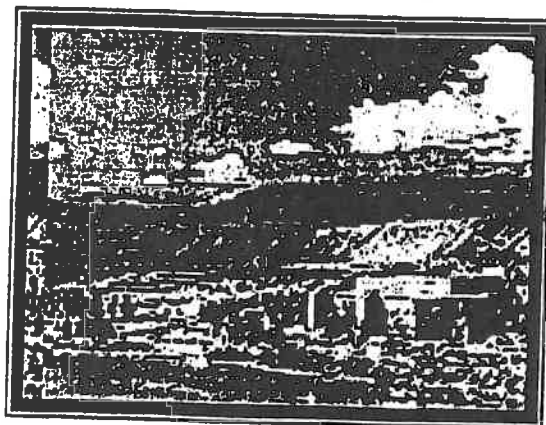


# **Information and Exercises about**

## **The Territories**

**Yukon Territory  
Northwest Territories  
Nunavut Territory**



**Whitehorse, Yukon**

# YUKON TERRITORY

**Key Words:** taiga- northern forest area  
boreal- northern  
subarctic- under the arctic zone  
tundra- rocky plain in the Arctic region



## LOCATION/POPULATION

The Yukon Territory is bordered on the west by Alaska, on the south by British Columbia and on the east by the Northwest Territories. It covers an area of 483,450 sq. km. Nearby bodies of water are the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort Sea.

The capital city of the Yukon is Whitehorse which has a population of 31,305.

## LANDFORMS/CLIMATE

The Yukon is mainly divided into two regions. Taiga is the boreal forest belt that circles the world in the subarctic zone and makes up the majority of the land of the Yukon. Tundra is the huge rocky plain in the Arctic regions where the climate has stunted growth. Mount Logan is Canada's highest mountain with its peak reaching 6,050 metres.

The climate in the Yukon is quite warm in the summer due to the high altitude of much of the land. Temperatures can reach between 14 to 25 degreesC during the long summer days. In winter, temperatures can vary from -4 to -50 farther north.

The Yukon is known as "the land of the midnight sun" because sunlight is almost continuous for three months in the summer. In winter, the light of day is not seen for another three months.

## RESOURCES

Tourism and mining are both important resources in the Yukon Territory. Some metals mined are lead, zinc, copper and gold. Some furs are harvested for use and exporting. Fish and forest products, grain, beef, poultry and pork are all trade items.

## AN INTERESTING FACT

In 1898, the greatest gold rush in history began in the Yukon.



## Exercises

1. Choose the correct answer.

A. The Yukon Territory is bordered by:  
⇒ Alaska, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories  
⇒ the Arctic Ocean and British Columbia

B. The capital city of the Yukon and its population is:  
⇒ Yellowknife with 40,000 people  
⇒ Whitehorse with 31,305 people

C. The taiga is land that is:  
⇒ forested  
⇒ rocky and mountainous

D. The tundra is land that is:  
⇒ desert-like  
⇒ rocky where the climate has stunted growth

2. The Yukon is known as "the land of the midnight sun" because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Mount \_\_\_\_\_ is the highest peak in Canada at  
\_\_\_\_\_ metres.

4. The greatest gold rush in history began in the Yukon in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

5.

## Word Search

Find the words from the list and circle them in the puzzle. They may go vertically, (up and down) horizontally, (across) or diagonally (corner to corner).

TUNDRA XIMHCI  
AZPRKXELOGAN  
IGDQBSJS AIOB  
GOLDRUSHVZIO  
ANUTEINOCAMR  
TVWHITEHORSE  
OCIXSRTPUDUPA  
WFNOZNEREBSL  
SRTBWTXYAHTE  
COEDRFORESTF  
BZRSFDCZRTBU  
LEXKYTOURISM  
DNPOIENDZIRY  
AMYCKDSYELAP

GOLD RUSH

TAIGA

TUNDRA

LOGAN

BOREAL

WHITEHORSE

SUBARCTIC

FOREST

TOURISM

WINTER

FROZEN

6. Name any five resources that are produced in the Yukon.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

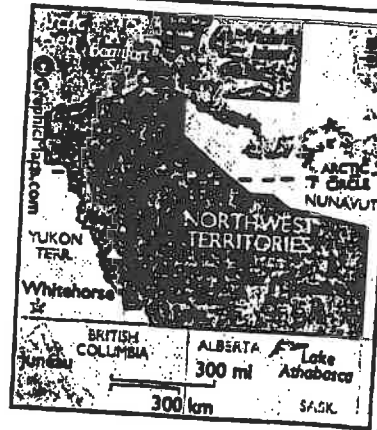
E. \_\_\_\_\_

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Key Words: distinct- not the same; different  
remarkable-unusual

