

# Cordillera Region

## Life by the Mountains

What is your favourite animal? Simon Jackson would probably say bears. When he was 13 years old, Simon learned about the Kermode or “spirit” bear. This is a special kind of black bear that lives only on one small part of the coast of British Columbia. About one in ten Kermode bears is pure white.

People were arguing about whether logging should be allowed in the bears’ habitat. Logging provided many jobs, but how would it change the forests where the bears live? Would spirit bears disappear forever?

Simon became an active citizen when he decided to take action to protect the bears. He organized a letter-writing campaign, and made speeches in public. He began the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition, and young people from around the world joined together to help save the spirit bear.

“In April of 2000, people really started listening. I was selected as one of *Time Magazine’s* Sixty Heroes for the Planet—one of only six young people chosen from around the world. It wasn’t that I was a hero—I wasn’t, but what this honour did was give credibility to the spirit bear campaign and it gave credibility to the youth movement that was working to give the spirit bear a voice. Overnight this issue went from a middle school letter writing campaign to a broad-based global issue.”

*Simon Jackson*



# Canada: Our Stories Continue

The forests that are home to the spirit bear are an important part of the Cordillera region. The Cordillera region has towering mountains, fast-flowing rivers, and large forests. There is a long coastline along the Pacific Ocean, where birds, fish, and whales can be found. This region includes the mountains of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, almost all of British Columbia, and most of the Yukon Territory. Here, people have relied on different resources for their food, transportation, and ways of life.

## ? Critical Inquiry TIP

### Retrieving

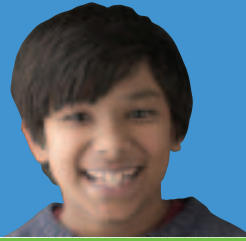
Try organizing what you are learning with a concept map. Print the name of the region in the middle of a page. Add details about the people, land, water, other natural resources, and climate in boxes.

## ? Inquiring Minds

Here are some questions to guide your inquiry for this chapter:

- Identify ways that the landscape of this region affects ways of life.
- What is the balance between the use of natural resources and sustaining the environment in this region?

# Let's Explore the Cordillera Region!



Hello! My name is Sunjeet Gill, but my friends call me Sunny. That's a good nickname because I live in Kamloops, one of the warmest cities in Canada. Kamloops is in a valley in the Cordillera region.



On the coast, people can look for whales.

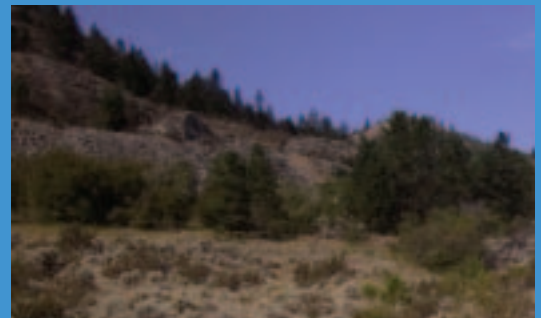


Outdoor activities, such as camping, are very popular in this region. Here, a kayaker enjoys a park at Kluane Lake, in the Yukon.



The town of Smithers developed on a trade route that was used by First Nations and gold miners. What routes are close to Smithers today? Look on the map to find out.

The area around Kamloops is the northern end of a very dry area called the Sonoran desert. How does this area compare to other parts of the region?



## Skill Smart

- Make a Venn diagram comparing the Cordillera region with another region in Canada. Use pictures and words. What does the diagram show about the two different regions of Canada?



The busy port of Vancouver links Canada to Japan, China, South Korea, and other places around the Pacific Ocean.



# The Cordillera Region

## words matter!

A **delta** is a broad, flat area of land formed where a river drains into a large body of water.



First Nations groups in this region have traditionally used cedar in their carvings. Today, artist Pawl Victor Auges carries on the tradition.



The Cordillera region has some of the most popular ski resorts in North America. What kinds of activities could people do in the mountains in summer?

A **cordillera** is a chain of mountains. There are many different chains of mountains in Canada's Cordillera region. In between the mountains, there are fertile valleys, lakes, and rolling hills. On the coast, there are deep harbours, sheltered waterways, and **deltas**. The region also includes very old forests, rivers, deserts, and beaches. There are more different kinds of plants and animals here than anywhere else in Canada. The weather varies throughout the region—rainy, hot and dry, or snowy.

## Roots of the Region

The rich resources of the land and water provided for the needs of the First Nations who have always lived in this region. When French, British, and other European explorers came to the region, they used the waterways and oceans to travel.

As the region developed, many communities were built around resources. The discovery of gold brought people who wanted to work gold claims. Forestry and fishing camps also grew into towns, and sometimes cities. The mild temperatures and fertile soil of the valleys drew farmers and people to work in orchards.

## Why People Live Here Today

More than 100 different First Nations groups have always lived in this region. The descendants of people who settled here in the past, as well as people who move here today, also live in this region.

Logging, fishing, mining, ranching, tourism, and oil and gas exploration helped build communities. Farmers grow peaches, herbs, and grapes in the valleys. Many people enjoy the mild climate and beautiful natural areas.

# What Affects Quality of Life?

Here is how the land, water, other natural resources, and climate affect quality of life for some people in the Cordillera region.



People come to this region from all over the world to see the beaches and the rainforest. Surfing is a popular pastime.



Barkerville was once the largest town in Western Canada. Now, it is a historic site. Tourists can ride in the stagecoach and learn about life in Gold Rush times.



Each February, the city of Victoria has an official flower count. The mild climate on the south coast means that daffodils are blooming while some other Canadians are still shovelling snow. Many people retire in Victoria because of its pleasant climate.

## Thinking It Through

- Many communities in this region are on islands. They can only be reached by plane or boat. How would this affect people and businesses? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of living on an island?



# Sunjeet's Inquiry

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I'm writing this blog while I'm with my family in Vancouver. When I get home, I'm going to share my information with my class. Today, we took a bike ride around the seawall at Stanley Park. We saw ships from all over the world entering the harbour. You don't see ships that big in Kamloops!

We also watched the dragon boat races in False Creek, which is an inlet of the Pacific Ocean in Vancouver. I noticed that the people rowing the traditional Chinese boats were from many different cultures. There were also many languages being spoken in the crowd. I recognized some of them, but not all!



People have to work together to row the dragon boats in False Creek. What is the history behind this event?

