








# Natural regions of Alberta



 Alberta is a big province. It has 6 natural regions. Can you find the regions on the map? Use the legend.



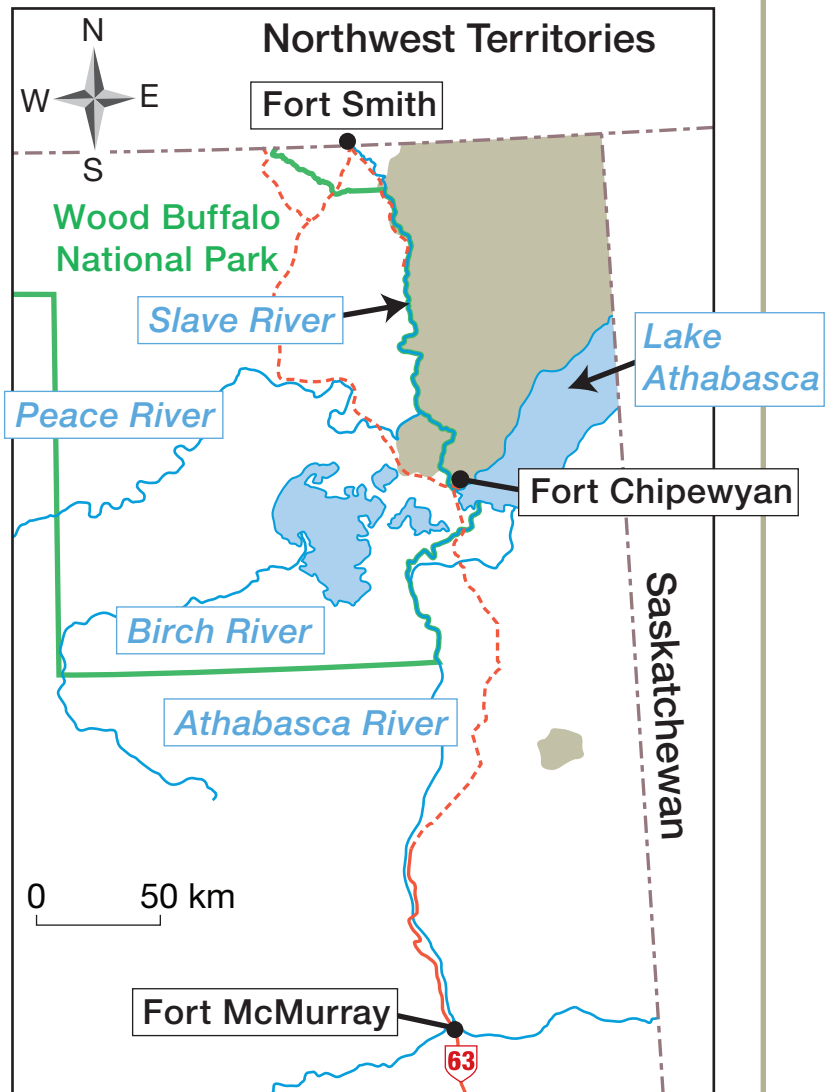
**Legend**

-  Boreal Forest
-  Canadian Shield
-  Foothills
-  Grassland
-  Parkland
-  Rocky Mountain

# Canadian Shield region

This map shows northeastern Alberta. Can you find the Canadian Shield region? Look for the 2 brown areas.

This region covers about 1.5 per cent of the province.



 More on page 2

## Today

✓ About 1,200 people live in this region. Most are Aboriginal:

- Dene (Chipewyan)
- Cree
- Métis

✓ About 1,000 people live in Fort Chipewyan (Fort Chip).



Fort Chip

## The past

✓ Aboriginal people have lived in this region for thousands of years.

✓ In the 1700s, fur traders and explorers arrived.

✓ Fort Chip started as a fur trading post in 1788.



Fort Chip in 1899

## Did you know?

✓ The Canadian Shield is rock. It is about 2 billion years old.

✓ In parts of Canada, you can see the Canadian Shield. The rock is on the surface.

Where can you see the Canadian Shield in Canada? Look at the brown areas on the map.



✓ In parts of Canada, you can't see the Canadian Shield. The rock is below the surface.

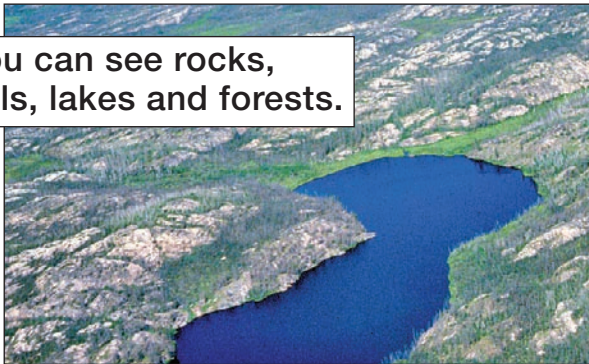
➤ More on page 3

## Land

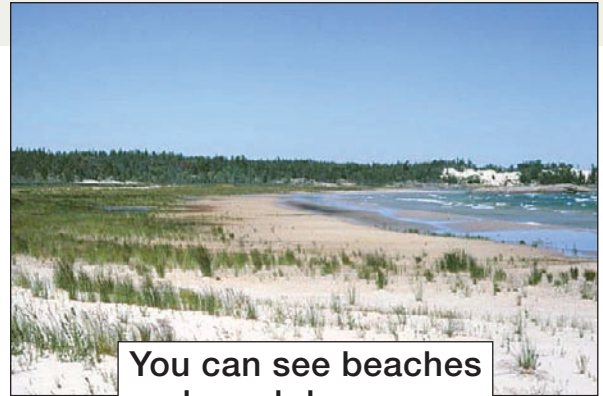
You can see the Canadian Shield in northeastern Alberta. What is this region like?

