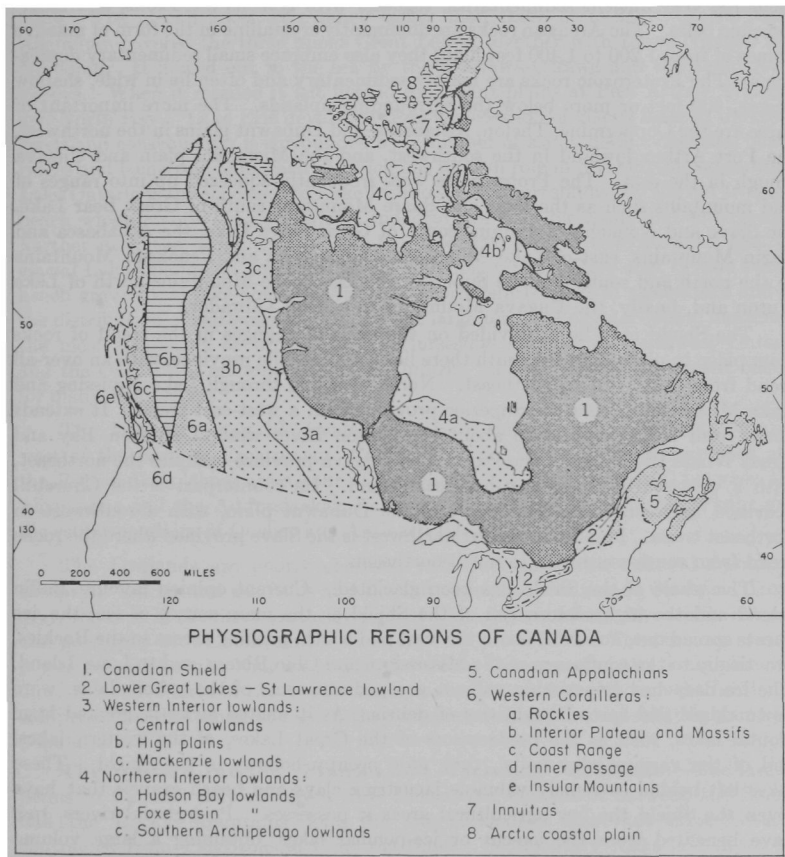


Eight physiographic regions dominate the country: (1) The Canadian Shield; (2) the Lower Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands; (3) the Western Interior Lowlands of the Prairies and the Mackenzie basin; (4) the Northern Interior, that is, Hudson Bay Lowlands and those of the southern Arctic Archipelago; (5) the mountains of the Canadian Appalachians; (6) the Western Cordilleras; (7) the Arctic ranges, the proposed name for which is the Innuitias; and (8) the Arctic Coastal Plain*.



The Canadian Shield.—The Canadian Shield, covering an area of about 1,850,000 sq. miles, or nearly one-half the country, is the core of the continent. Broad in the north, between Davis Strait and the Mackenzie basin, it tapers towards its southern extremity in Minnesota. Its eastern edge is tilted up to present the Torngat Mountains of Labrador and the mountains of Baffin Island, with heights of over 5,000 feet. The southern and western sides form much lower uplands, of from 600 to 1,200 feet. They are broken by faults and end in a zone of lake-filled basins, including the Great Lakes, Winnipeg, Athabasca, Great Slave and Great

* See reference, p. 10.