I have some questions about the people living in Vancouver:

- Who lives here?
- What kind of jobs do they have? What do they do for fun?
- How do the people use the ocean, land, and mountains?

### **Skill Smart**

- As a class, brainstorm some questions you have about the Cordillera region. Record them on chart paper. Display the questions on a bulletin board so you can refer to them as you go through this chapter.

## Using Electronic Information

The Internet can be a great source of information, but how can you make sure that the information you find is true?

When researching on the Internet, look for

- three or four sites that give the same information
- Web sites that have been recently updated
- addresses that contain *edu* or *gov*. This means they are educational or government Web sites
- Web sites that show where they got the information (they show sources)

Remember that Web sites set up by only one person are more likely to contain opinions rather than facts. Carefully comparing several Web sites that discuss the same topic is a good way to decide if the information is reliable.

### Practise the Skill

Choose one of the questions you wrote down about this region to research on the Internet.

#### Step 1

Input two or three keywords to start your Internet search. Make a list of five Web sites your search engine turns up. List the Web sites that seem reliable by copying and pasting the Web sites onto a Word document.

#### Step 2

From the first site, select two pieces of information. Record these, making sure to show the address of the Web site. It might look like this:

<http://vancouver.ca/aboutvan.htm>

- Vancouver is Host City of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- Vancouver's climate is one of the mildest in Canada.

#### Step 3

Compare these to the information you find on the other sites. Do the different sites say the same thing? If so, then your information is likely to be true. If not, then you need to do further research.



# Who First Lived in the Cordillera Region?



I wonder why people speak so many different languages in this region in the past and today.

Although the Cordillera region is fairly small, more than 100 different First Nations live here. First Nations living in different parts of the region developed different languages and ways of life. Although there was some trade between groups, they did not live close together. Groups also developed ways of life that suited their environment. Life was different in the northern mountains, compared to life on the coast.

## First Nations of the Coast

The First Nations of the coast are closely connected to the forests, rivers, and ocean. In the spring, summer, and fall, families travelled from one village or camp to another within their territories. Areas were chosen that were good for fishing, hunting, gathering berries, or growing plants. In the winter, people gathered in large winter villages.

### Skill Smart

- Check the map on pages 336–337 of the atlas section. What First Nations live in this region? Where did each group live?

### Thinking It Through

- The First Nations of this region also developed a way to harvest cedar planks without killing the tree. Why do you think it was important to not kill the tree?

## Voices of Canada

### Tree of Life

Look at me friend!  
I come to ask for your dress,  
For you to have pity on us;  
For there is nothing for which  
you cannot be used...  
For you are really willing to give  
us your dress,  
I come to beg you for this,  
Long-life maker  
For I am going to make a basket  
for lily-roots out of you.

*Prayer of Kwakwaka'wakw women  
before taking bark from cedar tree—  
from the Royal BC Museum*



What else do you think the tree was used for? Why do you think the First Nations would call the cedar the “tree of life”?

The First Nations living on the coast have always had a strong relationship with the sea. It was a source of food and a way to travel. The Haida First Nation built canoes that could be taken onto the ocean, and often travelled long distances. Many kinds of fish, plants, and animals like seals were used for food.

Read “Haida Culture” on this page. What can you learn about Guujaaw’s relationship with the land?

## First Nations of the Inland Areas

First Nations groups living inland, away from the coast, developed their own ways of living. For example, the Secwepemc [shuh-kwep-im] people built pit-houses in winter. These sheltered them from the cold. They made summer homes from bulrushes or animal hides.



### Voices of Canada

#### *Haida Culture*

Haida culture is not simply song and dance, graven images, stories, language or even blood. It is all of those things and then... waking up on Haida Gwaii anticipating the season when the herring spawns. It is a feeling you get when you bring a feed of cockles to the old people, and when you are fixing up fish for the smokehouse, or when walking on barnacles or moss.

*Guujaaw, Haida artist*



### Voices of Canada

#### *Hunting in the Interior*

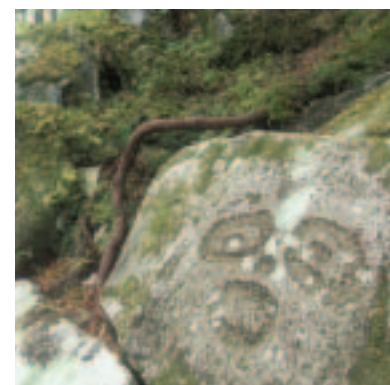
Deer had many uses. The meat was eaten fresh and smoke-dried. The brains were used when tanning deer hides to make buckskin. Root-digging sticks were made from the deer’s antlers. Awls, made from the deer’s shinbones, were used by the women when they were weaving baskets. The deer was our most important animal.

*Sam Mitchell, Salish First Nations*

### More About . . .

#### **Chinook Jargon**

“Chinook Jargon” is the name given to a special language that was developed among the different First Nations groups of this region. It was a language that included words from many different groups, and it was easy to learn. This way, there was one common language for the groups to use if they met with each other. Later, as European traders came to the region, French and English words were added. Often, the traders would learn and use Chinook Jargon as well.



Scientists can tell from these petroglyphs that the Secwepemc First Nation lived in this area. What else can the petroglyphs tell us about the past?

## words matter!

The word **potlatch** originally comes from Chinook Jargon. It means “to give.”

### Thinking It Through

- Discuss the quotes on this page about the potlatch. Why do you think it was important for the ban to be fought?

## The Potlatch

A **potlatch** is an important event for some First Nations of the Cordillera region. It is a celebration that brings communities together to eat, sing, dance, and tell stories. Giving gifts at a potlatch ensured that the wealth of the community was shared. This was important in times of need. The potlatch is the centre of life.

European missionaries did not like the potlatch. They campaigned to have the potlatch banned. In 1884, the Canadian government passed a law that banned the potlatch.

First Nations fought against the law for many years. They believed that they had a right to observe their own laws. As one Kwakwaka'wakw chief said in 1896, “It is a strict law that bids us to distribute our property among our friends and neighbours. It is a good law.” In 1951, the ban was lifted. The potlatch is once again an important part of life in many First Nations communities.



### Voices of Canada

#### The Potlatch

The Europeans didn't understand that [the potlatch] aimed towards giving to family and the community and against personal gain.

*Kevin Cramner, Kwakwaka'wakw artist*



Potlatches were still held in secret throughout the ban. This potlatch took place in Alert Bay, in 1900.

