

Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada

Canada's National Core

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Regional Landscape Studies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NORTHLANDS ✓ NORTHEAST COAST ✓ MEGALOPOLIS ➤ CANADA'S NAT'L CORE ☐ AMERICA'S HEARTLAND ☐ APPALACHIA and the OZARKS ☐ THE SOUTH ☐ PLAINS and PRAIRES ☐ MOUNTAINS and PLATEAUS ☐ DESERT SOUTHWEST ☐ NORTH PACIFIC COAST ☐ HAWAII | <p>◀◀◀For each region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know its physical geography. 2. Identify its unique characteristics. 3. Be able to explain the human imprint. 4. Discuss its sequence occupancy and economic development. |
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Canada's National Core

Nearly half of Canada's 33 mil. people live here!

Has 6 of Canada's 10 largest cities, "Golden Horseshoe" industrial area, and prime arable land.

Gateway to Canada's interior via the St. Lawrence Seaway



Extends from Windsor to Quebec City

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Canada's National Core

When you think about this region, what images come into your mind?



Toronto/Montreal
French influence
Great Lakes
Thousand Islands
Snow and cold
Niagara Falls
St. Lawrence River
Canadian Parliament
Hockey/winter sports



OVERVIEW

- Historically a **contested** region with a cultural divide (British/French; British/American).
- **Distinctive** sub-regional landscapes and toponymy.
- Canada's **chief urban-industrial** area.
(Conflict between the agric and urban land uses)
- A highly **productive, diverse agricultural** area.
- **Transportation corridor:** the **St. Lawrence Seaway** allows ocean-going vessels access to the interior of North America.

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National Core

Term used in political geography to refer to:

- 1) the original area from which a country subsequently grew and developed; and/or
- 2) a region containing a country's greatest development, wealth, and densest populations; and/or
- 3) the part of a country where people have the clearest sense of national identity.

All three apply to Canada's Core Region.

(Does the U.S. have a core area?)

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Physical Environment

- In the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Lowland physiographic region
- Canadian Shield near surface.
- Area was glaciated; has glacial lake sediments.

Moderate climate, long growing season and good soils allowed an agricultural base to develop.

- Summers are long, hot and humid.
- Winters extremely cold and snowy.
- Spring/autumn unsettled.

The map includes several data series: Surface Materials (Bedrock, Unconsolidated materials, Bedrock outcrop and soil), Precipitation (isohets), Frost-free period (average length in days), and Degree days in growing season (average from above 42°F). Key features include 'Young, fertile glacial soils', 'Ample precipitation', and 'Climate moderated by Great Lakes'.

Population of the Core

Called Canada's "Main Street" because historically it contained **over half** of Canada's people.

The map shows population density with a legend: 80 or more, 10.0 to 80.0, 1.0 to 10.0, 0.4 to 1.0, and Sparsely populated. Arrows point to the core region in Ontario and Quebec.

Settlement in the Core

This area was settled early in the colonial period. "Lower" and "Upper" designations refer to the area in relation to the river basin.

French came from the east.
(Cartier 1535; Champlain 1603; first settlement 1608).

English came from the south.
(Late 1700s: first after French & Indian War and again after the American Revolution).

English encouraged settlement to counter the existing French influence.
(English Protestants vs. French Catholics).

The map shows settlement patterns with arrows indicating French settlement from the east and English settlement from the south. Labels include 'UPPER CANADA', 'LOWER CANADA', 'French', and 'English'. A note says 'See maps on pp. 15, 20-23 of historical atlas'.

Canadian Toponymy

"Canada" comes from a Wendat (Huron-Iroquoian) word *kanata*, meaning "village."

In 1535 native people used *kanata* to direct the French explorer Jacques Cartier to a village near the site of present-day Quebec City.

Kanata became **Canada**, and got applied to the entire region, and later to the entire country.

"Quebec" comes from an Algonquin *kébec*, meaning "where the river narrows."

Source: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography-boundary/geographical-name/geoname-origins/5875>

National Core Cultural Boundary

The map shows the 'Canada's National Core' and 'Transitional area' across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region. It labels 'UPPER WEST English' and 'LOWER EAST French'. Major cities like Detroit, Cleveland, Toronto, and Montreal are marked.



