

Commemorate Canada - The Yukon

Overview

Students will learn about the Yukon, its history, its present, and its geography through a mapping activity, a crossword puzzle, and the creation of a visual project.

Time required

75 minutes (can be divided)

Grades

6-10

Subjects

Yukon, Geography, History, Art

Learning goals

Students will:

- Understand important historical events in Yukon's history.
- Locate important landforms on a map of the Yukon.
- Name interesting facts about the Yukon.
- Create a visual project detailing what they have learned about the Yukon.

Materials

- Devices with internet access for research
- Yukon images
- Yukon map
- Yukon crossword puzzle
- Yukon crossword puzzle teacher answer sheet
- All about the Yukon project sheet
- All about the Yukon project checklist
- Writing utensils
- Projector/SMARTboard
- Art materials (as necessary to create project)

Lesson implementation

Minds on

Without telling students what region they are looking at, show students the images of the Yukon territory provided using a projector or SMARTboard. Ask students to examine the pictures and think about what part of the world they are looking at. Ask them to focus on the trees, plants, and landforms. What do they notice about the city? Is there any writing that might give them a clue as to where they are looking?

After a brief discussion, explain that these photos were all taken in the Yukon, the smallest and most western territory of Canada. Clockwise from top left, the photos are: McArthur Peak, S.S. Klondike National Historic Site, the city of Whitehorse, and Tombstone Territorial Park. McArthur Peak is located in the Saint Elias Mountains. The S.S. Klondike National Historic Site is a steam-powered paddlewheeler where you can learn about the history of life on the rivers of the Yukon. Whitehorse is the capital of Yukon and Tombstone Territorial Park is located northeast of Dawson City.

Today, students will have the chance to learn more about the Yukon, including its geography, important events in its history, and interesting facts about this territory. Play the [Canadian Geographic GeoMinute](#) on the Yukon Act and the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush on the Indigenous Peoples of the Yukon.

Action

These activities can be completed individually or in pairs. Distribute the **Yukon map** to each student/pair and go over the instructions with students. Students should use the internet or hard copies of a map to research the locations of the landforms listed on the sheet. Then, students will draw these landforms on the map. Discuss with students how they might represent a mountain or a river on a map. What colours make sense to use? What symbol should be chosen? Remind students what elements need to be included on a map: A legend, a title, a compass, and a border.

Once students have completed their map, they can move on to the **Yukon crossword puzzle**. In this activity, they will need to use their research skills to find the answers to the clues and complete the puzzle. Have a discussion with students, if necessary, about safe and student-friendly research methods.

Lastly, students will take all they have learned today about the Yukon and create either a poster or infographic telling others about the territory. Students can use the **All about the Yukon project sheet** and **checklist** to help them plan their project and can create either a digital project or use art supplies to create a physical poster. If students would like to use photos, use this opportunity to discuss how to access public domain images and how to safely search for images online.

Host a gallery walk where students can walk around the classroom and see other students' projects.

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Connection to the Canadian Geography Learning Framework

Concepts of Geographic Thinking

- Patterns and trends
- Interrelationships
- Spatial significance

Inquiry Process

- Formulate questions
- Gather and organize
- Communicate

Geospatial Skills

- Foundational elements
- Spatial representations

Conclusion and consolidation

As a class, discuss one new thing students learned about the Yukon. Were they surprised by any of the information? Is there anywhere in the Yukon they would like to visit or activities they would like to do in the territory after completing their research?

Extend your geographical thinking

- Students can use [Google Earth](#) to further explore the landscape of the Yukon. Have students use the Street View function to view photos of different areas of the Yukon.
- Have students plan a trip to the Yukon. Encourage them to research modes of transport to where they would like to visit, as well as where they would stay, what activities they would like to do, and what they would need to bring.
- Have students plan an expedition to the Yukon. Would students like to hike, mountain climb, explore a glacier, research the effects of climate change on the North, dog sled across the territory, or something else?

Modifications

- Crossword puzzle: Teachers can provide students with a word bank with the answers to the crossword puzzle clues.
- Project: Teachers can adjust the requirements for the project on the Yukon.
- Map: Teachers can add or remove landforms required to be placed on the map. Teachers can [provide a template](#) of the Yukon map instead of having students draw it.
- Have students complete an additional research piece into the Klondike Gold Rush.
- Have students map the Indigenous territories of the Yukon using [Native Land](#).

Assessment opportunities

- Students' final projects can be assessed.
- Students can exchange projects with classmates for peer assessment before final submission.
- Students can self-assess projects using the provided checklist.

