

North American
GEO QUEST
A 13 part Hist-ography Series



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Presents

North American
GEO QUEST
Series



A 13 Part Hist-ography Series

THE
**WESTERN
CANADIAN
PROVINCES**

Alberta • British Columbia • Manitoba
Northwest Territories • Saskatchewan • Yukon

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to provide students with a stimulating overview of both the history and the geographical regions of the United States, the Provinces of Canada, and Mexico. Specifically developed to enhance the social studies curriculum, **North American GeoQuest is a 13-part Histo-graphy series.**

Filmed on location, these videos present *spectacular photography* along with *dynamic computer graphics*. Other features include; important historical figures, commerce, capital cities, significant points of interest and more! These videos also inform students of the relationships between the geologic, geographical and historical effects upon a region's past and present developments. Some geologic and geographical developments include the formation of mountains, lakes, volcanoes and glaciers and how these strongly influence a region's culture and history.

By understanding the profiles of these regions, students will acquire the knowledge that will define a *balance between the past and present*. Furthermore, as students study these videos, they will learn the geography of North America and about their own *heritage and those of others*.

As a complementary device with the video, this instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These exercises will reinforce and further develop a students level of comprehension. The instructional guide provides:

DVDs Allow:

- students to actively participate in the learning experience
- for greater flexibility and interactive learning
- for custom user interfaces
- for a level of control over learning
- for the learner to become more engaged
- for the enhancement of the learning process by combining media and text

Vocabulary! ✓

Chronology! ✓

Discussion Points/Activities! ✓

13 videos
in the
GEOQUEST Series

Pacific Region
Mountain West Region
Midwest Region
Southwest Region
Mississippi River Region
New England Region
Great Lakes Region
Mid-Atlantic Region
Southeast Region
Washington D.C.
Eastern Canadian Provinces
Western Canadian Provinces
Mexico

Suggested Usage:

Geography, History, Social Studies,
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment

Intermediate, Jr. High, General
Approx. 22 minutes each video 1998

**Permission granted to copy the following
exercises provided in this guide for educa-
tional use ONLY.**

On the dotted line, list the name of the province and its Capital City.



The
WESTERN
CANADIAN
Provinces

- 1 _____ /
- 2 _____ /
- 3 _____ /
- 4 _____ /
- 5 _____ /
- 6 _____ /

⊗ = Location of Capital City

THE WESTERN CANADIAN PROVINCES

Descendents of the Paleo-Indians, a nomadic group, were the first known inhabitants to occupy this land. Later, the first European settlers, mostly from France and England, began to explore this region during the early 1600's.

Aboard ships and on horseback, these early settlers arrived in the Western Canadian provinces seeking new opportunities. Eventually, tensions grew between the trading companies owned and operated by both the French and British governments. As trading competition grew, each country tried to gain control over the land-holdings in North America. Those tensions lead to the French and Indian War in 1754-63. The war ended in 1763, when the British defeated the French in the Battle for Quebec. After the war, in 1791 the country was divided into upper and lower Canada. However, in 1867 the British North American Act merged upper and lower Canada into one country known today as the Dominion of Canada.

Along with its rich history the Western Canadian provinces also has geographical significance. From the grandiose wilderness of the wooded uplands, to the scenic coastal routes along the Pacific Ocean, each year millions of travelers visit the Western Canadian provinces to capture both its natural and historic elegance.

As we study the Western Canadian provinces, we begin to understand where Canada as a nation has been, and how far it has gone—as this region offers us a place of origin, a place of beauty and a place to learn.

VOCABULARY of Western Canadian Provinces

CANADIAN SHIELD: Is a vast horse-shoe shaped region composed of rocks that were created 2 to 4 billion years ago. These rocks contain some of the earliest forms of life on earth. This shield covers about 1.7 million square miles, occupying almost half of Canada's total land area.

DOMINION OF CANADA: In 1791 the country was divided into lower and upper Canada, it wasn't until the British North American Act of 1867 that the two Canadas were made into one country known as the Dominion of Canada.

HENRY KELSEY: First known European to visit Saskatchewan in 1690 for the Hudson Bay Company.

HUDSON BAY COMPANY: Arriving in Manitoba in the late 1600's, these British fur trappers became the first European settlers of the region. Eventually, this British owned company generated a fierce rivalry with the French owned Northwest Company. This rivalry became one of the key causes of the French and Indian War 1754-63. Later, in 1821 these two rival companies merged.

ICE AGE: A period approx. 2 million years ago, during which time, glacier ice due to global cooling, moved from the polar ice caps into the Western Canadian Provinces creating many lake basins and riverbeds.

JAMES COOK: First European to claim Vancouver Island in 1774.

