

## Canada's Geographic Character

The Earth \_\_\_\_\_ on its axis, doing a complete rotation every 24 hours giving us day and night.

It also \_\_\_\_\_ around the sun over a period of 365 days, which gives us our seasons.

Because the earth is \_\_\_\_\_ at 23.5 degrees, our summer is longer and warmer than our winter.

The **Tropic of Cancer** is 23 ½° N of the equator.

The **Tropic of Capricorn** is 23 ½° S of the equator

Because of Canada's distance from the equator we experience more extreme differences in our seasons and weather.

Canada is made up of a wide variety of **landscapes**

**Landscape** refers to the natural features (mountains, rivers, wildlife) and human features (farmers' fields, buildings) that you can see in an area

### Area

- Canada is the second largest country in the world. Canada covers an area of 9,971,000 Square Kilometers, while Russia is the largest with 17,075,000 square Kilometers.
- Canada's large size is why there is such a large variety of unique places (from jagged mountain peaks, grassy plains and swampy wetlands) in one country.

### Canada's Exceptional Places

- Canada is known for its exceptional natural environment and their unique human characteristics.
- *Example;* Canada has 13 UNESCO world heritage sites. Gros Morne National Park is one of those.

### The Earth's Building Blocks

Rocks are made up of a combination of minerals

The three types of rocks are grouped by how they were formed

Igneous Rock – forms when magma cools and solidifies

Sedimentary – forms when grains of sand, soil or rock particles are carried away (usually by water or wind) and deposited in layers

Metamorphic – forms when igneous and sedimentary rocks change into new rocks types through heat or pressure

## Nature Shapes the Landscape

Two very different natural forces are at work that constantly change our landscape

Forces that build up the land, such as mountain building forces

Forces that wear down the land, such as:

Weathering – the breaking up of rocks into small particles by wind, water, ice, etc.

Erosion – is the movement of the broken up pieces to other areas

### **Building Mountains**

The Earth's crust is broken into huge pieces or *plates*

These plates float on the Earth's semi-liquid, rocky mantle, causing the plates to either collide or be pulled apart.

When plates collide, mountain ranges are formed

Earthquakes and volcanoes may also occur when plates collide

This process is called **plate tectonics**

### **The Power of Ice**

Many of Canada's landscapes were formed by glaciers, which once covered all of Canada

Glaciers move slowly across the land, picking up soil, gravel, trees and huge chunks of rock

As glaciers move, these materials scrape the land, digging deep holes, and eventually depositing these materials

The depositing of Earth's materials is called **deposition**

Example - The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes were formed when glaciers carrying huge pieces of rock dug huge holes into the Earth

They were filled by the melting water from the glaciers, as well as centuries of rain and snow

### **Key Terms**

**Landscape**

**Place**

**Relative Location**

**Latitude**

**Longitude**

**Prime Meridian**

## Absolute Location