

Relative Location of Canada

A second type of location that is vital to finding an area is *relative location*. Relative location tells us where a country is in relation to other places. For example, Canada is located north of the continental United States and east of Alaska. The province of Saskatchewan is located north of the states of Montana and North Dakota. It is located east of Alberta and west of Manitoba. It is south of the Northwest Territories.

In giving directions, relative location is more helpful in most cases than absolute location. When driving from one place to another, we need to know in which direction to travel and how many miles to go rather than the degrees of latitude and longitude. Knowing that Edmonton, Alberta, is about 170 miles (282 kilometers) north of Calgary is much more valuable when someone is trying to drive between the two cities than knowing that Edmonton is located at $53^{\circ}34'N$ latitude. Relative location is vital information that is used daily in travel.



I. Using a map of Canada, identify the following places by using the relative location clues given in each of the following problems.

1. I am the most eastern of the Prairie Provinces. Saskatchewan is located to my west, Ontario to my east, and Nunavut to the north. The Hudson Bay forms the northeastern corner of my border.

My name is _____

2. I am a large body of water located near the center of Canada. I am surrounded by Quebec on the east, Ontario on the south, and Manitoba and the Northwest Territories on the west. To the north lie the Arctic islands.

My name is _____

3. I am an island located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Nova Scotia is to the south and New Brunswick to the west. I am the smallest of all the provinces.

My name is _____

4. I am an island that is part of the Arctic islands of *Nunavut*. The Arctic Circle runs through the southern part of me. The Fox Basin is located to the west, and the Davis Strait is to the east. The Hudson Strait separates me from Quebec.

My name is _____

5. I am the territory located west of the Northwest Territories. Alaska is located to the west and British Columbia to the south. The Beaufort Sea is to the north.

My name is _____

II. Write at least three relative location clues for each of the following places:

1. The province of Alberta

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

2. The island of Vancouver

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

3. The Great Bear Lake

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

4. The Northwest Territories

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

5. The province of New Brunswick

(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

III. Form groups of three to check each other's work. See if your clues give the correct relative location for each of the above sites.