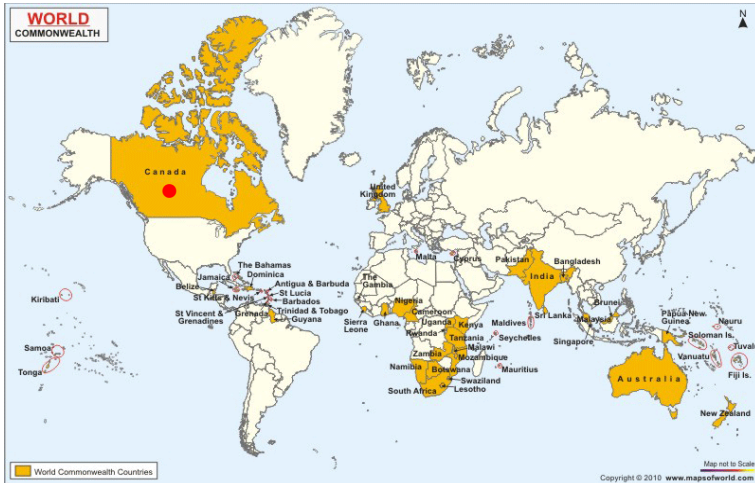




Canada

Founder member of the Commonwealth 1931 – visited by the Queen in 2010



Canada, the second largest country in the world, is in North America

Pop: (2012) 34,838,000 Capital: Ottawa Area: 9,976,000 sq km

Canada is a prosperous and well developed nation with one of the largest and most diverse economies in the world.

The topography is extremely varied from the Rocky Mountains in the west to the Appalachian Mountains in the east. Both are heavily wooded. In between are the flat Canadian prairies. Much of the north is covered by the ancient Precambrian Canadian Shield which stretches to the Arctic. Most Canadians live in the Great Lakes–St Lawrence River area although the western provinces are becoming more populated. One of a very few triple continental divides in the world is found in the Columbia Icefield on the Alberta/British Columbia border where water drains north to the Arctic, west to the Pacific and east (via Hudson Bay) to the North Atlantic.

Canada's size gives rise to a range of climatic types which, together with its varied topography, yields a huge biodiversity. Polar bears, musk ox, and caribou are found in the north (along with trillions of mosquitoes and black fly in summer!) while moose, beavers and black, brown and grizzly bears are found further south.



A polar bear and her cubs in northern Manitoba

