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
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
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
GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE LOWLANDS
APPALACHIAN REGION

- Run from Gaspe 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
APPALACHIAN REGION
INNUITIAN MOUNTAINS

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