

Glossary

Aboriginal peoples First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples

agriculture the growing of crops and raising of animals

Alberta clipper a fierce, cold wind that starts near the Rocky Mountains and quickly blows out of the province

archeologists people who study buildings and objects from the past

artifacts include items that were made or used by people long ago. Some Aboriginal artifacts are known as historical cultural items.

bison buffalo

bitumen a thick, sticky tar made of oil

British Isles the countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland together

British the people who come from the British Isles

buffalo Canada's largest land mammal

Canadiens Francophones who were born in Canada

chinook a warm, dry wind that blows down from the Rocky Mountains

climate weather that is common in an area over a long period of time

conservation the careful use of natural resources, so that they will not run out

conserve to use something carefully so it will last longer

cultural heritage the beliefs, customs, knowledge, values, and history shared by a group of people

diverse population a population that is made up of people from many different cultures and backgrounds

drought a long period with far less rain or snow than usual

Elders people respected for their wisdom and understanding of traditional knowledge

electricity a form of energy that can produce heat, light, and movement

energy power, or the ability to do work

environment all the aspects of nature that surround us

fact something that is true

First Nations groups who were the first to live in North America

fort a building or set of buildings surrounded by a strong wall

fossil fuels fuels like oil, gas, and coal that come from the remains of ancient plants and animals

fossils the remains or shapes of ancient plants and animals that have turned into stone

Francophones people whose first and main language is French

Francophonie, la an organization of French-speaking countries around the world

fur trade the exchange of goods for fur between European traders and First Nations people, lasting from about the 1750s to the 1830s

geologists scientists who study land and rocks, and how they are formed

glaciers very thick sheets of ice and snow that move slowly across the land

governor general the representative of the British king or queen in Canada

habitat the place where an animal makes its home in nature

heritage rangelands protected areas that preserve the prairie grasslands

historical cultural items a respectful term used to define artifacts that are still used by Aboriginal people today

homestead the quarter section of land that the government granted to settlers who were willing to live on the land and farm it

homesteaders the people who lived on the homestead

iinisskimm special stones with great spiritual importance

immigrants people who move to a different country to live

immigrate to move to a different country to live

inquiry an investigation into a topic, especially by asking questions

irrigation supplying the land with water, using dams, ditches, and sprinklers

landforms the different features of the land, such as mountains, hills, or plains

landscape the natural scenery of a very large area

legislative assembly leaders who represent the people and make decisions about running a territory or province

logging cutting down trees and taking logs to the mills

lumber wood that has been cut into boards

Métis people descended from British or Canadiens traders and First Nations

missionary someone who travels to teach his or her religion to a group of people

national parks parks managed by the government of Canada to preserve the natural beauty or places of historical importance

natural heritage natural areas, animals, plants, landforms, and landscapes that are important to a country or region because of their beauty or history

natural region an area with its own natural vegetation, climate, and landforms

natural resources things found in nature that are useful to us, including air, water, soil, oil and gas, minerals, forests, and animals

natural vegetation the plants that grow naturally in an area

non-renewable resources resources that cannot be replaced or renewed

nun a member of a religious community of women who spends her life in prayer and service to others

oil sands a mixture of sand, clay, rock, and bitumen

opinion what someone thinks or believes

oral teaching a way of remembering the past through stories and spoken explanation, rather than in writing

paleontologists scientists who study fossils to learn about very old forms of life

parks areas of land where people can enjoy protected landscapes, plants, and wildlife

pemmican buffalo meat that has been dried, pounded, and mixed with hot buffalo grease and dried berries

perspective the point of view of a group of people; a way of seeing and understanding the world

population the number of people who live in an area

portage to carry a canoe and supplies over the land

protected areas areas of land governments have set aside to protect special features such as plants, animals, and landforms

provincial parks parks managed by provincial governments to preserve places of natural or historical importance

quality of life a person's or a community's sense of safety, comfort, security, health, and happiness

renewable resources resources that can be replaced, if they are used carefully

roots deep connections to a place where we belong

scrip a coupon that can be exchanged for land or money

seam of coal a long layer of coal below the Earth's surface

sustainable resource a resource that is used only as much as it can be replaced, so that it lasts for the future

technology any of the tools or ways of doing things that people use to get tasks done or to make their lives easier

tourism travelling and touring to see and enjoy places away from home

travois a frame, pulled by a horse or a dog, used for moving a teepee and for carrying belongings

treaty an agreement between two nations

urban areas towns and cities

voyageur a person who travelled by canoe, working for fur-trading companies

weather conditions such as temperature, rain, and sunshine on a single day

wetlands areas covered by water, including ponds, sloughs, and marshy areas, that provide a habitat for wildlife

wilderness areas large protected areas with strict limits on how the land is used; vehicles and many recreational activities are not allowed

wildland provincial parks large protected areas in a province where little development takes place; some activities like hiking and camping are allowed

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