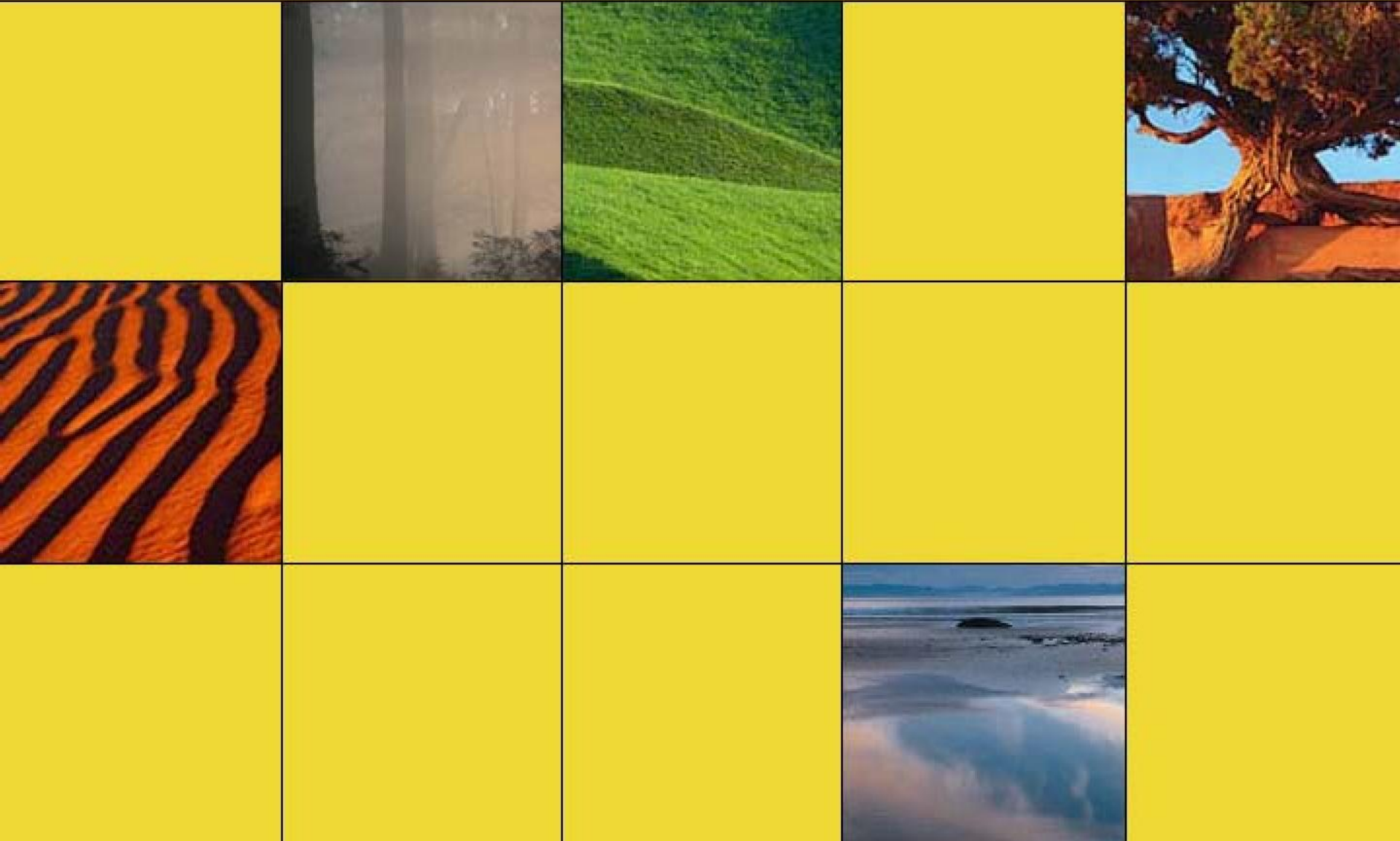


# Chapter 8: The Geography of Canada





# Regional Geography

- There are six major physical regions in Canada
- Each has its own unique climate and vegetation
- As a result, different regions are better suited for certain economic activities than others
  - Ex. Fishing, farming, mining, logging, etc.



# Appalachian Region

- A mountainous region on the east coast of North America
- Topography (shape of the land)
  - Low mountain ranges, rolling hills, river valleys
- Origins
  - Older mountain range worn down by glaciers and erosion
  - Layers of sedimentary rock helped create coal
  - Volcanic activity formed metallic minerals



# Appalachian Region

- Vegetation
  - Heavily forested with mixed coniferous and deciduous trees
- Economic Activity
  - Mining
  - Logging
  - Fishing
  - Trade (sea ports)