JACQUES CARTIER: Regarded as the "Founder of Canada", Cartier became the first French explorer to sail to the New World and discovered the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1534.

4. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of the Western Canadian provinces, indicating significant points of interest. For example, the capital cities, i.e. Victoria, British Columbia; important events, i.e. Red River Rebellion in 1763, names of early explorers, i.e. like Jacques Cartier etc..

5. Many battles during the French and Indian War were fought on the soil of the Western Canadian provinces. Discuss the issues involved with this conflict and the profiles of the two groups represented France and Britain. Then assemble the students into two groups to have a political debate on the issues. Perhaps have each group nominate leaders to represent each country.

6. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks etc. to stimulate your imagination to explore the beautiful history and geography of the Western Canadian provinces.

Discussion Points/Activities

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc. are used to enhance our modern day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ to those used during the time the Western Canadian provinces was being discovered. Use this information for the following study points/activities.

2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early explorer. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, dealing with homeland authorities in Britain, France, or Spain etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying the Western Canadian provinces, and how it relates to our everyday lives? Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact or relate with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

JOHN CABOT: An English explorer, Cabot was the first to discover Newfoundland in 1497.

METIS: People of American Indian and European ancestry, who when the Dominion of Canada was established in 1867, feared losing their freedoms, and began an uprising known as the Red River Rebellion. This conflict was finally resolved with the passage of the Manitoba Act in 1870 which guaranteed their basic rights.

NORTH AMERICA: The third largest continent in the world consisting of Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

PALEO - INDIANS: Nomadic hunters and gatherers, who between 30,000-40,000 years ago, used a land bridge between Russia and North America to become the first known inhabitants to live in the area known today as the Western Canadian provinces.

WESTERN CANADIAN PROVINCES: Term used to describe the area located on the upper Northwest part of the North American Continent. The provinces include; Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory.

WOLVERS: Lawless Montana whiskey traders, who traveled north into Saskatchewan to exchange whiskey with local Indians for fur trapping products. However, viewed as a hindrance to the fur trapping industry, the "Northwest Mounted Police" otherwise known as the famous "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" were eventually called upon to put a halt on these exchanges.

Chronology of Western Canadian Provinces

- **2 to 4 Billion years ago:** During the Precambrian Era rock formations begin to originate into what is today known as the Canadian Shield.
- **2 million years ago:** During an earlier ice age, glaciers reform the land by stripping away most of the soil and creating lake basins and riverbeds.
- **30,000-40,000 years ago:** Paleo-Indians migrate from Asia into North America—by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.
- **10,000 years ago:** Last Ice Age begins moving from the Arctic into Western Canadian provinces.
- **1534:** Regarded as the “Founder of Canada” French Explorer, Jacques Cartier discovers the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- **1608:** Jacques Cartier Claims Quebec City for the French.
- **1612:** The exploration of the Hudson Bay area begins.
- **1690:** Henry Kelsey, first known European to explore the Saskatchewan area for the Hudson Bay Company.
- **Late 1600’s:** More Europeans arrive in the Western Canadian provinces—descendants of the Paleo-Indians, the Algonquin and Iroquois Indians occupy the region during their arrival.
- **Early 1700’s:** The French owned Northwest Company enters the region to establish themselves in the fur trading industry. This causes a bitter rivalry between the French and the British owned Hudson Bay Company.
- **1754-63:** French and Indian War begins and ends as Britain defeats France to gain control over North America.

- **1763:** French troops, led by General Louis De Montclam are defeated by the British, led by General James Wolfe in what was known as “The Battle of Quebec”. This battle marked the end of New France and gave control of most of Canada over to the British.
- **1774:** James Cook claims Vancouver Island for the British.
- **1791:** Canada is divided into Upper and Lower regions.
- **1815:** The Loyalists joined by nearly 9,000 Highland Scots settle on Cape Breton Island.
- **1821:** The British owned Hudson Bay Company and the French owned Northwest Company merge.
- **1867:** The British North American Act unites Canada into one country known as the Dominion of Canada.
- **1867:** The Dominion of Canada is established.
- **1870:** Manitoba becomes the 5th province to join the Canadian Confederation.
- **1870:** The Metis, cause an uprising known as the Red River Rebellion.
- **1870:** Northwest Territories join the Canadian Confederation.
- **Late 1800’s:** The Railroad industry is established in Manitoba.
- **Late 1800’s:** Gold Rush begins in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.
- **1898:** Yukon Territory joins the Canadian Confederation.
- **1905:** Saskatchewan and Alberta join the Canadian Confederation to become the 8th & 9th provinces.
- **1947:** Oil discovered in Alberta.