## Making a Difference

### The Commissioner's Potlatch

Judy Gingell was the first First Nations Commissioner for the Yukon Territory. In 1998, she and the Yukon Elder's Council held the first Commissioner's Potlatch in Whitehorse. It was a celebration, with dancers, singers, storytellers, and a feast. The event was open to the public, and it was free. Judy Gingell has said that the potlatches were a common part of life for the First Nations in the Yukon, when people would get together and socialize. She knew that the potlatches were also events that passed on knowledge of First Nations ways of life, and that this made it important to share the potlatches with everyone. Today, the Commissioner's Potlatch is an annual event.



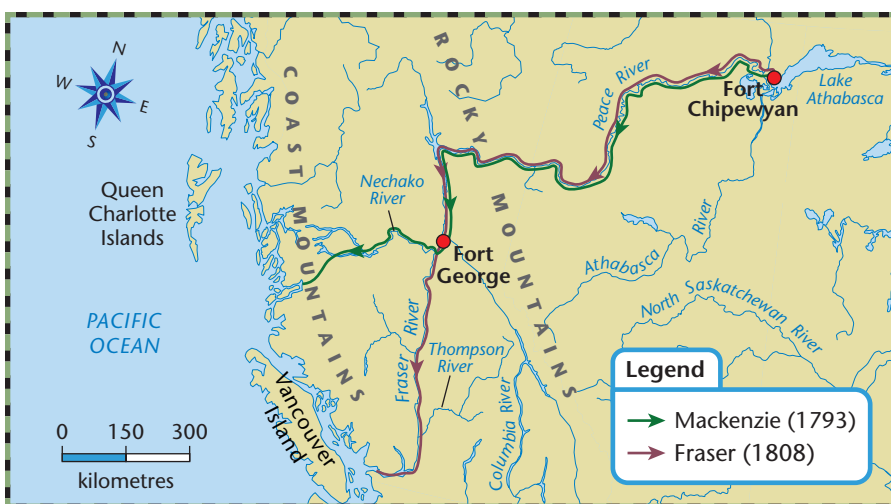
# Who Were the First Europeans to Come to This Region?

In the late 1700s, British explorer James Cook came to the Cordillera region by ship. He was looking for a route between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, and had sailed north along the coast. At Yuquot, on Nootka Island, he met with the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations. Later, George Vancouver, one of Cook's officers, returned to further explore the region.

Europeans travelling across the land also came. Alexander Mackenzie was sent by the North West Company to find new sources of furs. Canoeing along rivers and travelling across the mountains in 1793, he became the first European to reach the Pacific Ocean by travelling across Canada.

Simon Fraser also explored this region for the North West Company. He built forts, such as Fort George, which would become the city of Prince George. In the early 1800s, he travelled farther west, down a river that would later be named after him. Eventually Fraser would follow that river to the Pacific Ocean.

**Routes of Mackenzie and Fraser**



Fraser and Mackenzie both travelled by canoe, on rivers that were very dangerous. Why did one explorer follow a route north and the other south?



Yuquot became known as “Friendly Cove.” Why would it have gotten that name?



## Voices of Canada

### *First Encounter*

*What was the reaction of the First Nations when Captain Cook arrived on Vancouver Island?*

When Captain Cook first landed in Nootka Sounds, the [people] didn't know what on earth [the ship] was. The Chief told them to try to understand what those people wanted and what they were after.

Captain Cook must have told his crew to give the warriors some biscuits, and they started saying amongst themselves that they're friendly. Those people up there are friendly. We should be nice to them.

*Winifred David,  
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations*

## More About . . .

### British Names

Many of the place names in this region reflect British influence. Some examples are British Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria, Prince Rupert, and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

## Two New Colonies

British mapmaker David Thompson, who explored the Canadian Shield and the Interior Plains, also explored the Cordillera region for the North West Company. He mapped much of this region.

After joining the North West Company in 1821, the Hudson's Bay Company controlled most of what is now British Columbia. They set up trading posts, and in 1843 they built Fort Victoria. It is now the city of Victoria, on Vancouver Island.

Over time, two colonies developed under the direction of James Douglas, an HBC employee. One was on Vancouver Island, and was called the Colony of Vancouver Island. The other, on the mainland, was called New Caledonia.

**THEN AND NOW**



Fort Victoria, founded by the HBC, would be the capital of both the Colony of Vancouver Island and the colony of New Caledonia. The city of Victoria is now the capital of British Columbia. What can you tell about Victoria in the past and in the present from these two pictures?

### ? Critical Inquiry TIP

#### Retrieving

If you type *Simon Fraser* when searching on the Internet, you will find Web sites that include "Simon" or "Fraser." To find information about the explorer, put quotation marks around "Simon Fraser" and include the word *explorer* in your search.

## Francophones in the Cordillera

The voyageurs were the first Francophones to come to this region. They travelled with explorer Alexander Mackenzie in the 1790s.

By the 1800s, Francophones made up more than half of the population of settlers in the region. The region's first newspaper, *The Victoria Gazette*, was followed by first French-language newspaper, *Le Courier de la Nouvelle Caledonie*, in the 1850s.

In 1889, a Francophone community called Maillardville developed near a sawmill on the Fraser River. Francophones from many parts of Canada moved to the community to work. Today, Maillardville is a part of Coquitlam, near Vancouver. There are streets named after Francophone settlers and bilingual signs.

Associations and organizations throughout the region work to bring together and support the Francophone community. There are French schools in Campbell River, Kelowna, and Prince George, to name a few. The British Columbia Family French Camp gives families with children of all ages the chance to camp and use French in a fun outdoor setting every summer.

## Francophone Missionaries

In the mid-1800s, Roman Catholic missionaries started coming to this region to minister to people's spiritual, health, and education needs. In 1842, a Francophone priest, Father Demers, visited the interior of British Columbia, meeting many First Nations people. He later became the first Catholic bishop of Vancouver Island.

## The Mercier Brothers

The Mercier brothers were born in Montréal. François-Xavier and Moïse Mercier left home at 18 to join the fur trade, and worked with the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1869, François-Xavier built some of the first trading posts in the Yukon.

Soon François-Xavier became known as the "King of the Fur Trade" in the North.

How do you think the Mercier brothers influenced the fur trade in the Yukon?



The Nanaimo **Bastion** was built in 1853 by the HBC, using French-Canadian construction methods. Léon Labine and Jean-Baptiste Fortier, both from Québec, designed the building. The main source of income at this fort was from coal, not furs. Find Nanaimo on the map on page 159 and discuss why.