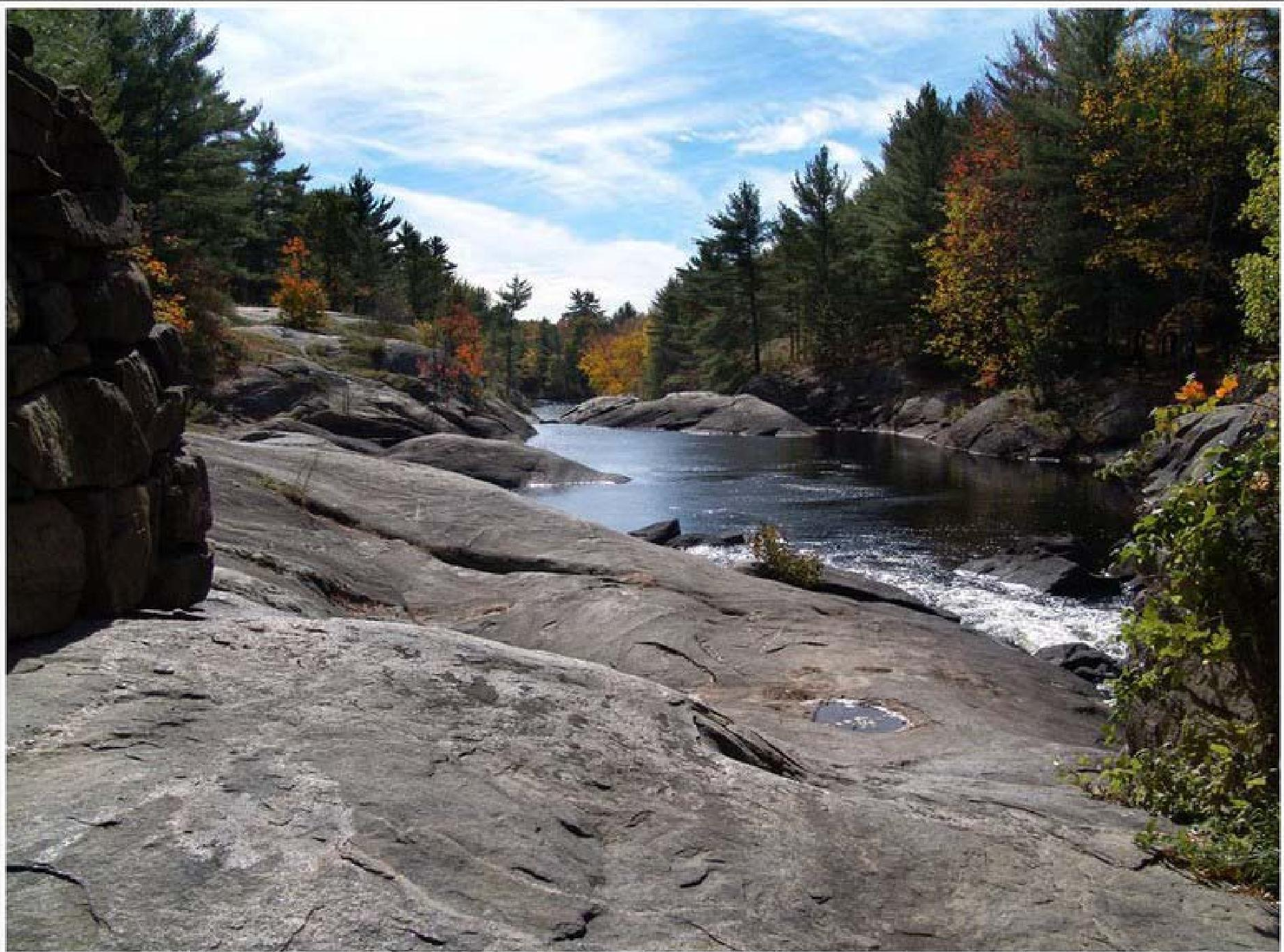
# Canadian Shield

- A very rocky region that stretches from the Arctic to Eastern Canada
- Topography
  - Flat, bare rock (oldest in North America)
  - Some lakes and wetlands
- Origins
  - Volcanic mountain range worn down by glaciers
  - Heat and pressure created many mineral deposits



# Canadian Shield

- Vegetation
  - Mostly boreal forests
  - Thin soil makes it unsuitable for agriculture
- Economic Activity
  - Pulp and paper industry
  - Mining
    - copper, gold, lead, diamonds, nickel, platinum, etc.









# Arctic

- The plains, lowlands, and mountains in northern Canada
- Topography
  - Very flat near the ocean, with some mountains
- Origins
  - Pressure from the Canadian Shield formed fold mountains
  - Climate change has led to less sea ice, more open water



# Arctic

- Vegetation
  - Sparse vegetation
  - Small shrubs, mosses, lichens
  - Trees cannot grow on the tundra
- Economic Activity
  - Mining
  - Oil and natural gas drilling
  - Fishing







# St. Lawrence Lowlands

- Small region along St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes
- Topography
  - Flat plains, rolling hills, deep river valleys
  - Several escarpments (steep cliffs)
- Origins
  - Formed by receding ice sheets after Ice Age
  - Ice sheets pushed soil off Canadian Shield into Lowlands, then melted into lakes



# St. Lawrence Lowlands

- Vegetation
  - Fertile soils
  - Mixed deciduous and coniferous forests
- Economic Activity
  - Farming
  - Logging
  - Manufacturing
  - Urban economic activity







# Interior Plains

- Vast plains running up the centre of Canada and the United States
- Topography
  - Flat or gently rolling plains at various elevations
- Origins
  - Formed by soils deposited at edges of numerous rivers, turned into horizontal layers of sedimentary rock, helped create fossil fuels



# Interior Plains

- Vegetation
  - Mostly prairie grasses
  - Used to have more forests
- Economic Activity
  - Farming (mostly wheat and grains)
  - Mining
  - Oil and natural gas drilling







# Western Cordillera

- The parallel ranges of mountains and valleys that run along Western N. America
- Topography
  - Tall, rough mountain ranges divided by valleys
- Origins
  - Plate collision pushed up mountains, pushed down valleys (prone to earthquakes)
  - Glacier erosion left mountains “rocky”





# Western Cordillera

- Vegetation
  - Very old and immense evergreens
  - Rain forest
  - Less vegetation higher up in the mountains
- Economic Activity
  - Logging
  - Fishing
  - Mining
  - Farming







