

# British Columbia

## Fast Facts:

- **Motto:** "Splendour without diminishment"
- **Population:** 5,153,039
- **Geographic size:** 929,730km<sup>2</sup>
- **Capital city:** Victoria
- **Largest city:** Vancouver
- **Provincial animal:** Spirit Bear
- **Provincial flower:** Pacific dogwood
- **Provincial tree:** Western red cedar

## Location:

British Columbia (B.C.) is the westernmost province of Canada. It sits between the Pacific Ocean and the province of Alberta. It also borders the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the north, and the United States of America in the south.



## Flag:

British Columbia's flag was officially adopted in 1960. On the top, there is the Union Jack, which is the national flag of the United Kingdom and reflects B.C.'s British history. The King Edward crown in the centre represents the Royal Family. On the bottom, there is a setting sun and the blue and white lines in the background represent the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains respectively.

## Geography:

British Columbia's geography is incredibly diverse and represents a variety of ecosystems. There are forests, mountains, lakes, sandy beaches, inland deserts, grassy plains and rocky coastlines. B.C. is also home to approximately 25% of the world's temperate rainforests.

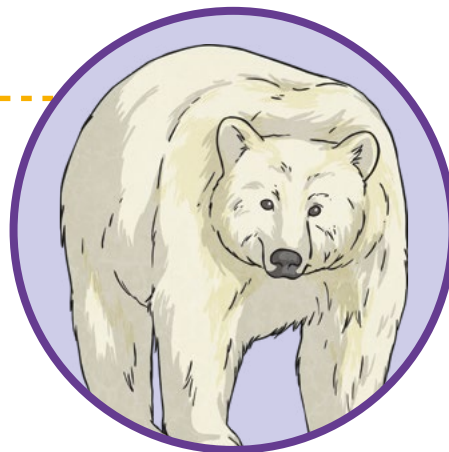


## Indigenous people:

There are more than 232 000 Indigenous people living in B.C. today, both on and off reserves. They include the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. Together, they represent 203 distinct communities and speak more than 30 different Indigenous languages.

## Did you know?

- British Columbia became a province in 1871 and was the sixth province to join Confederation.
- Nearly half of British Columbia's population lives in the metro Vancouver area.
- B.C.'s provincial animal the Spirit bear, also known as Kermode bears, are actually black bears with a rare genetic trait that results in white fur. Scientists estimate there are less than 400 individuals left in the world.
- B.C. has the mildest weather of all of Canada and Victoria, it's capital, is also one of the warmest.
- B.C. is known for its berry exports. It is among the top cranberry and blueberry producing regions in the world.



# Check for Understanding

1. What is the capital of B.C.?
2. What do the blue and white stripes on the bottom of B.C.'s flag represent?
3. What type of rainforests are found in B.C.?
4. How many Indigenous people live in B.C. today?
5. What is a spirit bear?