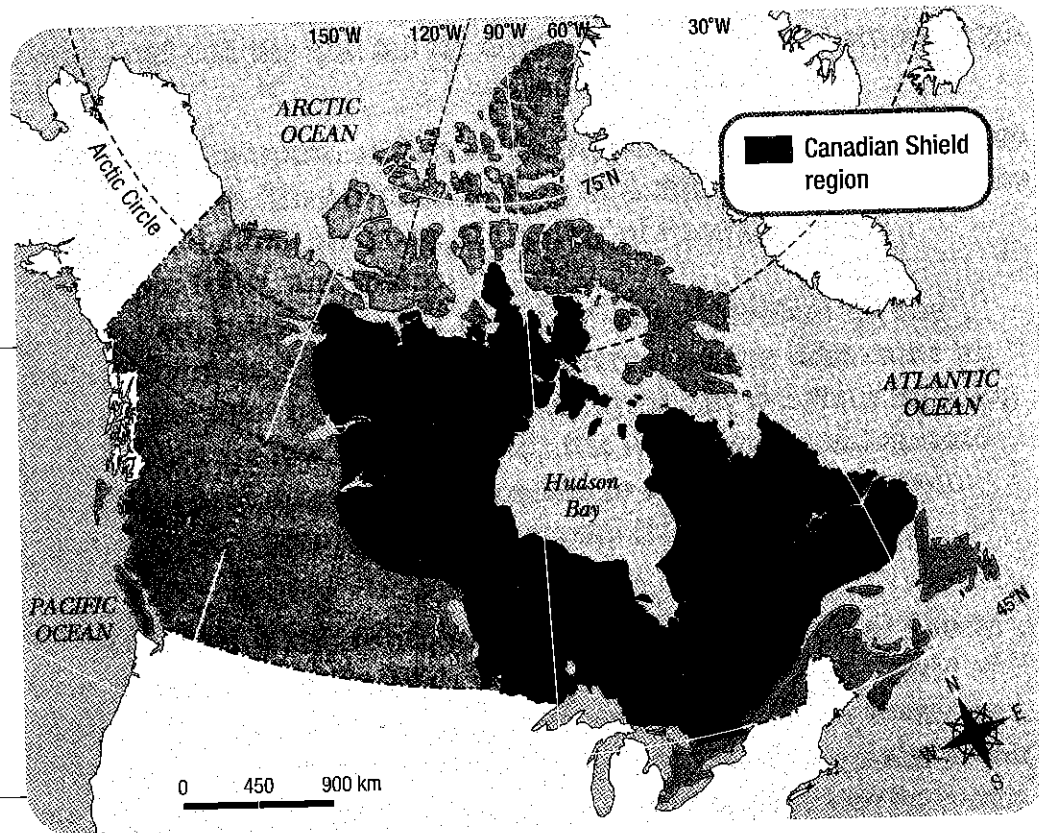


The Canadian Shield Region —a Resource Storehouse

Predict

What would it be like to live in a land of rock with a wealth of natural resources?

This is the Canadian Shield region. Parts of which territories and provinces are in this region? Based on this map, between what two lines of latitude does most of the region lie?



The Canadian Shield region is the largest region in Canada. It covers over half the area of Canada, but it has only 10 per cent of the total population.

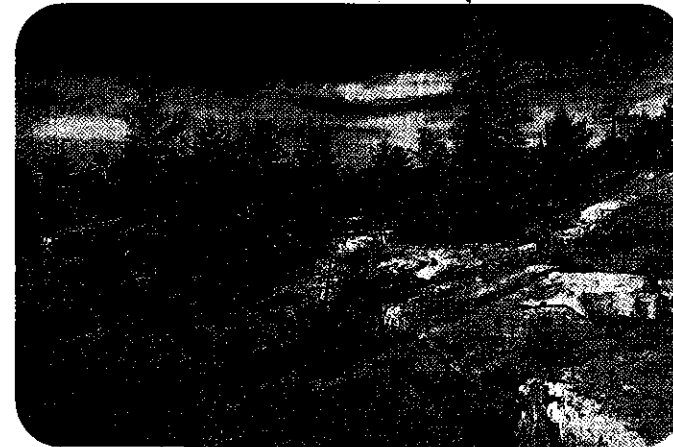
The Canadian Shield region contains a wealth of natural resources, which is why it is referred to as a “storehouse.” A storehouse is a place where things are kept. Why do you think people use this description for the Shield region?