Ottawa

- ❖ Canada's capital and 4th largest city
- Site selected in 1857
- Only town of size on the border between Lower Canada (east) and Upper Canada (west), now Quebec and Ontario.
- A geographical compromise between English and French speaking areas
- Relatively immune to possible American attack (a lesson from the War of 1812)

Historical Atlas: P.33 War of 1812 battle sites

French-speaking Canadians

French-speaking Canadians have resisted assimilation from the time of the English take-over: first the Acadian peasants, then the wealthy landlords.


French Language as a Mother Tongue

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| All Canadians | - 21% |
| Quebec | - 81% |
| New Brunswick | - 33% |
| Ontario | - 6% |
| Nova Scotia | - 4% |

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Quebec Sovereignty Movement

A political action aimed at the secession of Quebec and the creation of a new French-speaking country.



If successful, the action would partition Canada:

- **Quebec** (the new nation),
- **Atlantic Provinces** (which would be isolated from the rest of Canada),
- **Western Canada** (ONT to BC/YT).

Defeated twice.
Rural areas tended to favor secession. Urban areas (esp. Montreal) opposed it.

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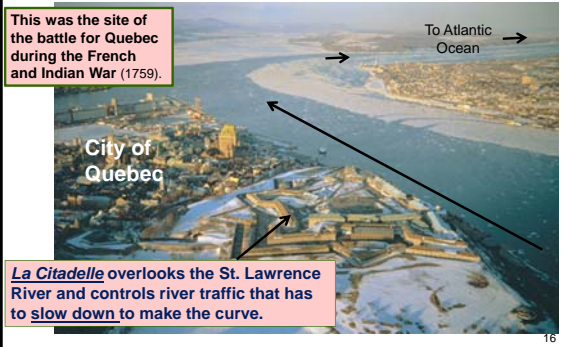
Quebec City



- ❖ The **French cultural capital** of Canada.
- ✓ **Acropolis site** commanding the location where the Gulf of St. Lawrence meets the much narrower river.
- ✓ A **choke point** to control river travel.

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Quebec City with La Citadelle



This was the site of the battle for Quebec during the French and Indian War (1759).

To Atlantic Ocean →

City of Quebec

La Citadelle overlooks the St. Lawrence River and controls river traffic that has to slow down to make the curve.

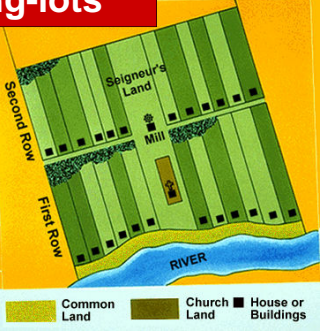
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French Long-lots

Officially known as the **Seigneurial System**.

A land division involving long narrow lots brought to America by the French.

- ✓ This system guaranteed access to property.
- ✓ No property owner could be isolated or dependent on his neighbor.




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Seigneurial System


- ❖ **Large land grants** (*seigneuries*) were awarded by the King of France to **entrepreneurs** (*seigneurs*), who sub-granted parcels (*rotoures*) to peasant farmers (*habitants*).
- ✓ Each rotoure was 150-200 yards wide and arranged **perpendicular to the St. Lawrence River** and extended about a mile inland.
- ✓ After river frontage was occupied, roads were extended inland to create a new rank (*rang*) of rotoures.
- ✓ This was repeated inland as needed.

➤ **Remember Acadian colony?** No long-lot pattern there. Because the area was not inviting and no Seigneurs claimed the land.




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MONTREAL



- Located at head of navigation (rapids) of the St. Lawrence R.
- Strategically located at the junction of a T-shaped lowland area where the St. Lawrence River Valley meets the Lake Champlain Lowland.
- Land routes radiate from the site.



Historical Atlas: See French and Indian War and American Revolution battle maps.

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Montreal



Canada's most important eastern port city.
The world's 2nd largest French-speaking city.

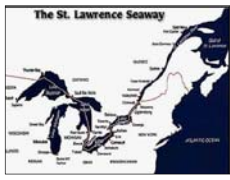


Rapids blocked inland movement of ships (head of navigation) until the St. Lawrence Seaway was built.

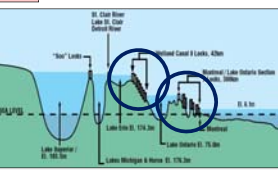


St. Lawrence Seaway

System of locks, canals and deepened channels that permit ocean-going ships to travel 2,340 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to Duluth, MN on Lake Superior.



