



Canada's Economy

MAIN IDEA

Canada has a strong economy built on natural resources, a variety of industries, and good transportation.

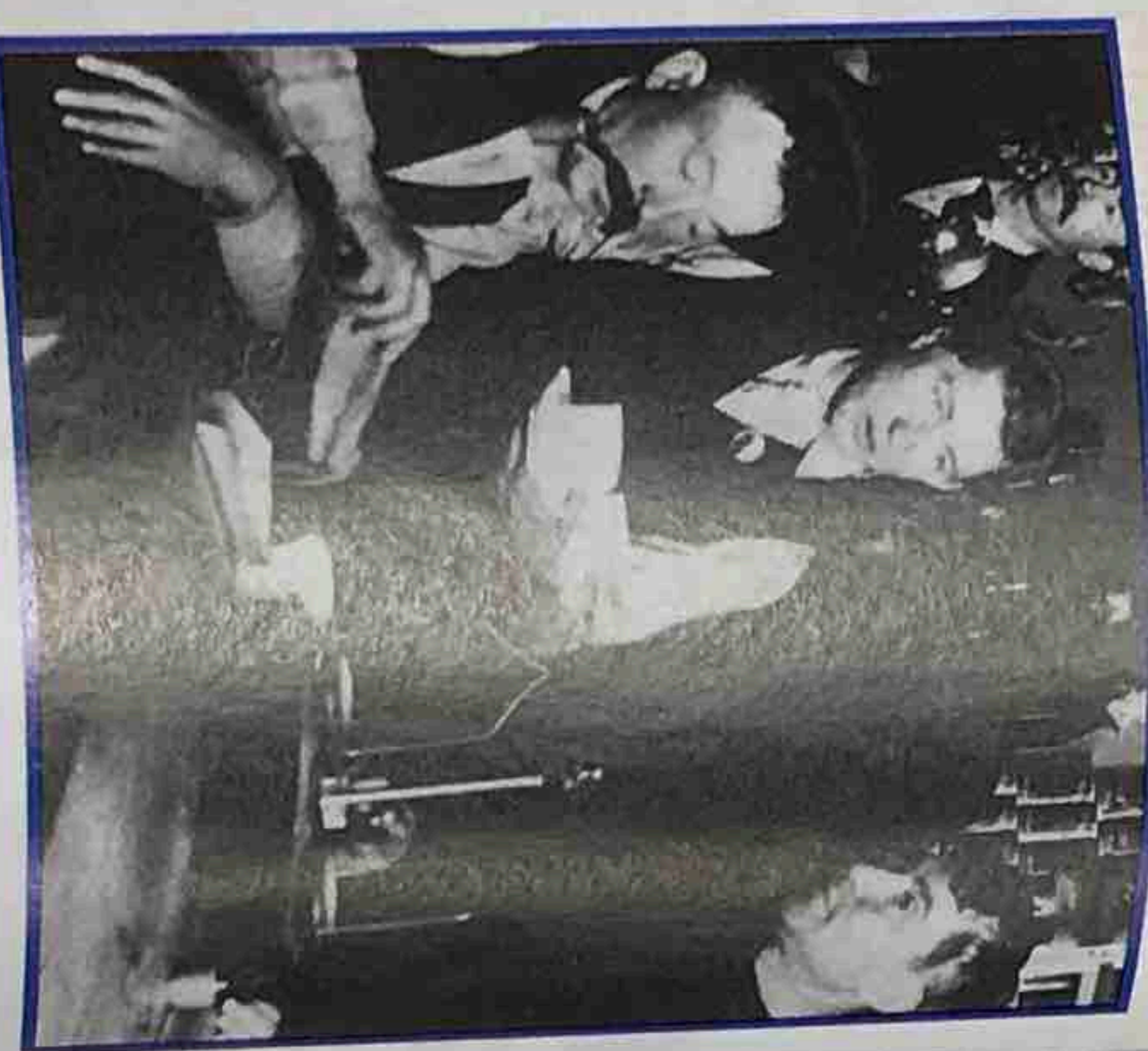
WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Canada is a leader in the global economy.

DATELINE

1898—

DAWSON, YUKON TERRITORY, August 1898— Gold! That's the cry on the street here in Dawson. Just two years ago, this was a small, unknown town of 5,000 people. Then gold was discovered nearby on a branch of the Klondike River. The Klondike Gold Rush was on. People came here from all over the world hoping to strike it rich. Now Dawson has more than 30,000 people crowding its streets. Most live in tents. Every day, thousands head up the creeks looking for gold. Most of these people haven't found any yet and never will. However, a few lucky prospectors have already made their fortunes.



