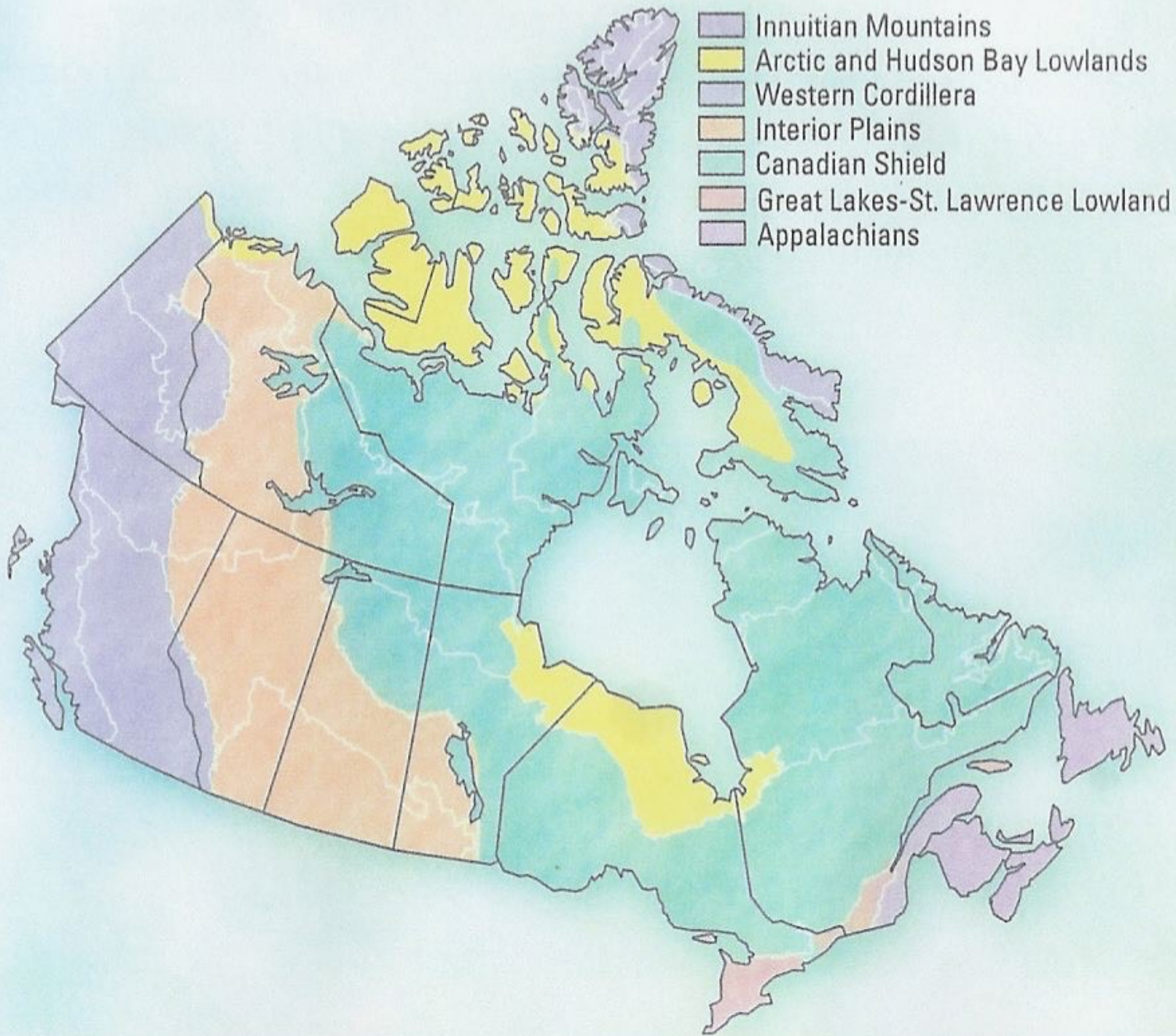


# LANDFORM REGIONS IN CANADA

CGC1D1 - Mr. Wittmann

# Landform Regions in Canada

- There are 7 distinct landform regions in Canada:
  1. Western Cordillera
  2. Interior Plains
  3. Canadian Shield
  4. Hudson's Bay & Arctic Lowlands
  5. Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands
  6. Appalachian Mountains
  7. Innuitian Mountains