The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System is a navigational waterway jointly built (1950-56) by the United States and Canada and is jointly administered and maintained: Good example of international cooperation between two countries sharing a common border.



It traverses the Canadian Core from Montreal to Lake Erie (5 locks) and the Welland Canal (8 locks) gets it over the Niagara Escarpment.

<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/navigating/map/index.html>

Thousand Islands Region

Extends from Cornwall, Ont. and Massena, NY to Kingston, Ont. and Cape Vincent, NY in the St. Lawrence River.





Consists of about 2,000 rocky outcrops that geologically link the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mts. (An impediment to the St. Lawrence Seaway construction.)




To be classified an island, there must be a tree or bush on it. Otherwise, it is a shoal.
There 1,864 islands.

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Thousand Islands St Lawrence River

CANADA USA

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Thousand Islands section of the St Lawrence Seaway





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Toronto

- Canada's largest city and 5th largest in N. Amer.
- has a better hinterland than Montreal.
- has excellent links to the US Midwest.
- Originally noted for its small harbor and portage from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay.



HARBOR


portage

❖ About 25% of all Canadians live in the Toronto metro area.

➢ It is a world financial center as well as a diversified manufacturing city.

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Niagara Escarpment




The Niagara Escarpment is a "cuesta"
the exposed edge of a resistant rock formation.

Extends from Rochester, NY through southern Ontario and into Michigan and Wisconsin. It is responsible for many waterfalls, the most famous of which is **Niagara Falls**.

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Niagara Escarpment

Bisects the Core Region in southern Ontario



farm land

Cuesta 74-ft high

Grimsby, ON

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Hamilton

❖ Located in the center of the "Golden Horseshoe" which extends from Toronto to the Niagara River.

A sandbar provides it with a natural harbor.

➢ It is a center for **heavy industry**, producing c.60% of Canada's steel.



Called the "**City of Waterfalls**."

It has more than 100 waterfalls within its boundaries created by streams passing over the Niagara Escarpment.

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Niagara Falls

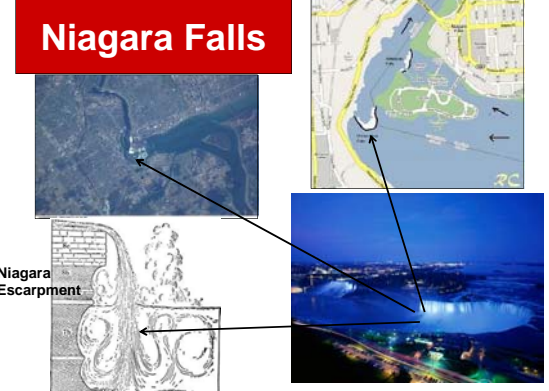
(a beautiful impediment to shipping)



Horseshoe Falls
Canadian side of
Niagara Falls

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Niagara Falls



Niagara Escarpment

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Setting of Niagara Falls

The Niagara River flows from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

It flows over the **Niagara Escarpment** to reach Lake Ontario.

It has created a **7 mi long gorge** as the falling water eroded weak layers of rock.

It will take **75,000 yrs** for the falls to reach Lake Erie.

Lake Erie is 22 miles upstream of the Falls.

Moved 7 miles in 12,000 yrs

Present-day Niagara Falls

Falls location 12,000 years ago

Escarpment

9 miles from escarpment
16 miles from the Falls
(Vertical Exaggeration 2x)

United States (New York)

Canada (Ontario)

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Welland Canal

Linking Lake Ontario with Lake Erie, it was built to counter the US construction of the Erie Canal.

- ✓ Allows ships to avoid Niagara Falls using 8 locks to raise and lower them over the Escarpment.
- ✓ It has been enlarged a number of times.

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Agriculture in the National Core

Canada's National Core

Transitional area

AGRICULTURAL AREA

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Ontario Peninsula Agriculture

- Good soils; flat land
- Relatively mild climate
- Relatively long growing season
- Proximity to large cities and many people.
- Educated, fully mechanized farmers.

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Windsor

❖ Canada's southernmost city at west end of the Core.

- Located on the Detroit River.
- Strategic site in colonial times.
- Shows evidence of French influence.
- Now a major border crossing and a short-cut between Detroit and Buffalo.

➢ Focus of Canada's automotive, food processing and wine making industries.

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NEXT

AMERICA'S HEARTLAND