

Notes - The Environmental Setting of North America

The Land

Landscape has influenced human development.

Canada is ranked 2nd in size and the United States is ranked 3rd.

Together 1/8th of land surface of the earth.

Natural Resources

Bounded by three oceans: Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic.

The region has large fishing and shipping industries.

Large rivers serve as sources of transportation, hydroelectric power, and irrigation.

8 of world's 15 largest lakes are in this region.

Some of the richest soils in the world. This region is the world's leading food exporter.

1/2 of Canada is covered in forests, and about 1/3 of the United States.

The region has large varieties of minerals and fossil fuels.

Climate

Much of northern Canada is permafrost (frozen ground).

This climate is too cold to live in.

Much of southern Canada and the United States have a moderate climate that is good for agriculture and people.