Chapter Focus

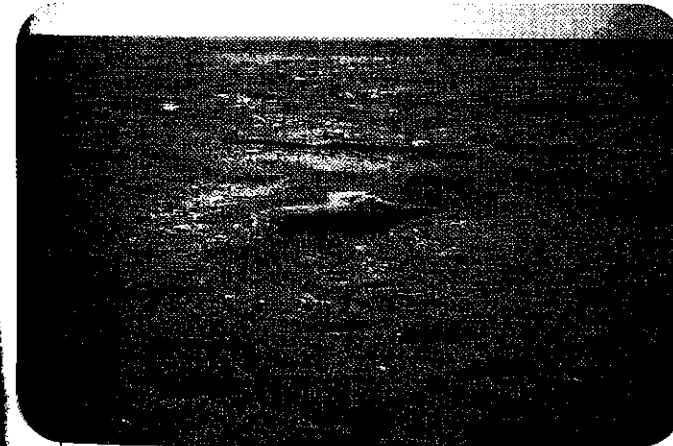
- What makes the Canadian Shield region unique?
- How do people use the large network of rivers and lakes?
- How does the climate shape ways of life?
- What is life like in a region rich in natural resources?
- What are some challenges in managing resources?

What Makes the Canadian Shield Region Unique?

The Canadian Shield region is unique for its vast exposed area of ancient rock. Many millions of years ago, this region was a mountainous area with much volcanic activity. Over the ages, glaciers, water, and wind wore away these mountains. Today, most of the region is plateaus and uplands. A **plateau** is a high, flat area that is surrounded by mountains or cliffs.



The rockiness of the Shield region can be seen in this photograph of Killarney Provincial Park, just north of Georgian Bay, Ontario.



There are also lowlands in this region. The largest of these is the Hudson Bay Lowland. It is also a wetland. A **wetland** is an area of wet, marshy land. Wetlands help filter pollution and stop erosion.



There are two mountainous areas in the Canadian Shield region. They are the Laurentian Mountains in Québec and the Torngat Mountains in Labrador.

SKILLS at Work

Start a Venn diagram comparing the Canadian Shield region to the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Lowlands region. Add to the diagram as you learn more.



Pause

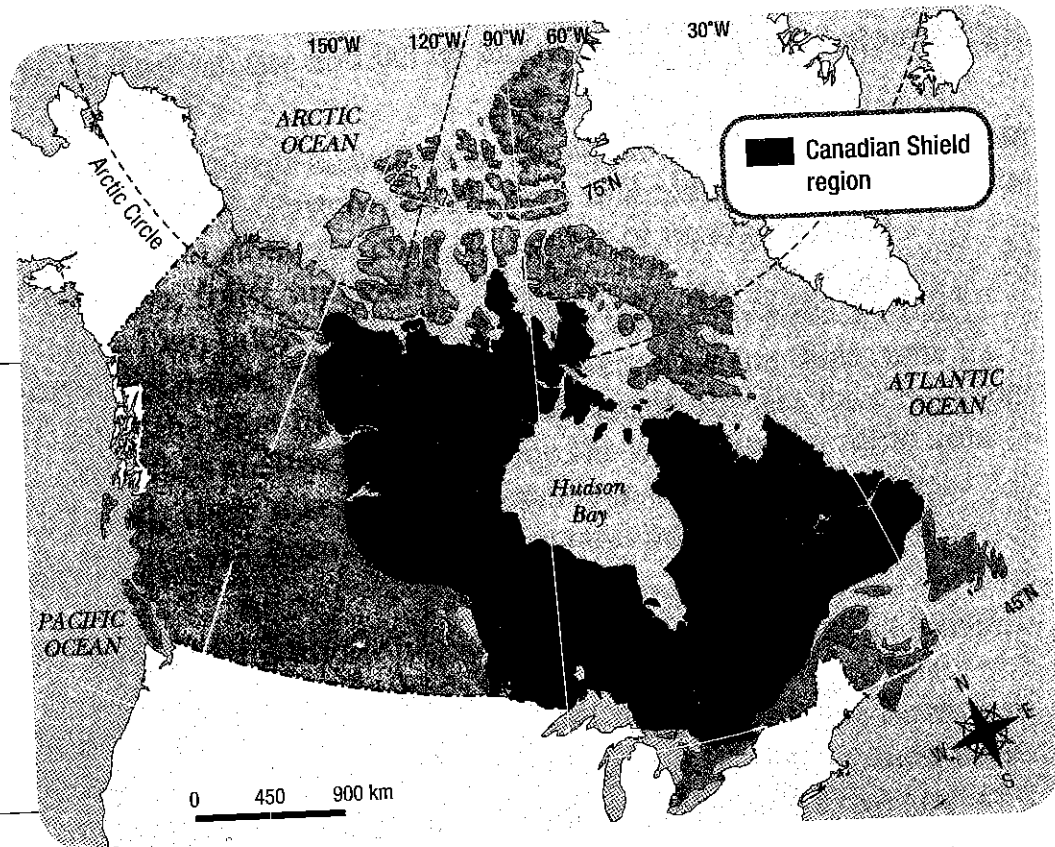
1. How are the Canadian Shield and the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Lowlands regions different from each other in size and population?
2. By looking at the photographs on this page, explain what some of the challenges would be in creating settlements in this region.

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