



HIGHLIGHTS

Canada, the largest country in the Western Hemisphere, has an area of nearly 10 million square kilometres spanning six time zones. Worldwide it is second to the USSR, but bigger than China, the United States or Brazil. Offshore areas include continental margins of about 6.5 million square kilometres.

Canada's territory is diverse, its climate varied. It is washed on three sides by major oceans, the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic, while Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait bite deeply into the continent. The international border between Canada and the United States, including Alaska, is 8 900 km long, with 3 900 km lying along or across water bodies.

Geological studies indicate how, over 3.8 billion years, molten rocks rose from great depths, volcanoes erupted and sediments accumulated. New mountain ranges arose, older mountains were eroded. Shallow seas encroached repeatedly on the continent. Glaciers accumulated and receded. Valuable minerals and fossil fuels became concentrated under favourable circumstances.