

# PHYSICAL FEATURES OF CANADA

**Standard: SS6G5** The student will locate selected features of Canada.

A. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Canadian Shield, Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes, Rocky Mountains, and the St. Lawrence River.

## Physical Features of Canada

Canada is big-really big! In fact, Canada is the second largest country in the world. Canada's borders touch oceans on the north, east, and west, and land-the United States, of course-in the south. Physical features of Canada include:

- The **Pacific Ocean** is the largest and deepest of the world's five oceans. It borders Canada to the west.

- The **Atlantic Ocean** borders Canada to the east. It is the second-largest ocean.

- The **Canadian Shield** is a massive physical region of central and eastern Canada, including nearly half of Canada's land area. While its rocky soil is not good for farming, the Canadian Shield is rich in natural resources such as trees, minerals, and water. The shield curves around Hudson Bay down into the Great Lakes area of the United States.



Canadian Shield

- The **Hudson Bay** is a gulf (an arm of a sea or ocean partly enclosed by land) in east-central Canada. It is connected to both the Arctic Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

- The **Great Lakes** are five freshwater lakes along the border between the United States and Canada. These lakes form a valuable transportation network for many products shipped

to and from the United States. From east to west, they are Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior.



Great Lakes

- The **Rocky Mountains** are a mountain chain in western Canada and the United States, extending from New Mexico to northern British Columbia. Numerous glaciers lie within the Canadian Rockies.



Rocky Mountains

- The **St. Lawrence River** connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean. In 1959, the U.S. and Canada completed the St. Lawrence Seaway, a series of locks, canals, and dams that allow huge, oceangoing ships to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

On a world and a regional political-physical map label the following: the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Canadian Shield, Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes, Rocky Mountains, and the St. Lawrence