### words matter!

**Bastion** is a word that means "stronghold." Protection often is provided by a natural rock formation.

# The Chinese and the CPR

## Skill Smart

- Find historic photos of the building of the railway. What do the photos tell you about the lives of the workers? Write a paragraph to share your thoughts.

In the late 1800s, the Canadian Pacific Railway was already being built in the Interior Plains region. The mountains of the Cordillera region were a challenge for the railway builders, and there were not enough workers. So the CPR hired thousands of workers from China.

## Gold Mountain

The Chinese men who came to British Columbia called the province “Gold Mountain.” Many came after hearing rumours of gold, which had already been discovered in the province. However, most of these men would work for the railway.

It was hard, dangerous work. Thousands of Chinese men worked on the railway, and hundreds died. The Chinese men were paid less than the European workers, and were expected to do some of the most dangerous work.

Read how Mary Chan describes what her grandfather told her about his life in the railway camps.

Even though the work was dangerous and they were paid less, thousands of Chinese people still accepted jobs with the CPR. The wages were still better than what they earned in China. What does this say about their quality of life at that time?

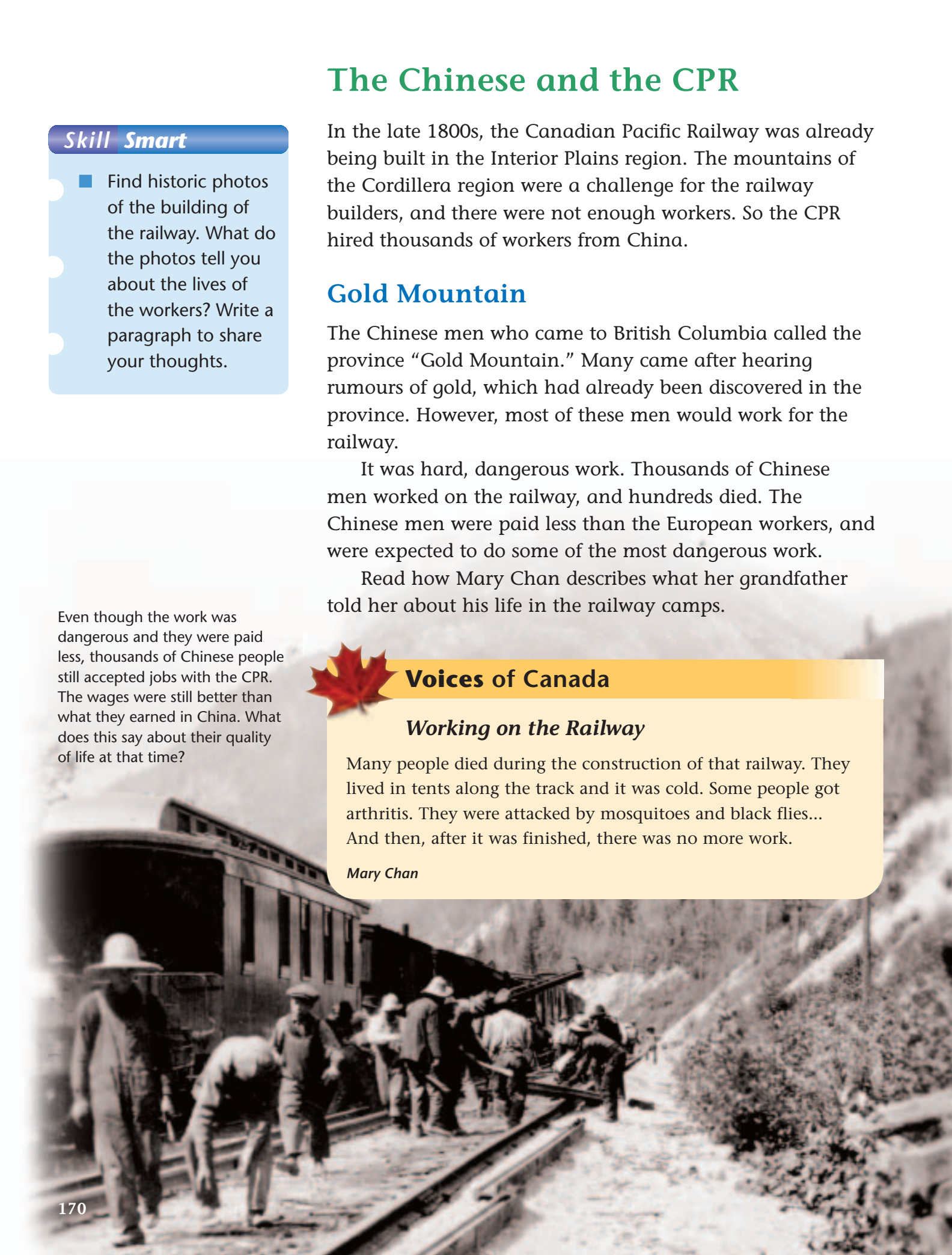


## Voices of Canada

### *Working on the Railway*

Many people died during the construction of that railway. They lived in tents along the track and it was cold. Some people got arthritis. They were attacked by mosquitoes and black flies... And then, after it was finished, there was no more work.

*Mary Chan*



## The Head Tax

Once the railway was finished, the Chinese were no longer welcomed in Canada. To stop more Chinese people from coming into Canada, the government required Chinese immigrants to pay what was called a “head tax.” At first, each Chinese person entering Canada had to pay \$50. This tax was later raised to \$100 and then to \$500. This was equal to the amount of money a Chinese immigrant could make in Canada after two years of work. How do you think this affected the Chinese people who wished to move to Canada?

The Chinese workers who stayed after the railway was built and those who came afterward worked in such jobs as forestry, fish canning, and coal mining. Other Chinese immigrants opened service businesses such as restaurants, stores, and laundries.

## The Chinese Community Today

Today, the Chinese community in the Cordillera region is one of the largest in Canada. New Chinese immigrants continue to arrive from places such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China. About 70 percent of those newcomers settle in cities, such as Vancouver, Richmond, and Coquitlam.

People coming from China today include entrepreneurs, investors, and the self-employed. They create business in real estate, hotels, and advertising, making a large contribution to the region’s economy. There are now three newspapers, two radio stations, and two television channels available in Chinese.



Examine this document carefully. How much did this man pay to enter Canada? Why would he still come?