# WESTERN CORDILLERA

- “Cordillera” means mountain or mountainous
- Covers most of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory
- Very young mountains
- Collision of the North American and the Pacific plates uplifted the region into several mountain range
- Mountains and valleys run in a north-south direction
  1. Western Coast Mountains region
  2. Central Interior Plateau
  3. Easter Rocky Mountains and the Columbia Mountains





# WESTERN CORDILLERA



# INTERIOR PLAINS

- Prairies extends from the US border in the south to the Arctic Ocean in the north
- Makes up the southern parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, almost all of Alberta and the western part of the Northwest Territories
- Made up of sedimentary rock since long ago this area was covered by shallow seas
- Most of the oil and gas in Canada is located in this region
- Differential erosion has caused the formation of several escarpments resulting in 3 different levels of elevation on the Prairies...

1. Western Alberta & Saskatchewan Plains

2. Eastern Manitoba Lowlands

3. Northern Mackenzie Lowlands



# INTERIOR PLAINS



# CANADIAN SHIELD

- Geographic foundation of Canada
- More than half of Canada is covered by the Shield
- Metamorphic and igneous rock
- Oldest rocks in the world
- Now relatively flat with rounded rocky hills
- Major glaciations has left depressions in the bedrock which have filled with water to form hundreds of thousands of lakes
- Impervious bedrock
- Sand and gravels deposited by the glaciers
- Rivers to flow in many different directions
- Disorganized pattern of winding rivers, lakes and swamps





# CANADIAN SHIELD



# HUDSON BAY & ARCTIC LOWLANDS

- Around the southwestern shore of Hudson and James Bay
- Very flat, low area covered by swampy forest called the Hudson Bay Lowlands
- Layers of sedimentary rock resting on top of the Canadian Shield
- Swampy areas are called muskeg Several rivers meander through the area
- Vegetation is mostly bushes and isolated trees
- Arctic Lowlands are made up of a series of islands with similar landscape



Muskeg



Poor Vegetation

# HUDSON BAY-ARCTIC LOWLANDS



# GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE LOWLANDS

- 2 regions
- Great Lakes Lowlands in Southern Ontario
- Sedimentary rock
- Several escarpments in the area
  - Niagara Escarpment extends from Niagara Falls to Manitoulin Island
- Many glaciations formed rolling landscape
  - Eskers, drumlins and moraines
  - Oak Ridges Moraine 160 km parallel to Lake Ontario



Niagara Escarpment



Oak Ridges Moraine



# GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE LOWLANDS

- Separated by Frontenac Axis thin wedge of the Canadian Shield that cuts across the St. Lawrence
- 1000 Islands in the St Lawrence River are the remains of the shield after being subjected to the erosive force
- Faulting action formed a rift valley
- River flows through valley to the Atlantic Ocean
- Monadnocks are volcanic intrusions into the sedimentary bedrock
- Softer sedimentary rocks erode leaving the harder igneous rocks looking like small mountains growing out of the ground
- Mont Royal in Montreal is a monadnock



Thousand Islands



Monadnocks

# GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE LOWLANDS



# APPALACHIAN REGION

- Run from Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec, into the Maritimes provinces and all the way to Newfoundland
- Oldest highland region in Canada
- Formed when North American collided with Europe and North Africa during the formation of Pangaea
- Sedimentary rock with igneous and metamorphic outcrops.
- Millions of years of erosion have reduced the once jagged peaks to rolling mountains and hills
- More recent glaciations have added to the levelling of these mountains



Low Mountains



Wide Eroded Valleys

# APPALACHIAN REGION





# INNUITIAN MOUNTAINS

- Everything north of the Canadian Shield
- Igneous and metamorphic rocks
- Some areas of sedimentary bedrock



Innuitian Mountains

THE END