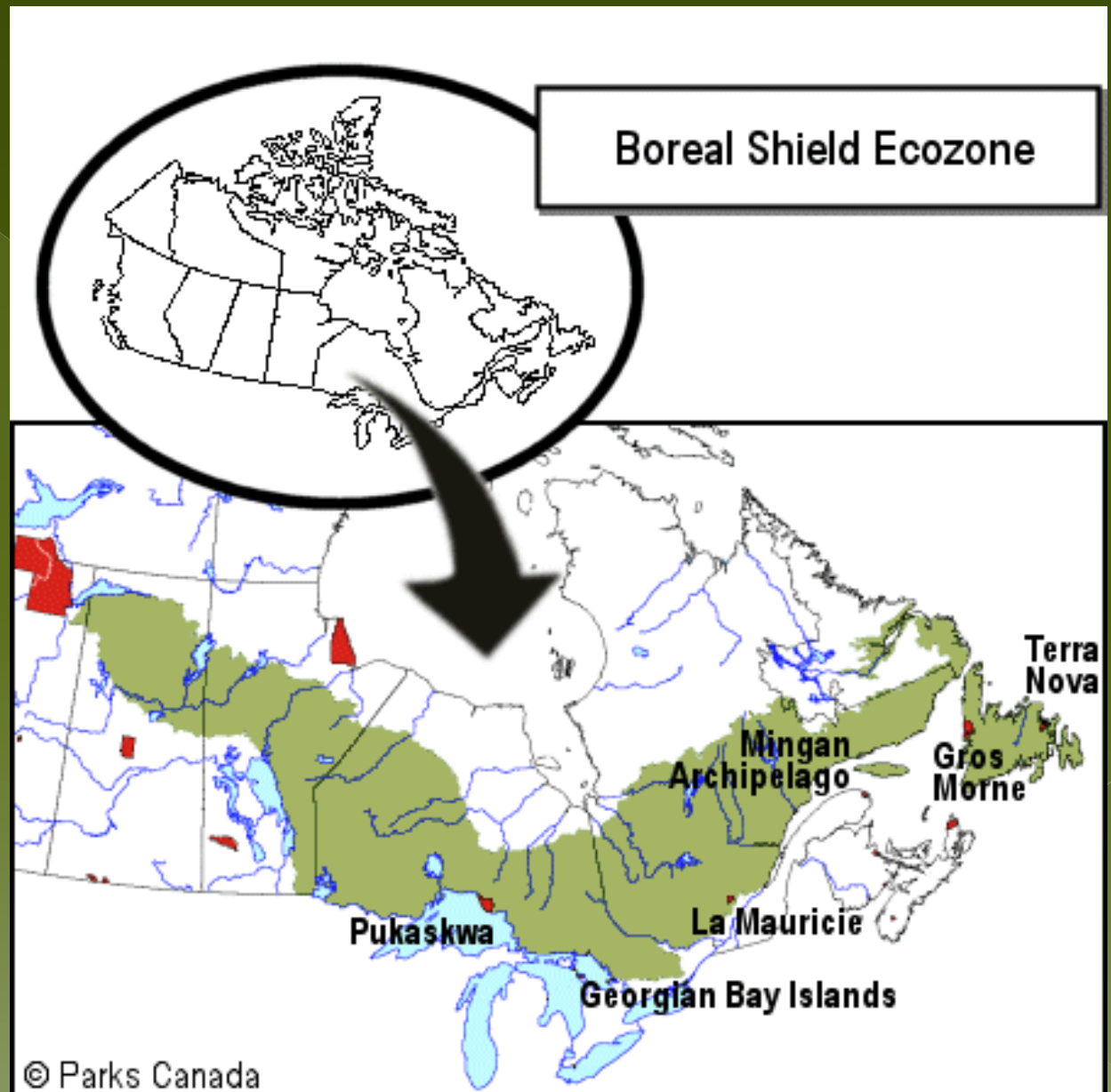


The Boreal Shield

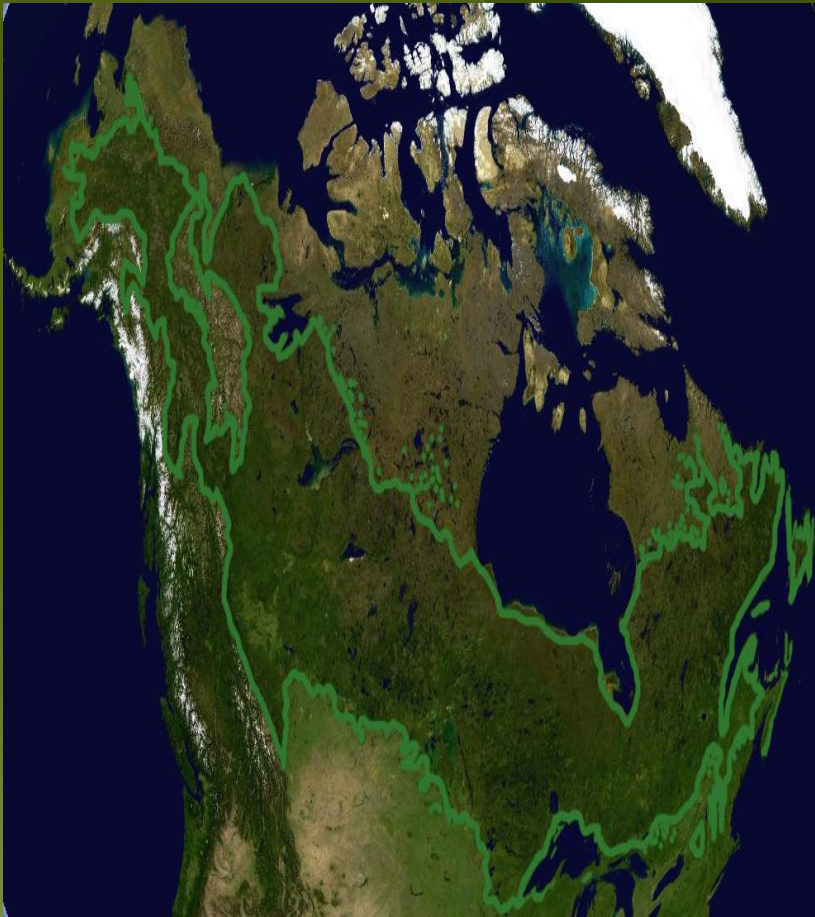


Glossary Terms!

- Muskeg
- Taiga
- Timberland



The Boreal Shield



- The Boreal Shield is a combination of two important natural features:
 - > The rocky Canadian Shield
 - > The coniferous northern forest
- The Boreal Shield is a huge ecozone, in some places stretching over 1000 kilometres wide (north to south)
- It has been called the Amazon of the North

Landscape

- The Boreal Shield has a very distinct look. Like the Southern Arctic ecozone, this is due mostly to glaciers that scraped the land and exposed the granite bedrock, leaving behind thin soils and many depressions.
- These depression fill with water creating bogs, swamps and lakes.



Natural Vegetation



- ◎ The natural vegetation of the Boreal Shield is well adapted to cold winters and short, hot summers and just enough precipitation to support a dense forest.

Natural Vegetation



- ◎ Black spruce and balsam fir are used in high quantity for the pulp and paper mills.
- ◎ Deciduous trees like birch and poplar are found on the southern edges of the region. These can handle the climate.
- ◎ Lichens and shrubs are also found in this area.

Wildlife



- ◎ 230 different birds live in the Boreal Shield
- ◎ Aquatic animals
 - > Seals, whales, pike, trout and pickerel
- ◎ Smaller animals
 - > Beaver, fox, marten, otter
- ◎ Large animals
 - > Black bear, lynx, coyote, moose

Human Activity



- About 4 million people live in the Boreal Shield
- Mines and mills are major resources in this ecozone.
- Remote hunting and fishing lodges create a prosperous tourism industry.

Human Activity



- ◎ Many Aboriginal peoples live in the Boreal Shield
- ◎ Some maintain their traditions of hunting and fishing while others work in resources, businesses, construction or tourism.

Human Activity



- ◎ For example, in Newfoundland and Labrador, fishing formed the basis of the economy.
- ◎ However, recent overfishing has led to the collapse of major fish stocks, which have impaired many coastal fishing communities.

Threats

- ◎ Logging, mining, the building of oil and gas pipelines, and hydroelectric development all threaten the ecozone.
- ◎ Forestry industry
 - > Clear-cutting methods leave few trees behind in logging areas
 - > Only a few tree species are being replanted.



Threats



◎ Roads

- > Road building through the ecozone force sediment buildup in streams and rivers
- > Road separate animal habitats, leaving them vulnerable
- > Road access brings more motorized vehicles into an area leading to more pollution, risk of fire and an overall negative impact on the wildlife.