### Voices of Canada

#### *The Cheng Interchange*

*The Cheng Interchange in Kamloops honours Chinese workers who helped build the CPR.*

Our grandfather was just one of many Chinese men who worked on this railway. These men accepted the risks involved and many perished; but most survived. Our family was fortunate that our grandfather not only survived, but also prospered after working for the CPR.

*Kevan Jangze, Cheng Ging Butt's descendant*





I wonder when the first Japanese people came to this region.



Japanese people, such as these shopkeepers in Victoria, often began their own businesses.

## The Japanese Create Opportunities

The first Japanese settler in Canada was nineteen-year-old Manzo Nagano, who stowed away on a British ship in 1877. In 1977, the one hundredth anniversary of his arrival, the Canadian government celebrated the event by naming a mountain after Nagano. Mount Manzo Nagano is part of the Coast Mountains range.

Other Japanese immigrants followed. Some Japanese families settled along the Fraser River. They worked in canneries. This was hard work, but it allowed families to save enough money to invest in other businesses.

## The Japanese Internment

During the Second World War (1939–1945), Japan was at war with the Allied countries, including Canada. Japanese people living in Canada were regarded as the enemy, even though many of them were Canadian citizens and had never been to Japan. In the Cordillera region, Japanese people were sent to internment camps in the interior of British Columbia. Their property, including their homes and businesses, was taken by the government.

When the war ended, the Japanese Canadians were released. Some moved to Japan. Others began their businesses again.

### Thinking It Through

- How do you think experiences like the ones described here might shape the identity of Japanese Canadians?



## Voices of Canada

### Japanese-Canadian Family Memories

*Aya Higashi was born in British Columbia. Here, she talks about her life before and after the internment.*

My father was in charge of the fleet of fishing boats for the cannery. He fished only to take us out for the fun of fishing (we loved those outings) or to bring home salmon for the table.

[After the internment] everyone was scattered. You never knew where you were going and the people who were left behind didn't know if we would ever see each other again. There were heartbreaks.

*Aya Higashi, Kaslo*

## The Sikhs Build Communities

In the early 1900s, several thousand Sikhs came to Vancouver from India. They had heard about the opportunities for work in Canada and wanted to make money for their families. Once in Canada, Sikhs took jobs in railway construction, forestry, and the lumber mills.

Despite poor treatment and poor pay, Sikhs stayed and built communities. In 1908, the first Sikh temple was built in Vancouver. This temple, and many others after it, would become the centre of Sikh communities. The temples were both places of worship and important social and community centres.



Some Sikh men worked in sawmills in British Columbia. This photo was taken in the 1940s on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

## The Komagata Maru

In 1908, the Canadian government passed a law called the Continuous Passage Act. This law stated that anyone who wished to emigrate from India to Canada could only do so if they came directly by ship, without stopping at any other port. Since no ships sailed directly from India to Canada, this law made sure that no more Indian people could come to Canada.

A man named Gurdit Singh thought this policy was wrong. In 1914, he arranged passage to Canada on a ship called the *Komagata Maru*. But when they reached Canada, they were still refused. After two months of waiting and arguing, the ship was sent away. Only 24 of the 400 passengers were allowed off the ship.



### Voices of Canada

#### *The Temple*

*Why would building the Vancouver Sikh Temple be a priority for the new community?*

Our elders built this temple. There was a lot of bush and forest that had to be cleared first, big huge trees cut and cleared away by hand. It was a lot of work, but they built this temple with pride so that we would have a place of our own here.

*Dhan Kaur Johal, 1908*



The *Komagata Maru*, 1914

# How Are Natural Resources Used in the Cordillera Region?



How do natural resources affect where people live in this region?

Natural resources played an important role in the development of the Cordillera region. As you have seen, resources were important to the First Nations people. Natural resources also provided jobs and opportunities for other people who settled in the region.

## Fishing

Do you like to eat salmon? The Pacific Ocean and the many rivers and lakes of the Cordillera region are a good source of fish, especially salmon. Most salmon are caught at the mouths of rivers, because they travel from the ocean and into the rivers to spawn, or deposit their eggs.

Fish are exported from this region to places all over the world. The fishing industry provides thousands of jobs for people here. However, because there is so much fishing, the number of some types of fish is decreasing.



Pacific salmon can be found in this region. What other kinds of fish can be caught here?

## Hydroelectricity

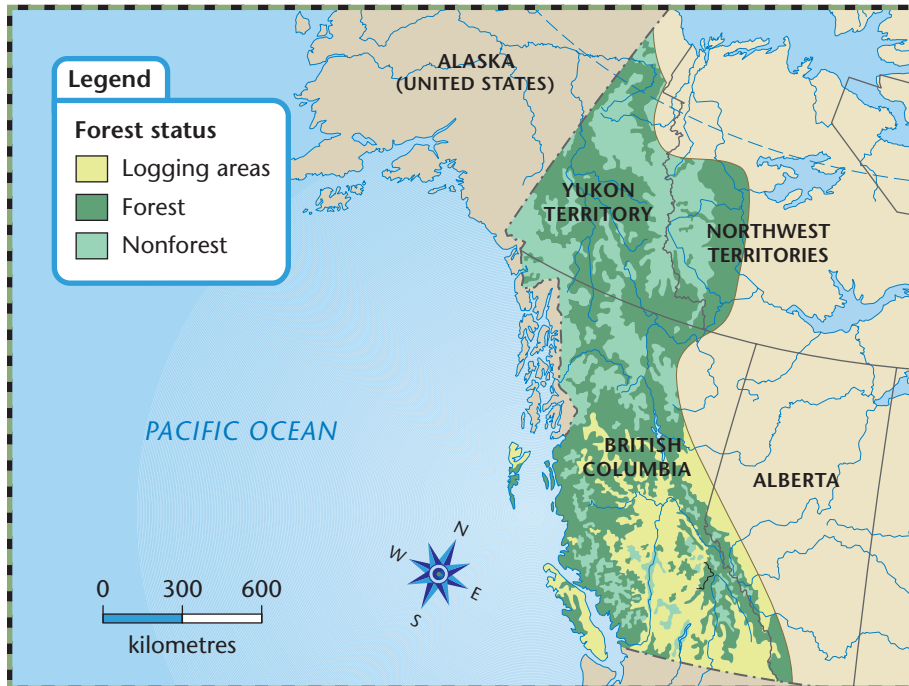
The many rivers in this region are good sources for hydroelectric power. Factories that use electricity to operate have been built in the cities close to the hydroelectric plants. These factories, as well as the dams, provide people with jobs.

