

Trade Talk

Canada's trade is impacted by its location, climate, and natural resources. Its location determines its major trading partner, and its climate and natural resources determine what Canada trades.

Because of its location bordering the United States, the United States is Canada's major trading partner. Most of Canada's imports come from the United States, and most of its exports go to the U.S.

Natural Resources of Canada

Canada's economy depends on its natural resources! Minerals are an extremely valuable natural resource in Canada. The Canadian Shield provides nickel, copper, gold, silver, zinc, and uranium. Oil and natural gas are mainly found in the western plains area.



Fishing is a very important industry on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts due to their fertile fishing waters. Massive forests stretch across Canada, providing lumber and pulp (softened wood fibers) to make paper. Wheat is grown in the plains and has made Canada one of the world's major producers of wheat!



After the natural resources have been extracted from the earth, they are then sent to Canadian factories to produce a finished good. About 70 percent of Canada's manufactured goods are produced in the Great Lakes region, where the lakes, rivers, and the St. Lawrence Seaway are used to transport goods to other countries.



Quick Review

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Answer the questions.

1. What industry is supported by oceans on either side of Canada? _____
2. What Canadian natural resource is needed to make paper? _____
3. What important product is grown on Canada's plains? _____
4. List six minerals exported by Canada. _____

5. Manufactured goods are easily transported by the lakes, rivers, and _____
in the Great Lakes area.
6. What country is Canada's major trading partner? _____