

Natural Resources and the Economy

Canada has lots of natural resources which are very important to the country's economy. Natural resources include things like minerals, oil, forests, water, and land, which help provide jobs and income for many people in Canada. Let's learn more about them below!



1. Forests

Canada has large forests, especially in places like British Columbia and Quebec. These forests are used to make lumber (wood for building), paper, and other products. The forestry industry helps many people find jobs, but it also faces challenges with keeping forests healthy.

2. Mining

Canada is known for its many minerals and metals. Important ones include gold, nickel, and diamonds. These resources are found mostly in Ontario and the Northwest Territories. Mining provides jobs and resources used all over the world.

3. Oil and Natural Gas

Canada has a lot of oil, especially in Alberta. The oil sands are one of the largest oil sources in the world. Natural gas is also found and used to create energy. This industry is important for the economy but can cause pollution, so people are working on finding cleaner ways to use energy.

4. Fishing

Canada has one of the largest fishing industries in the world. The country's long coastline gives it access to many fish, like salmon and cod. The fishing industry is important, especially in places like Newfoundland and British Columbia, but overfishing can be a problem if fish aren't caught responsibly.

5. Agriculture

The Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) are perfect for farming because the land is flat and the soil is fertile. Canada grows a lot of wheat, canola, and other crops, and is one of the world's top exporters of grains. Livestock farming (raising animals) is also important in Canada's economy.

6. Hydroelectric Power

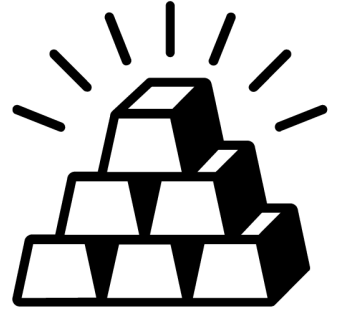
Canada makes a lot of its electricity from water—this is called hydroelectric power. Big rivers, especially in Quebec and Manitoba, are used to generate energy. This energy is clean and helps power homes and factories.

7. Tourism

Canada's natural beauty, including mountains, forests, and lakes, attracts tourists from around the world. People come to visit places like Banff National Park and enjoy activities such as hiking, skiing, and camping. This helps local economies grow.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

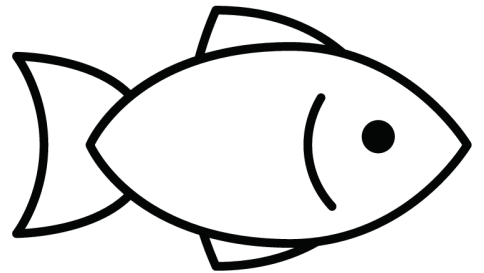
1. What are some products made from Canada's forests?



2. Which Canadian provinces are known for mining important minerals like gold and nickel?

3. Why is the oil and gas industry important to Canada's economy?

4. How does overfishing affect Canada's fishing industry?



5. Why is the land in the Prairie Provinces good for farming?

Fill in the blanks with the correct letter to match each description with the natural resource.

___ 1. Provides jobs by extracting minerals like gold and nickel.

A. Forests

___ 2. Uses rivers to create clean energy for homes and factories.

B. Mining

___ 3. Canada's long coastline helps support this industry.

C. Oil and Natural Gas

___ 4. Helps provide jobs and income by growing crops like wheat and canola.

D. Fishing

___ 5. Attracts visitors from around the world to see Canada's natural beauty.

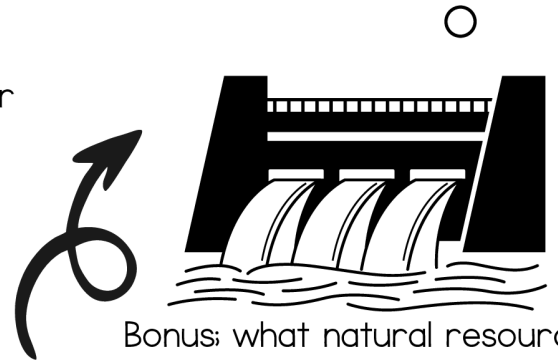
E. Agriculture

___ 6. Large forests are used to make products like paper and lumber.

F. Hydroelectric Power

___ 7. A major industry in Alberta, providing energy and creating pollution concerns.

G. Tourism



Bonus: what natural resource does this represent?

Illustrate the natural resources below.