In order to supply hydroelectric power to the city of Kitimat, part of the Fraser River was dammed. The water was sent through a tunnel in the mountains. This blocked the salmon from spawning. This led to fewer salmon.



This is the hydroelectric dam on the Kootenay River. What other effects would a dam have on the environment?

# Forestry

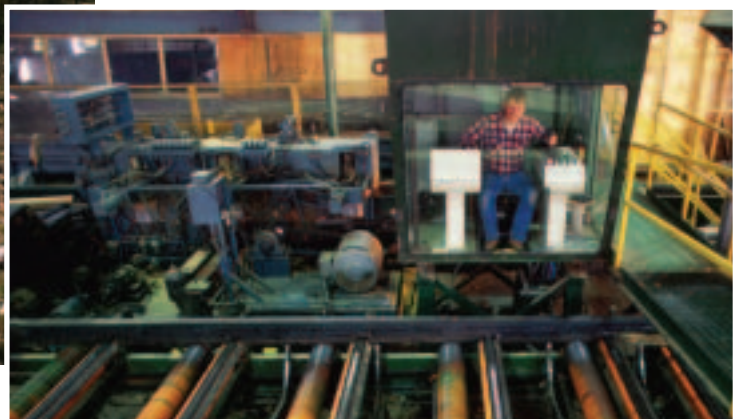


This map shows forestry areas in this region.

With much of the region covered in forests, the forestry industry has always been important. In the mid-1800s, lumber mills supplied wood for building the fast-growing towns. Now both wood and paper are exported to countries all around the Pacific Ocean. The Cordillera region helps make Canada the largest exporter of forest products in the world.



Clear-cutting is the removal of all trees in an area. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this method?



A worker operates the conveyor belt to move boards in a Delta, B.C. sawmill. What are other jobs created by forestry?



## Voices of Canada

### *Cordillera Forests*

Along the river in places are very fine woods of larch, red fir, alder, maple, and other woods: of the larch, at five and a half feet above the ground I measured one thirteen foot girth and one hundred and fifty feet clean growth, and then a fine head. This is one of many hundreds. I could not help thinking what fine timber for the Navy [exists] in these forests...

*David Thompson*

### *Skill Smart*

- Research “clear-cutting” and “select cutting.” Use a Cause and Effect chart to compare the two and determine your viewpoint.

## Should the Government Allow Clear-Cutting in Rainforests?

Old-growth rainforests have never been logged before. They are home to many types of wildlife and have trees that do not grow anywhere else in Canada.

You read about the Kermode bear in the opening story of this chapter. Animals such as the Kermode bear and some plants live only in rainforests. These are forests that grow along the West Coast. Because of the mild, wet climate here, trees in these forests can live for more than a thousand years. Rainforests are often important spiritual places for coastal First Nations.

Logging is a very important industry in the Cordillera region. Everyone agrees that logging should be done carefully, so that the forests stay healthy. But people have different views on what this means. Clear-cutting is a method that many people debate.





Stopping logging in the Fraser Valley would have huge effects on a large number of people.

*Bruce Fraser, Forest Practices Board*

Back in the old days, [people valued] timber, employment, and wealth—and that kind of forestry gave people what they wanted. Now society wants protection of nature, and that means forestry has to change.

*Hamish Kimmins, ecologist*

Forests should be left alone. We need to take a few cedars to make canoes and build longhouses. But the areas that have been logged don't always come back. Some logged areas have just gone dead.

*Corbett George, Ahousaht First Nation Elder*



Re-growing these sorts of [forests] isn't a problem. Most of the saplings that are growing on this site won't have been planted, they'll be regenerating naturally.

*Andy Mackinnon, ecologist*

The spotted owl is an old-growth dependent species. [We have] a special resource management area for the spotted owl, and the government has allowed logging in that area.

*Gwen Barlee, Western Canada Wilderness Committee*

## Over to You

1. In a small group, identify the different points of view. What are some logging challenges? Do any of the points of view show bias? How?
2. What are some possible solutions to the challenges discussed? Use technology to keep a record of your suggestions.

## words matter!

**Wildfires** are grass or forest fires that are not set on purpose.

# Natural Disaster: Forest Fire

With all of the forests in the Cordillera region, a fire can cause a lot of damage. That is just what happened in the summer of 2003, when a bolt of lightning set fire to trees on a rocky slope above Okanagan Lake. Within minutes, 911 took the first calls from anxious cottagers across the lake. They had good reason to be concerned.

The southern Cordillera region was suffering the driest summer in almost 75 years. **Wildfires** were already burning in many areas.

By mid-afternoon, the fire was out of control. It was headed toward the city of Kelowna. By the time it had burned out almost three weeks later, the blaze had destroyed 256 square kilometres of forest land. It had forced 30 000 people out of their homes. It had destroyed 238 houses—223 of them in a single night!



## Voices of Canada

### Disaster

It was scary when we heard a couple of firefighters were trapped. We thought it was [my dad]—he was working in the same area.

*Lucas Belgrove, 14 year old*

### Helping Out

People sure came together. It taught us that “love thy neighbour” really means something.

*Alisa Brownlee, resident who lost her home*



It took thousands of firefighters, loggers, heavy equipment operators, and Canadian Forces personnel to put out the fires that burned for weeks around Kelowna.

## The Community Responds

More than 1000 volunteers worked together to help people who were affected by the fires. They donated food, clothing, shelter, and money. Kelowna’s mayor, Walter Gray, said, “While tragedy struck and destroyed hundreds of our neighbours’ homes, we still have so much to be thankful for. Most importantly, we lost no lives.”

# Mining

In the Cordillera region, there are more than 14 000 mineral deposits! This region is the largest producer of copper in Canada. The many mines and mineral quarries provide lots of jobs for people in this region. Quarries are open pits from which minerals or stones are dug.

Many of the mining towns in the Cordillera region have gone through the natural resources cycle. When much of the coal was used up in the early 1900s, some mines had to close. People had to find new jobs, so many moved away. Later, new methods were developed to obtain coal in other areas. This led to the growth of new towns.

The huge smelter-refinery at Trail processes ore from British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.

## Some Mining Areas in the Cordillera



Use an atlas to find out which towns have been built near these resources.





