

Ontario

Fast Facts:

- **Motto:** "Loyal she began, loyal she remains"
- **Population:** 14.76 million
- **Geographic size:** 1,068,580 km²
- **Capital city:** Toronto
- **Largest city:** Metro Toronto
- **Provincial flower:** White trillium
- **Provincial tree:** Eastern white pine
- **Provincial bird:** Common loon

Location:

Ontario is located in central Canada. It is situated between Manitoba to its west and Quebec to its east. To its north, a natural border is formed by the Hudson Bay and James Bay, while in the south, Ontario is bordered by the Great Lakes as well as several states.



Flag:

Ontario's flag was officially adopted in 1965. It's design is a variation of the Red Ensign, with the Union Jack in the top left, but features the provincial shield in the centre. The shield combines St. George's cross and three golden maple leaves on a green background.

Geography:

Ontario covers a large geographic area and is the second largest province by land size. The northern part of the province is covered by the Canadian Shield and includes a flat, rocky landscape. To the south, is the lowlands which have plenty of fertile soil well suited for farming. Ontario also boasts an abundance of freshwater, with numerous rivers and lakes throughout the province.

Indigenous people:

Ontario has the largest Indigenous population in Canada. There are a total of 133 Indigenous communities, many of which are located in Northern Ontario. The First Nations population is made up of many distinct nations, each with their unique language, customs and traditions. The major First Nation groups in Ontario include: the Algonquin, Mississauga, Ojibway, Cree, Odawa, Potawatomi, Delaware, Mohawk, Onondaga, Onoyota'a:ka, Cayuga, Tuscarora and Seneca.

Did you know?

- The province was named after an Iroquois word that means 'beautiful lake.' Meanwhile, Toronto is derived from the Mohawk word which means 'where there are trees standing in the water.'
- Ontario has over 250 000 lakes and is estimated to have 20% of the world's freshwater.
- Toronto is Ontario's capital and the province's largest city. Known as one of the world's most multicultural cities, half of Toronto's population was born outside of Canada and over 180 languages and dialects are spoken in the city.
- Ontario is also home to Ottawa, the nation's capital.
- Niagara Falls attracts millions of visitors each year. The Canadian Falls, also known as the Horseshoe Falls, is 670 metres wide, and 52 metres in height. At its peak, an incredible 2 832 tonnes of water flows over the falls every second.



Check for Understanding

1. What is the population of Ontario?
2. How many Indigenous communities are in Ontario?
3. What is the origin of the word Ontario?
4. How many languages and dialects are spoken in the city of Toronto?
5. What is the name of the Canadian portion of Niagara Falls?