



MAP STUDY

Canada is the second largest country in the world. Its huge landmass includes five major geographic regions.

- 1. Location** (a) What is Canada's largest province? (b) Describe the relative location of this province.
- 2. Movement** What waterway provides a major route for trade by connecting the interior of Canada with the Atlantic Ocean?
- 3. Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Canada's geography has limited the size of its population and determined where most people live?

with its own interests. At times, these regional interests clash with national goals, threatening Canada's fragile unity.

The Shape of the Land

Canada sprawls across the northern half of North America, from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific in the west. Its border to the north is the frozen Arctic Ocean. To the south, Canada borders the United States. This boundary line, more than 3,000 miles (4,800 km) long, is the longest undefended border in the world. Covering an area of 3.8 million

square miles (9.9 million sq km), Canada is one of the world's largest countries.

Canada has clearly defined political and physical regions. It is divided into ten provinces and three territories.* Excluding the Arctic Islands, Canada's many landforms shape five distinct geographic regions.

Appalachian region. The most eastern region of Canada lies between the Atlantic

* Nunavut (NOO nah voot) became Canada's third territory in 1999. It is controlled by the Inuits, the native Arctic people. The name means "Our Land" in the Inuit language.

MAP STUDY

French explorers, missionaries, and fur traders helped France claim a large empire in North America by the 1700s.

- 1. Region** What nations claimed territories bordering New France?
- 2. Location** Where did the French build forts to protect their colony?
- 3. Applying Information** Why do you think the Mississippi River was important to French colonists?

New France About 1720