## More About...

### Quesnel

The Quesnel River, Quesnel Lake, and the town of Quesnel are named after Jules Maurice Quesnel, a Canadian who travelled with Simon Fraser when he was exploring the Fraser River in 1808.

### words matter!

**Prospectors** are people who search for valuable minerals such as gold.



Skookum Jim Mason, a member of the Tagish First Nation, became very rich mining gold on Bonanza Creek. He would later leave money to support other First Nations people living in the Yukon.

## The Cariboo Gold Rush

In 1861, gold was discovered in a creek near a town called Quesnel. This was the beginning of the “Cariboo Gold Rush.” Several towns grew around this gold rush, such as Barkerville, which is now a heritage site. Getting the gold out of the area proved to be a big challenge. The Cariboo Wagon Road was created just for this. It was a project that took engineers and other workers years to finish.



The Trans-Canada Highway now follows much of the old route of the Cariboo Wagon Road through the Fraser Canyon.


## The Yukon Gold Rush

On August 16, 1896, **prospectors** named George and Kate Carmack, and Kate’s brother, “Skookum” Jim Mason, discovered gold in a creek that ran into the Klondike River in the Yukon. The creek would later be called Bonanza Creek. However, only George Carmack would receive credit for the discovery.

News of the gold discovery travelled fast. Within weeks, people came to “the Klondike” from many parts of North America, hoping to find gold and get rich. About 100 000 people came to the area within a few years! It is not surprising that this period is called the Gold Rush.

Some people became wealthy finding gold. More often, though, people lost everything because they had spent all of their money travelling to the isolated region. If they could not find gold, they had to find other ways to survive. Many left the region after the Gold Rush. In Dawson City, the population dropped from 40 000 to less than 5000 in just a few years.

**THEN AND NOW**



Dawson City was founded in 1896. Within six months there were already 500 houses.

Today, Dawson City has a population of about 2000 people. That number changes when 60 000 tourists come to see the city every year!

## What's in a Name?

Dawson City was not the only town built for all the newcomers during the Gold Rush. Towns and some landforms got new names. Here are a few of the place names from that period:

**Forty Mile**

**Bonanza**

**Quesnel**

**WOUNDED MOOSE**

**GOLDBOTTOM**

**Champagne**

### **Skill Smart**

- Choose one of the place names above. Then do some research to find out more about the place. Is it still there? Why was it given its name? Has it changed over time?



In 1999, the Klondike Snowmobile

Association and the Territorial Government signed an agreement to make the Dempster Highway part of the Trans Canada Trail. That makes this part of the trail the only one to cross the Arctic Circle! It starts just east of Dawson City, and connects to the Arctic Ocean more than 500 km to the north. Find Dawson City on the map on page 159.

## People of the Klondike

Many people came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush and made their homes there. People came from all over Canada and the United States. They also came from other countries, such as Britain.

Robert Service came to Canada from England when he was 21 years old. In Whitehorse, Service wrote poetry about the Yukon and the Gold Rush. Read part of his poem called “*The Spell of the Yukon.*” How do you think he felt about the region?



## Voices of Canada

### *A British Poet in the Yukon*

There's gold, and it's haunting and haunting;  
It's luring me on as of old;  
Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting  
So much as just finding the gold.  
It's the great, big, broad land way up yonder,  
It's the forests where silence has lease;  
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,  
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

### Skill Smart

- Think about the resources and physical geography of the Yukon and the needs of people. Make a web showing jobs, other than mining, that might be available in the Yukon.



Émilie Tremblay was born in Québec. She and her husband came to the Yukon in 1894. They mined gold, and Émilie also owned a clothing store. Émilie was well known for her commitment to her community. She founded organizations, welcomed travellers and missionaries into her home, and knitted socks for soldiers during World War I. A Francophone school in Whitehorse is named after her. How else might Francophone settlers have affected life in the Yukon?

# Why Were the North-West Mounted Police Sent to the Yukon?

Towns grew quickly during the Gold Rush. There was no police force. A missionary in the Yukon wrote in 1893: “Oh, for some police or anyone to keep order!”

In 1894, the North-West Mounted Police were sent to the Yukon to bring order during the Gold Rush. New offices were built in every major mining area of the Yukon. The North-West Mounted Police dealt with thousands of people, settling disputes and maintaining order.



I think that the North-West Mounted Police helped make the Yukon a good place for people to live. What might have happened if they didn't come?

What does the need for the presence of the North-West Mounted Police in the Yukon tell about life in that area, at that time?



## Voices of Canada

### *Lack of Law*

Neither law nor order prevailed; honest persons had no protection from the gang of rascals...

Might was right; murder, robbery, and petty theft were common occurrences.

*Sir Sam Steele*



## Skill Smart

- How might different people, such as traders, business owners, or miners, have reacted to the arrival of the NWMP? Create a chart to record your thoughts.

# What Are Ways of Life in the Cordillera Region Today?

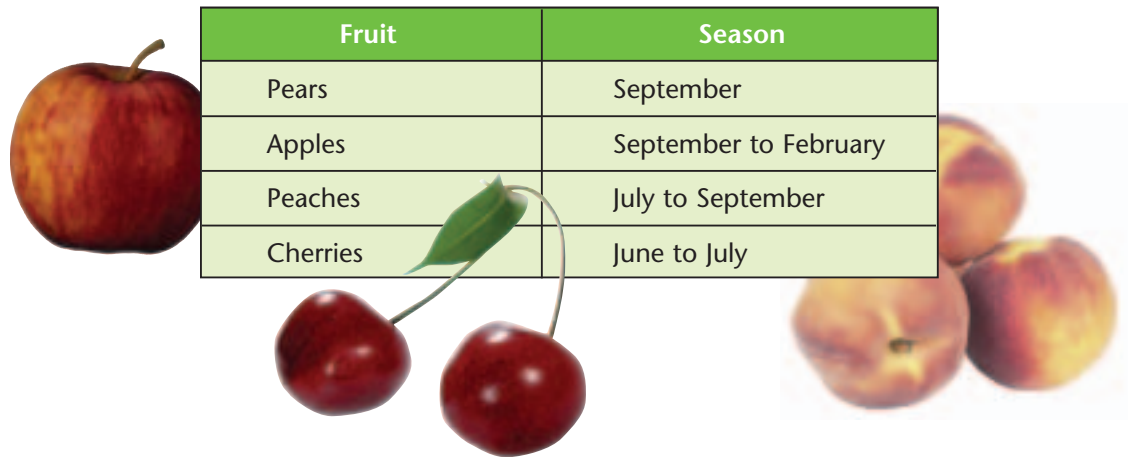
Ways of life in the Cordillera region can be very different, depending on where people live.