Additional resources

- Canadian Encyclopedia: [Klondike Gold Rush](#)
- [Travel Yukon](#)
- Britannica Kids: [Yukon](#)
- CBC: [How much do you know about the Yukon?](#)
- Kiddle: [Yukon facts for kids](#)

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Yukon images

Photos from top left and moving clockwise: Richard Droker, looking over ridge of McArthur towards Hebesew Ridge and Hubbard glacier, (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED); David Stanley, SS Klondike II, (CC BY 2.0 DEED); Louis White, Whitehorse, Yukon in 2019, (CC BY-SA 2.0 DEED); Richard Droker, Tombstone Territorial Park, (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED);



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Yukon map

Instructions: Draw an outline of the territory of the Yukon below and label the different landforms of the Yukon listed in the table. Remember to include: A map title, a legend, a compass, and a border.

Richardson Mountains	Pelly Mountains	King Peak	Mount Wood
Yukon River	Lake Laberge	Mount Steele	Volcano Mountain
Snake River	Mount Logan	Mount Hubbard	Miles Canyon
Selwyn Mountains	St. Elias Mountains	Mount Macaulay	Mackenzie River
Ogilvie Mountains	Mount Lucania	Mount Slaggard	

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Yukon crossword puzzle

Down:

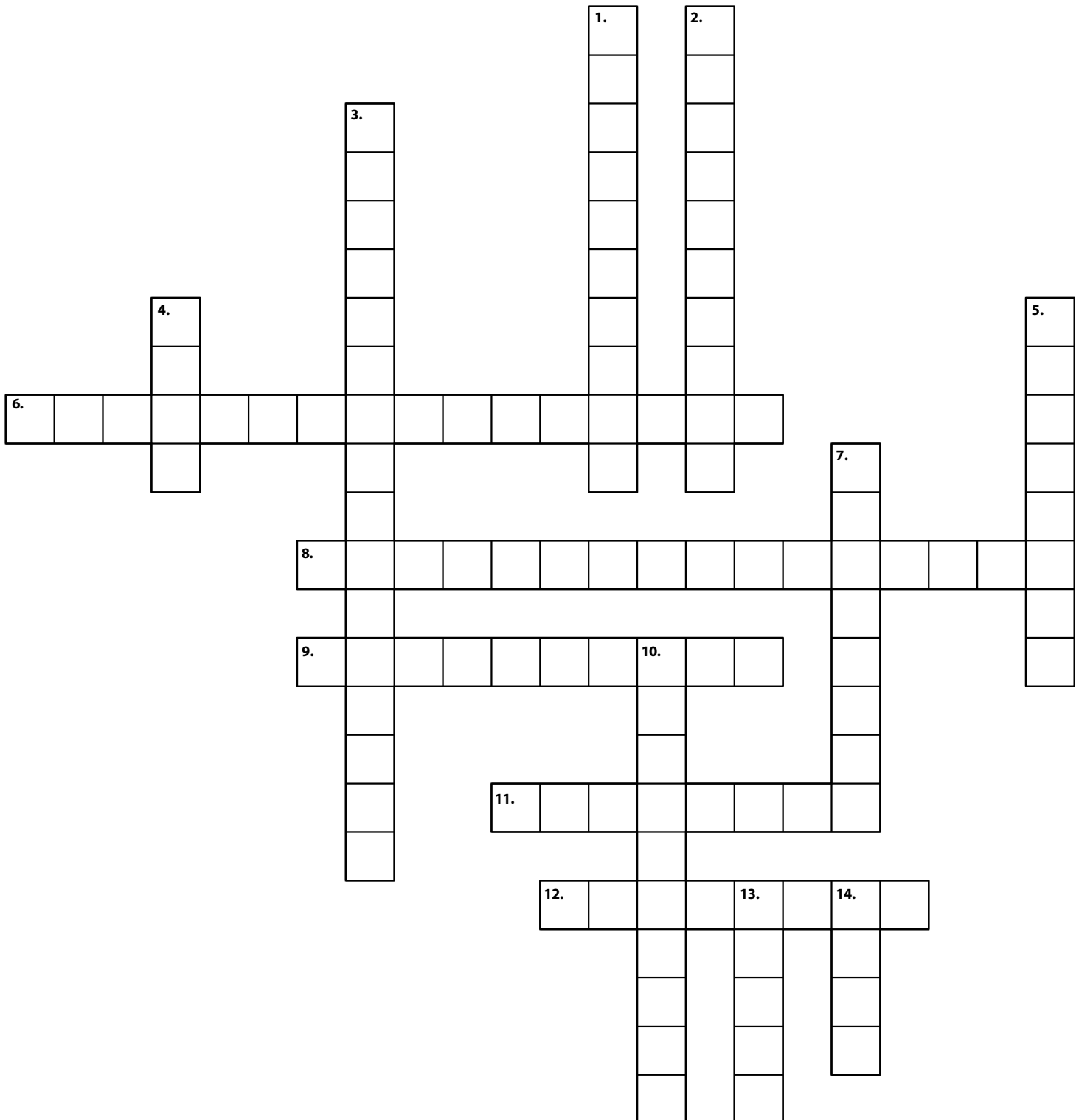
1. The physiographic region of the Yukon is largely _____.
2. This city is the current capital of the Yukon.
3. The 1973 document, "Together Today for our _____" was essential in talks with the federal government to begin negotiations for the first modern-day treaties in the Yukon. (2 words).
4. On the 13th of this month in 1898, the Yukon became a territory, separate from the Northwest Territories.
5. This dog is on the Yukon's coat of arms.
7. This is the Yukon's floral symbol.
10. Yukon is derived from "Yu-kun-ah" which means _____ in Gwich'in, one of the most northern Indigenous Peoples in North America. (2 words)
13. This is the Yukon's national bird.
14. North America's coldest recorded temperature was at this location in 1947 - a frigid -63°C!

