

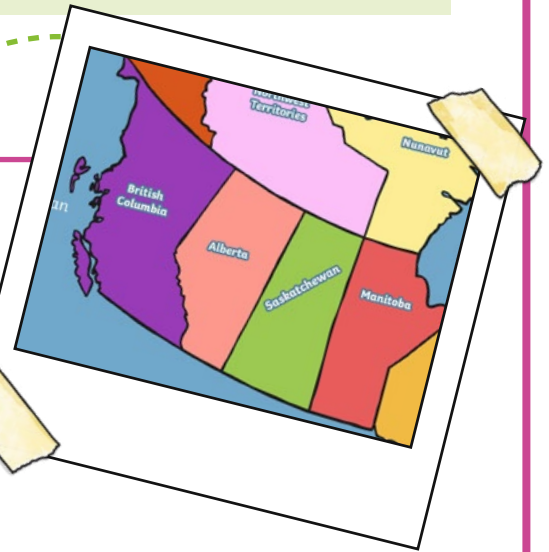
Alberta

Fast Facts:

- **Motto:** "Strong and free."
- **Population:** 4.44 million
- **Geographic size:** 661,190 km²
- **Capital city:** Edmonton
- **Largest city:** Calgary
- **Provincial animal:** Bighorn sheep
- **Provincial flower:** Wildrose
- **Provincial tree:** Lodgepole pine

Location:

Alberta is a province located in Western Canada between the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Alberta is known as a "Prairie Province." Alberta also borders the Northwest Territories to its north and Montana to its south.



Flag:

Officially adopted in 1968, Alberta's flag consists of the provincial shield of arms centered on an ultramarine blue background. The provincial shield of arms showcases the province's beautiful and varied landscape, everything from the Rocky mountains and green hills, to prairie land and wheat fields.

Geography:

Alberta is home to more than 600 lakes and has mountains, prairies, desert badlands (dry, sandy, rocky area), and forests (which cover more than half of Alberta). Seven major river basins serve Alberta, which are: the Hay, Peace/Slave, Athabasca, Beaver, North Saskatchewan, South Saskatchewan and Milk. The Rocky Mountains run along the western border of Alberta.

Indigenous People of Alberta:

Indigenous people represent approximately 6.5% of Alberta's population. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit people live in urban centres, in 100 First Nation communities and eight Métis settlements across the province. There are a total of 46 First Nations in Alberta, each with their distinct language, culture and traditions.

Did you know?

- Alberta is home to Banff National Park, which is the oldest national park in Canada. There are a total of five national parks in Alberta.
- Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is located in Alberta and it contains exhibits, interactive displays and dance performances and demonstrations helping to represent and understand the Blackfoot People.
- Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park in Alberta contains the largest amount of First Nations rock carvings and paintings on the plains of North America.
- Every summer, Calgary hosts, "the greatest outdoor show on Earth," the Calgary Stampede! The event now spans ten days and attracts over one million visitors. The very first show took place back in September 1912.
- In 2011, a 2 500 pound dinosaur fossil was discovered in an Alberta oil sands mine. Today, the well-preserved ankylosaur is on display at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller.



Check for Understanding

1. What is the capital city of Alberta?
2. What is Alberta's provincial flower?
3. What percentage of Alberta's population identifies as Indigenous?
4. What is the name of Canada's oldest National Park?
5. When was the first Calgary Stampede?