## Life Inland

Only a tiny part of the Cordillera region is good for farming. However, this region produces five percent of Canada's fruit and vegetables!

Have you ever bitten into a juicy peach? Perhaps it came from British Columbia's Okanagan Valley! The fertile soil in this valley is good for growing fruit, so there are many orchards and vineyards. There is not much rain in this part of the region, though. Water from the many lakes in the valley is used to irrigate the land.

**Some Fruits Grown in the Cordillera Region**



Fruit	Season
Pears	September
Apples	September to February
Peaches	July to September
Cherries	June to July

Cranberries are one of the many crops grown in the fertile Fraser Valley.



## Farming

Many people farm in the Fraser Valley. The mild temperatures, good rainfall, and fertile soil make this area perfect for growing cranberries, strawberries, corn, and other crops.

The area around Kamloops gets very little rain, but the large, open areas with rolling hills are perfect for cattle to graze. Many people work on big cattle ranches.



## Voices of Canada

### Ranching

I work at Duck Ranch, a cattle ranch in the central interior of British Columbia. There are upwards of 300 cows down here. It's spring, so we could have maybe 10 or 20 newborns this morning. This big hayfield in the bottom of the valley is a good place for the cows to give birth. It's out of the wind, and we can keep an eye on them.

When the snow is gone, I'll help herd these cattle onto forested land. I will spend most of the summer making hay, mending fences, and doing other chores that keep a ranch running. In the fall, I'll go back into the hills to bring the herd home. I'll spend the winter feeding them in some sheltered corner of the valley.

A cowboy's job can be hard and often dangerous. But I love it. Sometimes I find a sick calf. I doctor it, and a few days later it's going strong. There's a lot of satisfaction in that. It's more than a job. This is a whole way of life. We get to live in this beautiful place. I couldn't stand to live in the city.

*Alan Walsh, rancher*



Cowboy Alan Walsh loves the peacefulness of working on a ranch in the mountains.



How is ranch life in the Cordillera region different from my way of life in Kamloops?

### Skill Smart

- Using a Venn diagram, look at the similarities and differences between ranch life in the Cordillera and your own life in your region.

### ? Critical Inquiry TIP

#### Evaluating

Learning what others felt about the information you have shared can help you learn more about your inquiry. You could conduct a short survey to find out what others are thinking.

## Life in Port Cities

Imagine living in a place with the ocean on one side and mountains on the other. Vancouver is such a place. You can even see people snowboarding and sailing on the same winter day!

Because it is an ice-free port, many ships come to Vancouver from places all around the Pacific Ocean. That is why the stores here have goods from many countries. The harbour is a great place to boat, swim, or fish. Since it is beside the ocean, Vancouver has mild temperatures and a lot of rain. But the people here do not let the rain stop them from doing things.

Vancouver is also the endpoint of the transcontinental railway, so a lot of businesses have been drawn here. With all the people in this city, there is a lot of traffic, especially on the bridges. These bridges connect the different parts of Vancouver, which is surrounded by water on three sides.

Another city with an ice-free port is Victoria. It is on Vancouver Island, so people come here from the mainland by ferry or by air. The very mild and wet climate allows the people to enjoy beautiful gardens year round.



Butchart Gardens is just one of the many beautiful gardens in the area around Victoria, also known as the "City of Gardens."



Vancouver is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world. People come from many different backgrounds and have different cultures. What languages are spoken in your community or school?

## Life on the Islands

Like those who live in cities on the coast, people who live on the islands also experience mild weather. There are small farms on some of the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. Many tourists come to the small communities and parks on these islands to enjoy the natural beauty and animals of this part of the region.



I'm going to check an atlas to learn more about the islands off the coast of the Cordillera region.

On the west side of Vancouver Island, the ocean can be quite rough. The West Coast Trail was made a long time ago so that shipwrecked sailors could find their way to safety. This trail is now part of Pacific Rim National Park and is used by hikers today.



## Voices of Canada

*Robert Davidson, a Haida artist, grew up on Haida Gwaii. He talked about his connection to the land during an interview.*

[The Haida people] have a strong belief in the hundreds of supernatural beings. Our art illustrates this movement between humans, other beings, and landforms. This movement connects us to the land.

I reconnect with the land every time I go home. For example, I can eat fresh seafood right from the water beside me. In the modern world, I think, there is too much separation from the land.

*Robert Davidson, Haida artist*



This is a painting by Robert Davidson, called *Eagles*.

## Thinking It Through

- How do you think Robert Davidson's painting "Eagles" shows his connection to the natural environment? Find out more about Davidson and the work of other West Coast artists.



# Build Your Skills!

## Use the Internet

In a small group, use the Internet to find out how schools in British Columbia are working to protect the salmon. Use the steps in the Skill Power on page 163 to help with your research. Brainstorm and record some ways your class could help. Pick an idea, and take action. Afterwards, send an e-mail or write a letter to a school in British Columbia and describe what you did.

## Research British Settlements

Find out more about the early British settlements in the Cordillera region. Why were they started? What did they become? Who lived in the area first? Who lives there now?

## Read the Newspaper

Look in your local newspaper, community newsletter, or on the Internet. Find articles about what people in your region are doing to protect the land, water, and forests. Come up with a plan that you can implement with your classmates that would contribute to the protection of the environment in your region. With the help of your teachers and parents, take the steps to put the plan into action.





## Putting It All Together



While I was researching the different people who live in Vancouver, I found out more about how many people speak different languages there. I found the numbers on a government Web site and kept the information on a chart. I wonder how the numbers will change as more people move to the city.

Language	Percentage of People Who Speak That Language
English	49
Chinese	26
Punjabi	2.7
Tagalog	2.4
Vietnamese	2.2
French	1.7
Others	16

Review the inquiry questions for this chapter:

- Identify ways that the landscape of this region affects ways of life.
- What is the balance between the use of natural resources and sustaining the environment in this region?

### Take Time to Reflect



Before you go on to the next chapter, think about what you learned in this one. What are the areas in this region that may need protection? How do human activities, such as forestry, affect the region? Using Simon Jackson's experience as an example, write a short plan of action to show how you could be a leader in the protection of the environment. Save your work for your Canada Collection.