

North America (USA & Canada)
Landforms

USA and Canada = Huge countries

Russia = 1st biggest

Canada = 2nd biggest

USA = 3rd biggest

Since the USA and Canada are so large, there are MANY different landforms and resources.

Landforms = types of landscape (mountains, deserts, plains, plateaus, islands, etc.)

Resources = things the land provides that people can use to make money (oil, natural gas, timber, food, etc.)

The location of landforms and natural resources determine things like...

...where cities are located.

...what recreation is available to the people.

...what kinds of agriculture is available.

...etc.

We are going to look at FOUR main types of landforms in North America and some of the resources found there.

1. The Appalachian Highlands
2. Canadian Shield
3. Interior / The Great Plains
4. Rocky Mountains

<i>Landform Type</i>	<u>Appalachian Highlands</u>	<u>Canadian Shield</u>	<u>Interior / The Great Plains</u>	<u>Rocky Mountains</u>
<i>Where is it located?</i>	Eastern mountain range (USA & Canada)	Almost entire eastern half of Canada	Center of continent (USA & Canada)	Western mountain range (USA & Canada)
<i>What is it like?</i>	More than 400 million years old	Flat and VERY rocky	Mostly treeless. Natural grassland.	Young – 80 million years old.
<i>“</i>	Not very tall due to erosion over time	Only a thin layer of top soil, so it’s hard to grow food crops.	Mostly flat with VERY fertile soil for food crops and ranching.	MASSIVE mountains. Many are over 12,000 ft.
<i>“</i>	Tallest mountains are between 1,200 ft and 2,400 ft.	Covers nearly 2 million square miles!!	Slowly rises in elevation from east to west as it gets closer to the Rocky Mountains...300 ft. to 4,000 ft.	Stretches about 3,000 miles from Alaska in the north to New Mexico in the south.
<i>“</i>	Stretches 1,600 miles from Alabama in the south to Newfoundland in the north.		Takes up most of the USA landscape. Only a small portion extends into Canada.	The Continental Divide is located here. Rivers either flow to the east or west.
<i>Resource (Fossil Fuel)</i>	Coal	Natural Gas	Natural Gas	Coal and Natural Gas
<i>Resource (Agriculture)</i>	Some timber logging, but very little.	Timber logging. Canada is the World’s largest exporter of wood.	Largest agricultural area in North America for food crops and ranching.	Some timber logging, but mostly mining for minerals.

North America (USA & Canada)
Natural Resources

Four main types we are going to examine

1. Water
2. Land & Forests
3. Minerals
4. Fossil Fuels

Look at p. 120 in your textbook for a thematic map of natural resources in North America.

Question: Why are the USA and Canada such wealthy nations?

Answer: They both have a lot of natural resources.

Remember what the definition of resources is from our last notes? = *things the land provides that people can use to make money (oil, natural gas, timber, food, etc.)*

WATER

Large bodies of water

- Oceans
 - Atlantic
 - Pacific
 - Arctic
- Gulfs / Bays
 - Gulf of Mexico
 - Hudson's Bay

These are HUGE for shipping and fishing. If a country has access to an ocean, it can ship to anywhere in the World.

Smaller bodies of water

- Lakes & Rivers
 - Great Lakes
 - Mississippi River System
 - Missouri River
 - Ohio River
 - Mississippi River
 - Other river systems
- St. Lawrence Seaway (p. 129)
 - Connects the heart of North America to the rest of the World!

These are HUGE for...

- ...shipping
- ...hydroelectric power
- ...irrigation for agriculture
- ...fisheries (fish farms)
- ...fresh drinking water

Eight of the largest lakes in the World are in North America!

LAND & FORESTS

Agricultural Areas

- Very fertile soil

North America exports more crops than any other continent in the World.

Forests

Timber logging

North America is one of the top exporters of lumber & wood products.
Remember, Canada exports more wood than another other country.

Example = Japan has very little timber. It has cut down most of its forests. So they buy most of their wood from North America.

MINERALS

Look at p. 120 at all the different minerals.

1. Nickel
2. Aluminum
3. Platinum
4. Copper
5. A lot of others too

Mining industries extract the minerals from the land.

Minerals are used in factories to produce goods that are sold.

Factories helped North America industrialize, grow, and become SUPER wealthy in a short time.

FOSSIL FUELS

1. Coal
2. Oil
3. Natural Gas

Fossil fuels provide energy for many things:

- Shipping / Transportation
- Heating
- Electricity

USA uses more energy than all other countries.

Since Canada has only about 35 million people, it sells almost all of its extra energy to the USA.

North America used to make its money by selling agricultural products. We were an “ag-based” society. But with minerals and fossil fuels, the USA & Canada became a MODERN set of nations who are very wealthy.