### LOCATION/POPULATION

The Northwest Territories were once 3,426,320 sq. km until the new territory of Nunavut was created. Now the land size of the NWT is 1,171,918 sq km. These territories include all of Canada northwest of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel, except the Yukon, Nunavut and parts of Quebec and Newfoundland. They contain the large district of MacKenzie. The territories are 15% of the total area of the nation. The capital city of the NWT is Yellowknife with a population of 40,900.



### LANDFORMS/CLIMATE

The Northwest Territories have some remarkable features. The MacKenzie River is one of the world's longest rivers at 4,241 km. The Great Bear Lake which is 31,328 sq. km is the eighth largest lake in the world. The Great Slave Lake at 28,568 sq. km is the tenth largest.

Like the Yukon, The NWT can be divided into two distinct regions. The taiga which is a boreal forest circles the subarctic zone and the tundra is a rocky Arctic region where only stunted growth is found.

There are two major climate zones in the NWT: (subarctic) average temperatures in January reach -23 degrees C and (arctic) -26 to -33 degrees C. In July, 21 degrees C (subarctic) and 10 degrees C (arctic).

There are between 20 and 24 hours of daylight in June and up to 24 hours of darkness in December.

### RESOURCES

Minerals that are mined are uranium, tungsten, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold. There is some petroleum production and limited forestry. A new industry is diamond mining. Some stones are of high quality and quite valuable. Tourism is also an important resource.

### AN INTERESTING FACT

There are some rare wildlife species in the territories as white wolves and white whales. Some say the world's best *Northern Lights* dance across the sky during the dark winter months.



## Exercises

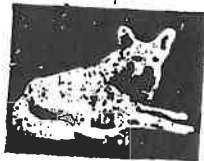
1. Circle the correct answers.

- a. The Northwest Territories are (15%; 25%; 50%) of the total area of Canada.
- b. The capital city of the Northwest Territories is (Whitehorse; St. John's; Yellowknife).
- c. One of the longest rivers in the world is the (Fraser; MacKenzie; Columbia) River.
- d. Two large lakes in the Northwest Territories are the (Great Bear Lake; Lake Superior; Great Slave Lake).
- e. Two distinct regions in the Northwest Territories are ( The Hills; the taiga; the tundra).

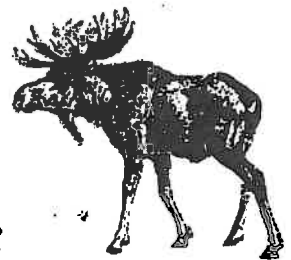
2. Name these animals that live in the Territories:



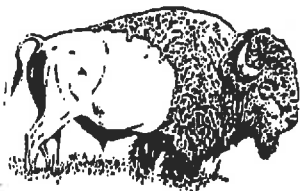
-----



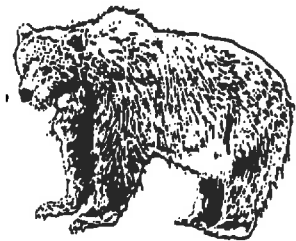
-----



-----



-----



-----

3. It is said the world's best Northern Lights dance across the Northwest Territories sky during the dark winter months. To learn about the Northern Lights, go to the internet and type in Aurora Borealis: Northern Lights. You will learn some interesting facts and see wonderful Northern Lights. Then colour these "lights" in the picture below.



4. Name three minerals that are mined in the NWT:
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A new mining industry has begun in the territories and some stones are of high quality and are quite valuable.
- This is \_\_\_\_\_ mining.

