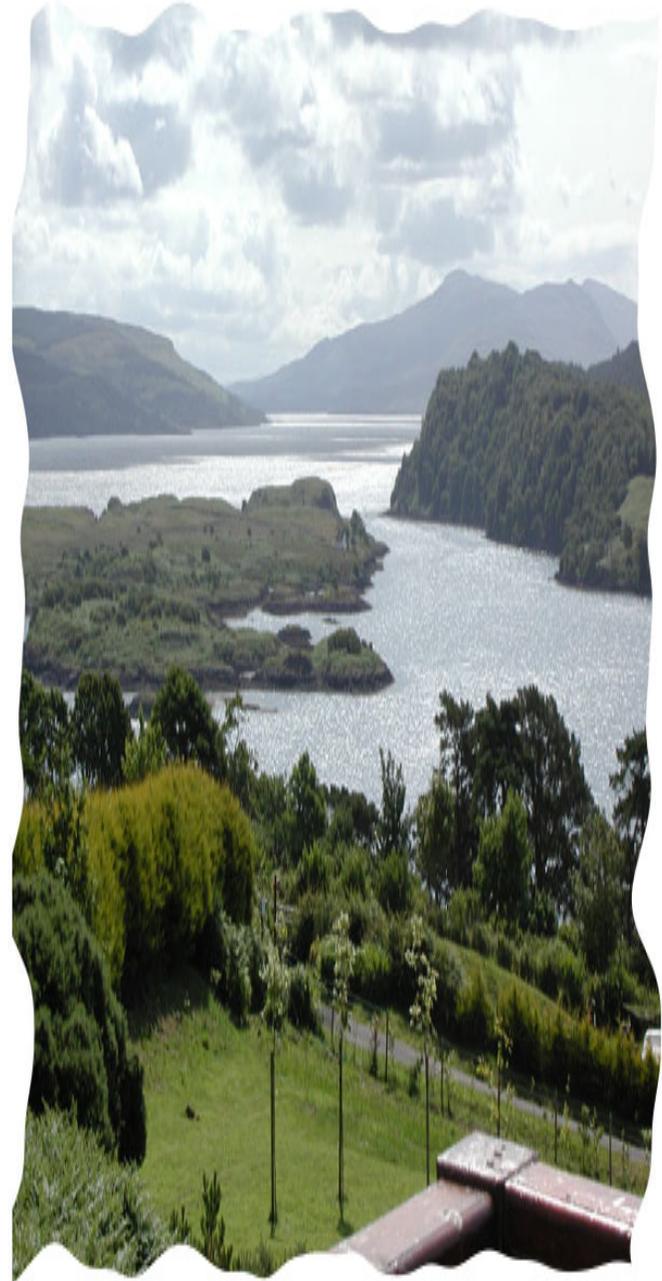


# Landform Regions of Canada



# Great Lakes-St.Lawrence Lowlands

- **Location:**
  - South of the Canadian Shield in Ontario and Quebec
  - Smallest landform region in Canada
- **Physical Description:**
  - Glaciers deposited a huge amount of soil, sand and gravel here, creating a landscape of flat plains with small hills and deep river valleys
  - The great lakes are located in basins gouged out by the glaciers
- **Biological Features:**
  - Prior heavy farming and urban sprawl, this area was home to large mixed forests
- **Resources:**
  - 50% of Canada's population lives here
  - 70% of Canada's manufacturing industries and located here
  - Well-suited to farming because of excellent soils and warm climate



# Interior Plains

- **Location:**
  - Extends through the **middle of Canada from North to South, covering most of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and some of NWT and Manitoba**
- **Physical Features:**
  - **Very flat, with deep, fertile soil**
  - Created when sediments from the Shield and the Rocky Mountains were deposited in shallow inland seas and compressed into layers of sedimentary rock
  - **Cold winters, hot summers**
- **Biological Features:**
  - The **southern part** of the interior plains is **mostly treeless, with grasses and herbs**
  - The **northern part** is home to a belt of coniferous trees called **the boreal forest**, which extends from the Rocky Mountains all the way across Canada to Newfoundland, with Spruce, tamarack, and poplar being the most prominent species
- **Resources:**
  - Extensively **used for farming wheat and cattle**
  - Known as Canada's "**Bread Basket**"
  - **Sedimentary rock contains rich mineral, coal, oil and gas deposits**





# Arctic-Hudson Bay Lowlands

## Location:

- A series of islands located in Canada's far north and north of Canadian Shield but south of Hudson Bay.

## Physical Description:

- Low-lying, barren islands with coastlines ranging from extensive lowlands to spectacular cliffs
- Summer is brief, but sunny, it is cold and frozen in the winter
- It is dark all day in the winter and light all day in the summer

## Biological Features:

- Sparsely vegetated, with vast seemingly lifeless areas

## Resources:

- The ground is mostly composed of permafrost, making **construction difficult** and often hazardous, and **agriculture virtually impossible**

# Hudson Bay Lowlands

- **Location:**
  - Around the southwestern shore of the Hudson Bay and James Bay in Ontario and Quebec
- **Physical Features:**
  - This is a layer of sedimentary rock rests on top of the underlying Shield
  - Flat low area covered by bogs and fens, and dotted with ponds, lakes and streams



- **Biological Features:**
  - Mostly muskeg or peat-forming wetlands
  - The region is famous for its polar bears
  - Caribou migrate to the area in summer
  - In summer the coast of this region is alive with birds, such as lesser snow geese, Canada geese, brant, tundra swans, oldsquaw, king eider, and northern phalarope and many shore-birds

# Landform Regions of Canada

