SS6G6

TSW explain the impact of location, climate, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Canada.

a. Describe how Canada's location, climate, and natural resources have affected where people live.
Canada is the largest country in the **Western Hemisphere** in land area. It’s the second-largest country by land area in the world.
It’s bound by three oceans: the Atlantic on the east, the Arctic on the north, and the Pacific to the west.
The U.S. state of **Alaska** forms Canada’s western border. From a polar point of view, the country is in an important position between the **U.S.** and **Russia**.
The population of Canada is about 33 million which is small compared to its land area. Mexico has about three times as many people.
Most Canadians live on the southern border with the U.S. About 90% live within 100 miles of this border.
Most Canadians live in **cities** or **towns**. Only about **20%** of the people live in **rural** areas.
Just over half the population lives in one of four zones. The Golden Horseshoe zone lies around the southern end of Lake Ontario and includes Toronto. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of all Canadians live in this zone.
Golden Horseshoe Zone
Another $\frac{1}{4}$ of all Canadians live in the areas of **Montreal**, British Columbia’s Victoria region, southern Vancouver Island, and the **Calgary-Edmonton** area.
The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River provide important **trade routes** into central Canada from the Atlantic Ocean.
Excellent railroads and highways carry goods shipped to either coast.
There are nine major seaports that help Canada to trade with other countries around the world.
CLIMATE OF CANADA
Although Canada is a large country, the **climate** keeps most of its people living in just a few areas.
Most of the southeastern part of Canada has a **humid continental** climate. This zone is between the **subtropical** climate to the south and the **subarctic** climate to the north.
Canada has warm to hot summers and cold winters.
There can be up to **60 inches** of precipitation a year. Snowfall can exceed **100 inches** a year in some parts of eastern Canada.
The climate in the southern and central parts of Canada allows for a long growing season. It’s central plains are important sources of canola (below), wheat and other grains.
The area along the Pacific coast has a **temperate** climate. The **ocean** cools the region in summer and keeps it warm in winter.
This region can get over a 100 inches of rain a year. Most of this precipitation comes in winter.
Moving northward, Canada becomes much **colder**. Few Canadians live in the northern regions because of this.
The subarctic and arctic regions of Canada have long, cold winters and short, cool summers. It's possible to have temperatures below freezing even in the summer.
NATURAL RESOURCES OF CANADA
Canadians have a country that is rich in natural resources which are gifts from nature. Some of the most important are iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, potash, diamonds and silver.
The large numbers of lakes and rivers are an excellent source of fish, fresh water, and hydroelectric power.
Good **soil** allows farmers to grow crops for the people of Canada with enough left over to trade with other countries.
The forests are a major natural resource along with abundant wildlife.
Coal, natural gas, and oil are in large supply as well. Canadians have enough of these energy resources to supply their needs and sell the rest to other countries.
Because many of the natural resources of Canada are found in remote areas, Canadians are spread across their country to be near these resources and the jobs that are created.
Small communities are found across Canada where mining and farming are important. Workers are needed to fish in rivers and at sea.
Goods from mining and fishing are shipped by **rail** or **highway** to the larger cities for trade with other parts of Canada and the world.