

Prince Edward Island

Fast Facts:

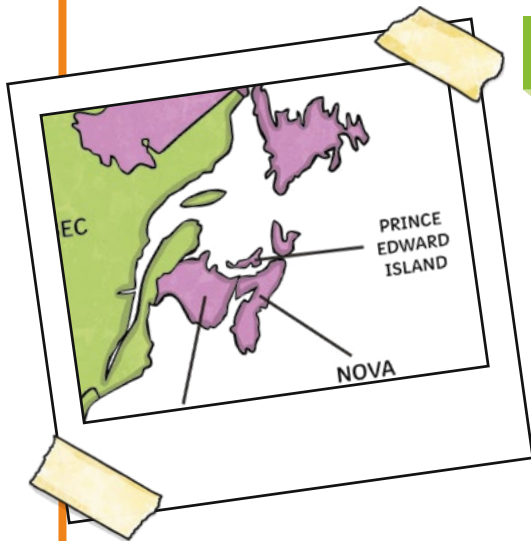
- **Motto:** "The small under the protection of the great"
- **Population:** 159,819
- **Geographic size:** 5,660 km²
- **Capital city:** Charlottetown
- **Largest city:** Charlottetown
- **Provincial animal:** Red fox
- **Provincial flower:** Pink lady's slipper
- **Provincial tree:** Red oak
- **Provincial tree:** Lodgepole pine

Quick History:

The Mi'kmaq First Nations have lived in Prince Edward Island (PEI) for over 10 000 years. The island was known as "Epekwitk," which translates to "something lying on the water."

Location:

Prince Edward Island is one of three Maritime provinces located in Atlantic Canada. It is Canada's smallest province both in population and in land size. In addition to the main island, PEI includes 231 minor islands in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence.



Flag:

Prince Edward Island's flag is similar to its coat of arms. It features an English heraldic lion which is also used on the Coat of Arms of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and King Edward VII. The large oak tree and saplings reference the province's motto, "the small under the protection of the great." The large oak tree represents England, while the three saplings symbolize the three counties of PEI. In addition, red and white bands border three sides of the flag.

Geography:

Prince Edward Island's geography is defined by rolling hills, forests and beaches, but perhaps, what it is most famous for is its red soil. Covering an incredible 470,000 acres of land, the soil is red due to its high iron-oxide content and it is well-suited for farming.



Did you know?

- There is a long history of potato farming in PEI dating back to the 1700s. There are over one hundred varieties of PEI potatoes and they are shipped to 20 countries worldwide.
- Charlottetown is considered the birthplace of Confederation for it was during the Charlottetown Conference in 1864, the idea for the formation of the nation was first discussed. Although the Canada Confederation was officially formed on July 1, 1873, PEI did not join Canada until 1867 after Canada agreed to pay the province's railway debt.
- The Confederation Bridge connects New Brunswick with PEI. It spans 12.9km and holds the record as the world's longest bridge over ice-covered water.
- PEI produces 80% of Canada's mussels.
- PEI is the idyllic setting for Lucy Maud Montgomery's hugely popular book, "Anne of Green Gables." Every year, visitors flock to Green Gables, the house that inspired the book, which is located in Cavendish in the Prince Edward Island National Park.



Check for Understanding

1. What is the provincial tree of PEI?
2. What is the name of the first peoples to inhabit PEI?
3. What popular seafood is harvested in the waters around PEI?
4. What is the “Birthplace of Confederation?”
5. What is the name of the bridge that connects New Brunswick with PEI?