Across:

6. Between 1897 and 1899, this event brought tens of thousands people to the Yukon, which was a small, little-known British colony at the time. (3 words).
8. This animal undertakes the world's longest mammal land migration, partly going through the Yukon. (2 words).
9. This Yukon peak is the tallest mountain in Canada. (2 words).
11. The majority of Canada's 20 highest peaks are found in this national park.
12. Found in south central Yukon, this is the world's smallest desert, and was once the bottom of a glacial lake.

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Yukon crossword puzzle



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Yukon crossword teacher answer sheet

Down:

1. The physiographic region of the Yukon is largely **CORDILLERA**.
2. This city is the current capital of the Yukon. **WHITEHORSE**.
3. The 1973 document, "Together Today for our **CHILDREN TOMORROW**," was essential in talks with the federal government to begin negotiations for the first modern-day treaties in the Yukon. (2 words).
4. On the 13th of this month in 1898, the Yukon became a territory, separate from the Northwest Territories. **JUNE**.
5. This dog is on the Yukon's coat of arms. **MALAMUTE**.
7. This is the Yukon's floral symbol. **FIREWEED**.
10. Yukon is derived from "Yu-kun-ah" which means **GREAT RIVER** in Gwich'in, one of the most northern Indigenous Peoples in North America. (2 words)
13. This is the Yukon's national bird. **RAVEN**.
14. North America's coldest recorded temperature was at this location in 1947 - a frigid -63°C! **SNAG**.

Across:

6. Between 1897 and 1899, this event brought tens of thousands people to the Yukon, which was a small, little-known British colony at the time. (3 words). **KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH**.
8. This animal undertakes the world's longest mammal land migration, partly going through the Yukon. (2 words). **PORCUPINE CARIBOU**.
9. This Yukon peak is the tallest mountain in Canada. (2 words). **MOUNT LOGAN**.
11. The majority of Canada's 20 highest peaks are found in this national park. **KLUANE**.
12. Found in south central Yukon, this is the world's smallest desert, and was once the bottom of a glacial lake. **CARCROSS**.

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All about the Yukon

Instructions: Create a poster or infographic using information that you have learned in your research about the Yukon. Think about what information you would like to tell other people about this territory and how you could present this information in an eye-catching and interesting way. You can include information about the Yukon's history, its geography, the Indigenous nations in this territory, the wildlife, and/or interesting facts about the Yukon. Use this sheet to draft some ideas, and then create your poster or infographic.

Information to include:

Drawings and pictures to include:

How this information will be presented:

Materials needed to complete this project:

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All about the Yukon project checklist

Use this sheet to make sure that your project has everything it needs.

- Title
- Name(s) of creator(s)

The project is:

- Visually appealing
- Well organized

The information is:

- Clear and to the point
- Relevant to the Yukon

The project contains:

- At least five important facts about the Yukon
- Photos, drawings, and/or maps
- A bibliography of sources for information and photos
- No spelling errors