Human-Environment Interaction • Prospectors use gold dust to pay for merchandise in a store in the Yukon Territory. ▲

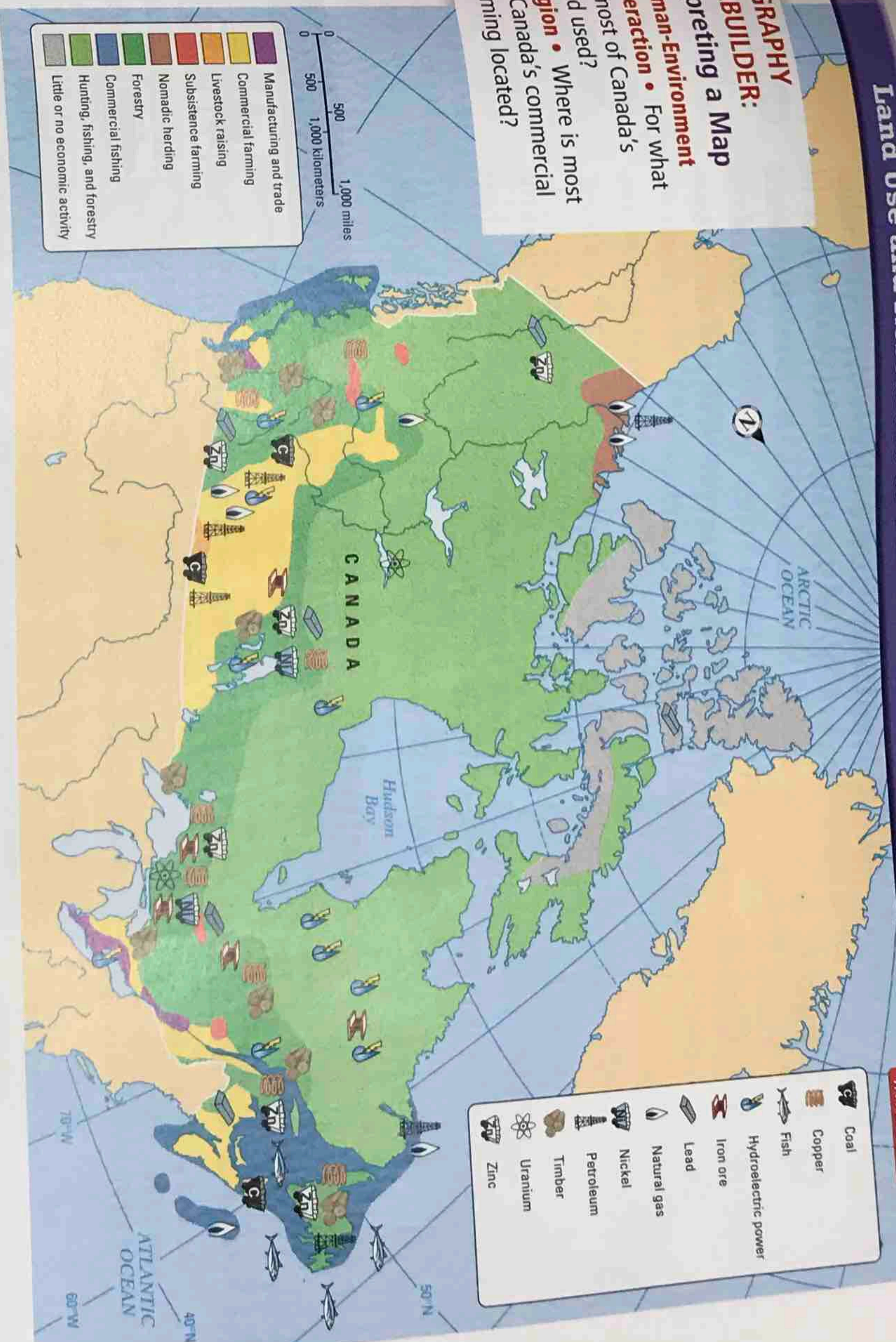
Contributors to the Economy

Canada is rich in natural resources, including gold. Europeans were first drawn to Canada by the abundant fishing and fur trading. In the 1800s, gold and other minerals were discovered. Today, most Canadians work in the service and manufacturing industries. Canada's skilled labor force, natural resources, and international trade all contribute to the country's economy.

TERMS & CONCEPTS
industry
export
import
transportation
corridor
barrier

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

1. **Human-Environment Interaction •** For what is most of Canada's land used?
2. **Region •** Where is most of Canada's commercial farming located?



Land Use and Resources of Canada

INTERACTIVE

BACKGROUND

The Grand Banks, first noted by explorer John Cabot in 1498, extends 350 miles north to south and 420 miles east to west.

Industry Based on Natural Resources

A nation's resources are a source of wealth. The prairie provinces of central Canada have extensive grasslands and good soil, making this area an ideal place to raise beef cattle and grow wheat. On the rich farmlands along the St. Lawrence River, farmers harvest grains, vegetables, and fruit. People plant potatoes and raise dairy cattle on the east coast. The Grand Banks, located off the coast of Newfoundland, is one of the world's most abundant fisheries. The salmon caught off Canada's Pacific coast enrich that area's economy.

Much of Canada is covered in forests, making the timber industry important, especially in British Columbia. **Industry** refers to any area of economic activity. Mining in the northern territories yields iron ore, gold, silver, copper, and other metals.

Trade Canada's openness to trade has contributed to the growth of its economy. Today almost 80 percent of Canada's raw materials are shipped as exports. **Exports** are goods traded to other countries. Canada's main exports are wood and paper products, fuel, minerals, aluminum, wheat, and oil. These and manufactured goods are sold around the world.

TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about Canada.

Causes	Effects
Early settlers were from many countries, France and Britain	
French-speaking Canadians have...	

Reading Social Studies

- A. Recognizing Important Details
What are Canada's main exports?