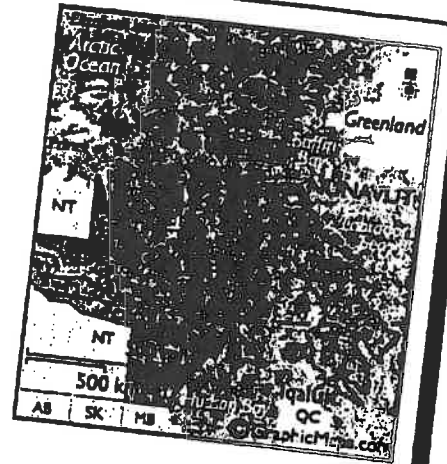
# NUNAVUT

Key Words: tundra- rocky plain in the Arctic region  
harsh- severe

precipitation- rain; snow

## LOCATION/POPULATION

Nunavut was introduced as Canada's newest territory in 1999. It is a vast territory that is bordered by the Northwest Territories to the west, the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan to the south and Baffin Bay and the Labrador Sea to the east. Nunavut means "our land" in the language of the Inuit people. The area of Nunavut at nearly two million sq. km is one-fifth of Canada's land mass.



Nunavut's three regions are called the Qikiqtaaluk (or Baffin) Region in the east and north, the Kivalliq (or Keewatin) Region in the south and central portions near Hudson Bay and the Kitikmeot Region in central and western Nunavut.

The capital of Nunavut is Iqaluit. The territory has a population of 28,200. Most Inuit live in settlements along the coast of Hudson Bay and the Labrador Sea.

## LANDFORMS/CLIMATE

Nunavut includes most of the Canadian Shield, also called the Laurentian Plateau, a crust of ancient rock 500 million years old. Most of the territory is a flat tundra of lichen, flowers and grasses. There are some tall mountains on Baffin and Ellesmere Islands. There are few roads, and most transportation is by airplane and snowmobile. Temperatures average -32 degrees C in January and only 5 degrees C in July with less than 25 cm of precipitation per year.

## RESOURCES

Trapping and mining are two ways the Inuit people make a living. Copper, lead, silver, zinc and iron are found, but taking the metals out is costly and difficult. Some animals that live in this harsh land are the white fox, caribou and seals. Whitefish and Arctic char are the common fish.

## AN INTERESTING FACT



Inuit carvings are known and collected the world over and provide a living for some carvers.



## Exercises

1. Choose the correct word from the box and write it on the line.

- A. Nunavut joined Canada as the newest territory in \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Nunavut, in the language of the Inuit people, means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- C. This new territory is \_\_\_\_\_ of Canada's land mass.
- D. The capital of Nunavut is \_\_\_\_\_. It has a population of \_\_\_\_\_ people.

one-fifth	Iqaluit	
1999	our land	28,200

2. Circle ☺ for true and ☹ for false.

- A. Most Inuit live in settlements along the coast of Hudson Bay and the Labrador Sea. ☺ ☹
- B. Most of the territory is a flat tundra of lichen, flowers and grasses. ☺ ☹
- C. There are many highways and paved roads in Nunavut. ☺ ☹
- D. There are more than 750,000 caribou living on the tundra from spring to late summer. ☺ ☹

2. Go to the Internet and type Arctic Animals in the Search box.  
Then write one thing about each of the following animals and birds.



A. Arctic Fox

---

---

---

---



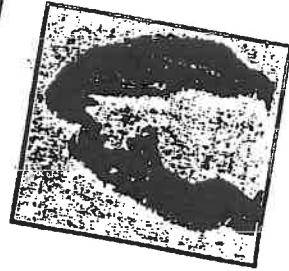
B. Arctic Hare

---

---

---

---



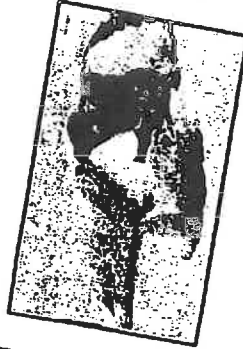
C. Polar Bears

---

---

---

---



D. Seals

---

---

---

---



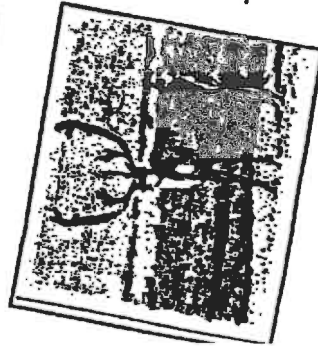
E. Ptarmigan

---

---

---

---



F. Caribou

---

---

---

---