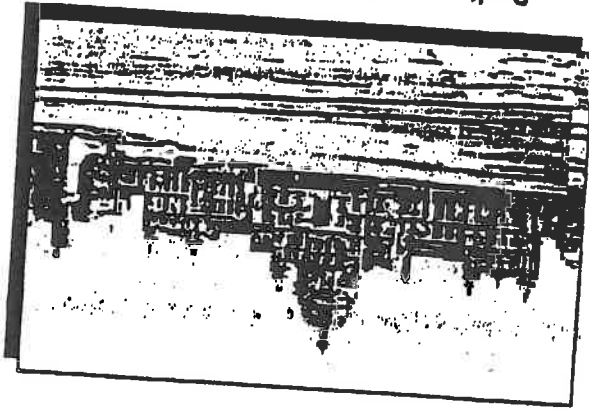


Parliament Buildings in Victoria

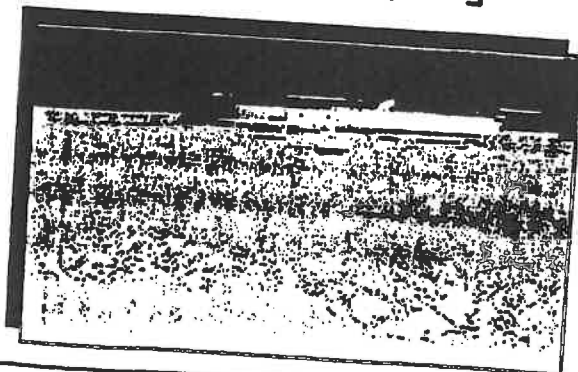


British Columbia

The Pacific Coast

**Information and Exercises
about**

Ferry in the Gulf Islands



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Key Words:

fiords- long narrow inlets of the sea between cliffs

temperate- moderate; not extreme; average

landforms- shapes that make up the Earth's surface

resources- products as fish, grain, logs that are used or sold to other people

LOCATION/POPULATION

British Columbia is on the west coast of Canada with 27,000 km of coastline. It covers an area of 947,800 sq km. The capital of British Columbia is Victoria, located on Vancouver Island. The population of this province is 4,096,000 with the greatest number of people living in the city of Vancouver (1.8 million). Vancouver is the third largest city in Canada.

LANDFORMS/CLIMATE

Deep **fiords** and Vancouver Island protect the province from Pacific storms. This province has the most moderate climate of Canada's regions. Along the coast, rain is plentiful with 130 to 380 cm of rain a year. This gives this area a **temperate** rain forest climate. The oldest and tallest trees in Canada grow in this region. The interior of British Columbia has an almost desert-like climate with very hot summers and cold winters.

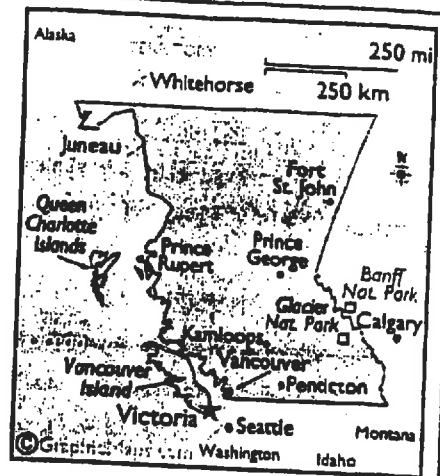
Landforms like the Coastal Mountains rise more than 2,000m above sea level. To the east, the Rocky Mountains, with peaks almost 4,000m high, separate British Columbia from Alberta. Mt. Robson is the highest mountain. British Columbia has forests, grasslands and many lakes. The extreme northeast of the province has the Great Plains. Some important bodies of water are the Pacific Ocean, the Fraser and the Columbia Rivers.

RESOURCES

Forestry, (lumber and plywood, pulp and paper) fishing (mainly salmon) and mining (copper, coal, natural gas, crude oil, gold, silver) are British Columbia's main **resources**. Tourism is also an important resource for this province. Since it is the gateway to Pacific Rim countries like Japan, many visitors come to British Columbia each year.

AN INTERESTING FACT

B.C. is home to more mammal and bird species than any other province. There are 119 of 209 mammals and 362 of 462 birds that live here.



Exercises



Victoria

1. British Columbia is on the west coast of Canada.
Name its neighbours to the:
 - A. North _____
 - B. South _____
 - C. East _____

2. The _____ Ocean is on the west side of British Columbia.

3. The capital of British Columbia is _____. It is located on _____.

4. Over _____ million people live in British Columbia.

5. The greatest number of people live in the city of _____.

6. Match the word to its meaning.
 - a. fiords- _____ things like fish and logs that come from nature
 - b. landforms- _____ long, narrow inlets of the sea between cliffs
 - c. natural resources- _____ moderate, not extreme
 - d. temperate- _____ shapes that make up the Earth's surface

7. Choose the best answer with a check (✓)

a. A great amount of rain that falls in British Columbia is mostly:

- along the coast
- in the interior
- in the northern part of the province

b. There are desert-like conditions:

- along the coast
- in the interior
- in the northern part

c. The oldest and tallest trees in Canada grow in a rain forest climate found:

- in the northern region
- along the west coast
- in the hot climate of the interior

d. British Columbia has several mountain ranges, two of which are:

- the Coastal Mountains and the Alps
- the Rocky Mountains and the Swiss Mountains
- the Coastal Mountains and the Rocky Mountains

e. British Columbia has several important resources:
Write the name of the resource on the line.



8.

Art Box

Some British Columbians and tourists use the ferries every day to cross between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Draw a picture of one of these ferries traveling among the islands in the Pacific Ocean. Put some fir trees in your picture and add a little colour.

