

CANADA

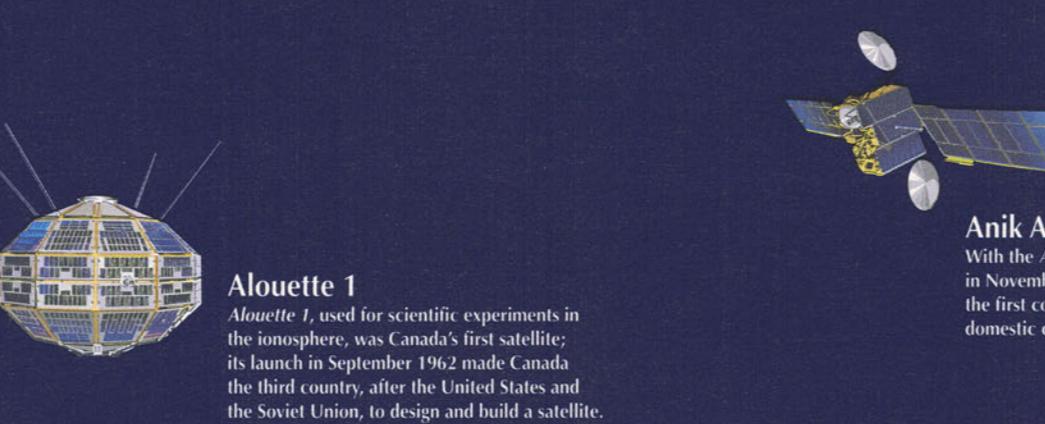
A land of

SUPERLATIVES

Canadian Geographic

Geomatics Canada
National Atlas Information Service
Géomatique Canada
Service d'information sur l'Atlas national

This map was produced as a joint venture between Canadian Geographic, the magazine of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and the National Atlas Information Service of the Department of Natural Resources Canada.



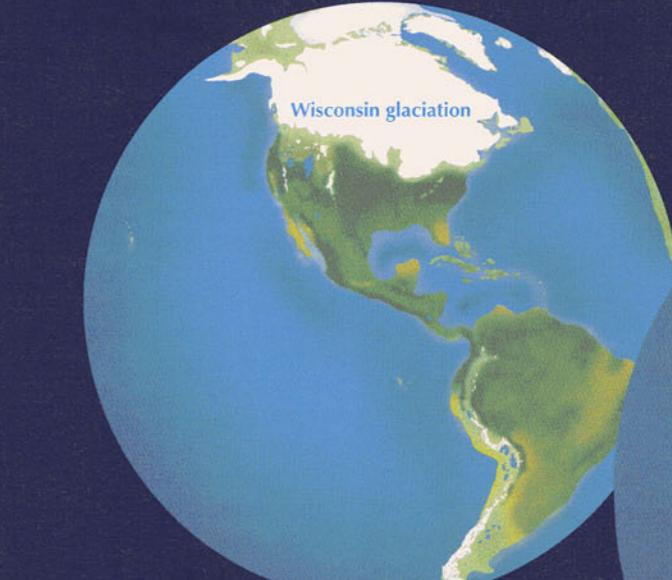
Alouette 1
Alouette 1, used for scientific experiments in the ionosphere, was Canada's first satellite. It was launched in September 1962. Canada became the first country to use a satellite for domestic communications.



Anik A1
Anik A1, the first Canadian satellite launched in November 1972, Canada became the first country to use a satellite for domestic communications.

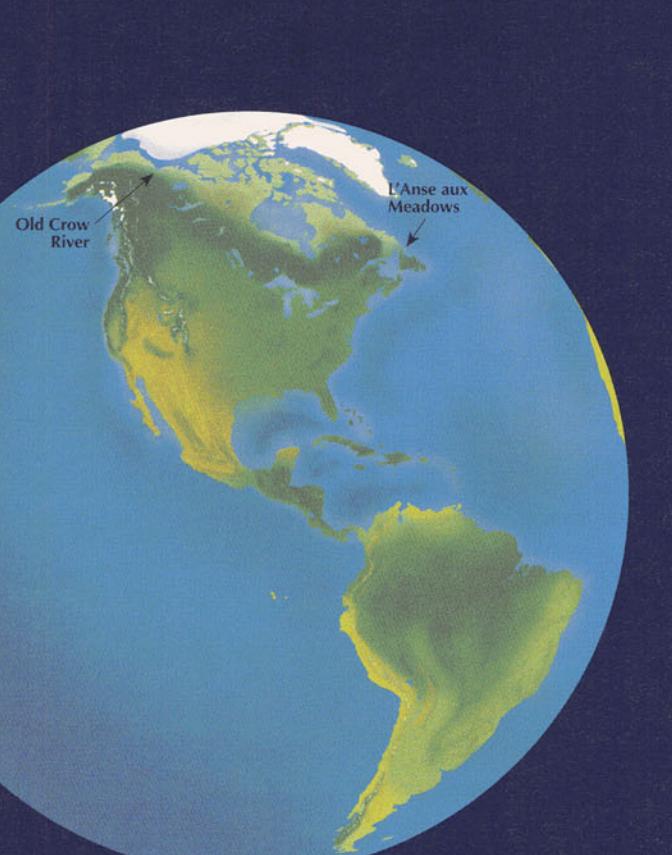


The proto planet (4 billion years ago)
The oldest known rock in Canada, part of the craton which includes the Laurentian and Yellowknife in 1969 and dated at 3.6 billion years old, Canada's oldest evidence of life — fossils of cyanobacteria (formerly called blue-green algae) — date back 2.7 billion years.



Buried in ice (5,000 to 10,000 years ago)

Nearly the entire surface of Canada was covered by thousands of miles of ice during the last major glacial period, North America's last major glaciation, which reached its maximum extent (shown here) about 20,000 years ago. The broad valleys and deep lakes of the Great Lakes, the Great Bear River, the Great Lakes, the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield, the abundance of lakes and wetlands — much of what makes the Canadian landscape so strong and varied — are due to the tremendous force of moving ice.



Coming to the Americas (40,000 years ago to present)
The prehistoric shape of Canada suggests the full range of terrain and vegetation from tundra to plains, across the zone between the earth's crust and core. Some 230 million years ago, the collision of North America with Europe and Africa built the Appalachian mountain range. While the range is relatively dormant today, its west coast is part of one of the world's most active areas, as the Pacific Ocean floor grinds against the edge of the continent.

Comparing land areas