✓ About 10,000 years ago, glaciers covered the area. They rounded and carved the rocks. The glaciers left sandy areas too.

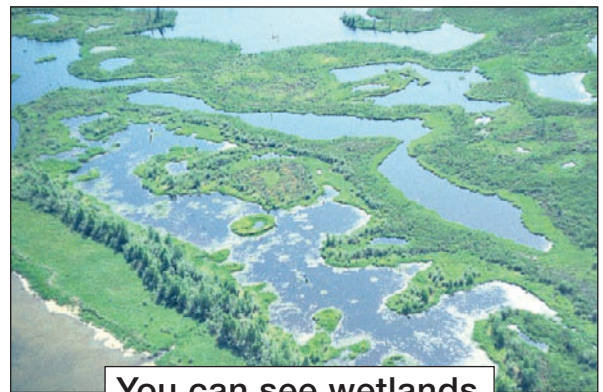
You can see rocks, hills, lakes and forests.



You can see rapids on the Slave River.



You can see beaches and sand dunes.



You can see wetlands.

✓ There is permafrost in some areas. This means the ground is frozen year-round.

In the summer, the ground may thaw near the surface. But the ground is frozen underneath.

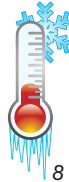
➔ More on page 4

## Climate



✓ Summers are short, warm and dry.

✓ Winters are long and very cold. Many areas get about 145 cm (57 inches) of snow.



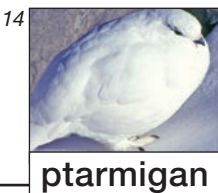
## Animals



✓ Many animals live in the Canadian Shield region year-round. For example:



✓ Some animals live in the region in the summer.



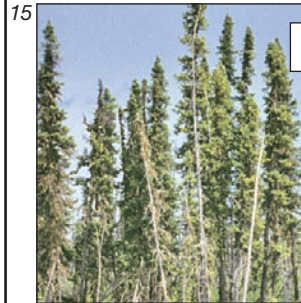
✓ Some animals live in the region in the winter.

## Plants



The Canadian Shield region is rocky. The soil is thin in many areas. What plants grow in this region?

✓ There are forests with trees and shrubs. For example:



✓ Some plants have berries.



✓ Some plants grow on rocks.

➡ More on page 5

## Travel



The Canadian Shield region is a wilderness area. There are only a few roads.

- ✓ People must travel by plane or boat for most of the year.
- ✓ Most food and other supplies come by plane. Some supplies come by boat in the summer. In the winter, trucks bring supplies on winter roads.

21



float plane

### Winter roads

Cars, trucks and buses use winter roads from December to March. Look for the red dotted lines (-----) on the map.

- ✓ The roads go to Fort Smith and Fort McMurray.
- ✓ The roads go over frozen lakes and rivers, and through forests and wetlands.



22

winter road

### ATVs and snowmobiles

People also use snowmobiles and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles).



➡ More on page 6

## Land use

People in the Canadian Shield region have many kinds of jobs. For example:

- They work in schools, in health care and for the government.
- They hunt, fish and trap.
- They have businesses.
- They work for oil, mining and forestry companies.
- They fight forest fires.



### Things to see and do

✓ Tourists come to the region to see the wilderness. They come to fish too.



✓ The Canadian Shield region is beside Wood Buffalo National Park. The park is very important to people in the region.



wood bison

✓ The Fort Chip museum shows the history of the area.



➡ More on page 7

## Land use (continued)

✓ People do many outdoor activities in the summer and winter. For example:

- canoeing
- fishing
- hunting
- riding ATVs



cooking fish and bannock

28



ATV

27

- ice fishing
- cross-country skiing
- playing hockey
- snowmobiling
- snowshoeing
- skating



29

snowmobile

ice fishing derby



30

For more information, go to:  
[www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca](http://www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca)



All maps: Wendy Johnson • Regions of Alberta maps adapted from 2005 Natural Regions and Subregions of Alberta, Government of Alberta • Source: Natural Regions Committee 2006. Natural Regions and Subregions of Alberta. Government of Alberta • Images—1: Mark Elliot; 2: Glenbow Archives (NA-949-46); 3, 4, 6, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19: Archie Landals; 5: Ksenija Vujnovic; 7: ©iStockphoto (browndogstudios); 8: ©iStockphoto (eb75); 9: ©iStockphoto (tulissidesign); 11: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation; 12: Sheryl Olivera; 13: Samantha Stokell; 14: Travel Alberta; 18, 20: Lorna Allen; 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30: Fort McMurray Tourism; 23: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development; 25: Wood Buffalo National Park (John McKinnon) • Unlabelled art: Guy Parsons • Special thanks to Lorna Allen and Archie Landals