

# Northwest Territories

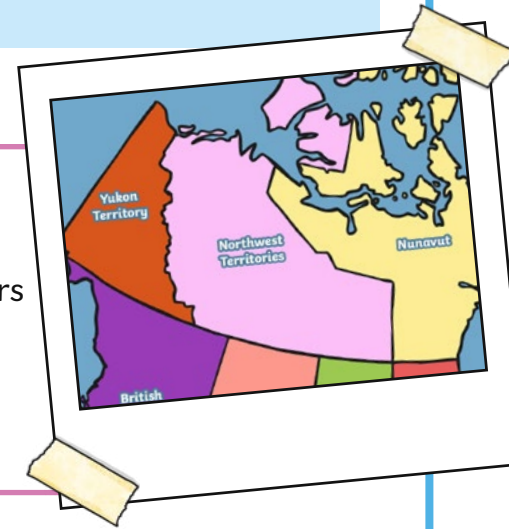
## Fast Facts:

- **Population:** 45,136
- **Geographic size:** 1,183,085km<sup>2</sup>
- **Capital city:** Yellowknife
- **Largest city:** Yellowknife
- **Territorial bird:** Gyrfalcon
- **Territorial flower:** Mountain avens
- **Territorial tree:** Tamarack larch

## Location:

The Northwest Territories is located in Canada's north, being one of the three Canadian territories. It sits between Yukon to its west, and Nunavut to its east. Due to its size, it also borders British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to its south.

In addition to the mainland, the Northwest Territories also includes several islands in the Arctic Archipelago.



## Flag:

The flag of Northwest Territories consists of two blue panels on either end and a white panel in the centre. They symbolize waters in and around the Northwest Territories and snow and ice respectively. In the center of the flag is the shield portion of the territorial coat of arms. The top of the shield symbolizes the Arctic Ocean and the Northwest Passage. On the bottom, the diagonal line divides the forested area in the south, from the tundra in the north. Northwest Territories' abundant resources including minerals and furs are also represented on the shield with the gold bars and white fox.



## Geography:

The Northwest Territories covers an extensive geographical area and also includes parts of the Arctic Archipelago. Often referred to as, "Canada's Last Frontier," the landscape is vast as it is beautiful, and includes lakes, rivers, mountains and an expansive tundra.

Due to its slightly warmer climate, parts of the Northwest Territories near the Mackenzie River Valley includes a boreal forest.

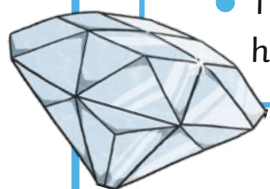
The Northwest Territories is in the “land of the midnight sun.” Its Arctic location means that during the summer months, the sun shines nearly all day long. In the winter time, the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights illuminate the night sky.

### Indigenous Peoples:

Over half of the population in the Northwest Territories identify as Indigenous. The three main groups are the Dene, Inuit and Métis, and together represent a diverse group of communities that speak a variety of distinct languages.

### Did you know?

- Wood Buffalo National Park spans parts of Northwest Territories and Alberta, and is Canada’s largest national park. Here, wild bison roam freely. In 1983, the park was officially designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site for its population of wild bison, and for the biological diversity found in the Peace-Athabasca Delta.
- Northwest Territories’ Great Bear Lake has an area of 31,153km<sup>2</sup> and is the largest lake that is entirely within Canada.
- The Northwest Territories has 11 official languages, which are: English, French, Chipewyan
- Cree, Gwich’in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tlicho.
- In 1999, the Government of Canada divided the Northwest Territories into two. The western half retained the name the Northwest Territories while the eastern half became what is known today as the territory of Nunavut.
- The Northwest Territories is the third largest diamond producer in the world. It is home to three active diamond mines.



# Check for Understanding

1. What is the geographic size of the Northwest Territories?
2. What does the blue and white colours on the flag represent?
3. What are two reasons why the Wood Buffalo National Park was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site?
4. How many official languages are there in the Northwest Territories?
5. What precious mineral is mined in the Northwest Territories?