

Water Bodies of Canada

Canada is covered by a vast network of lakes and rivers, which flow to the sea. There are three great river systems: the **St. Lawrence System**; the **Saskatchewan-Nelson System**; and the **Mackenzie System**. The main rivers of these systems and some of their large tributaries are shown on your map.

The **St. Lawrence River** is considered one of the largest rivers in the world because of the great volume of water it carries. It drains the **Great Lakes** and flows into the **Gulf of St. Lawrence**. Many tributaries empty tons of water into the St. Lawrence; the greatest of these is the **Ottawa River**. The St. Lawrence River has been very important to the growth of North America as a **route for ships**, as a source of **hydroelectric power** for industrial centres of the area, and as a **source of irrigation** for the fertile St. Lawrence Lowlands.

The **North and South Saskatchewan Rivers** flow from the Rocky Mountains across the western plains and join to form the **Saskatchewan River**, which flows into **Lake Winnipeg**. Then, the **Nelson River** flows across the Canadian Shield and empties into the **Hudson Bay**. This large river system provides irrigation for the vast grain fields of the Prairie Provinces.

In northwestern Canada, the **Mackenzie River** with its tributaries forms the second largest river system in North America. This river system begins in the Rocky Mountains where the **Peace and Athabasca Rivers** flow into **Lake Athabasca**. On its way to the **Arctic Ocean**, the **Mackenzie River** is fed by **Great Slave Lake**, **Great Bear Lake**, and a number of tributaries, which flow from the mountains. The **Mackenzie River** is an important inland waterway route during the ice-free season.

➤ *Locate and label the following rivers and water bodies on your map:*

Rivers
Saskatchewan River (SK)
Churchill River (SK/MB)
Fraser River (BC)
Slave River (NT/AB)
Saguenay River (QC)
Albany River (ON)
Nelson River (MB)
Assiniboine River (MB)
Peace River (BC/AB)
Mackenzie River (NT)
Athabasca River (AB)
Ottawa River (ON/QC)
St. Lawrence River (QC)

Water Bodies	
Hudson Bay (NU/MB/ON/QC)	Baffin Bay (NU)
James Bay (NU/ON/QC)	Lake Ontario (ON)
Bay of Fundy (NB/NS)	Lake Erie (ON)
Atlantic Ocean	Lake Michigan (US)
Arctic Ocean	Lake Huron (ON)
Pacific Ocean	Lake Superior (ON)
Beaufort Sea (YU/NT)	Lake Athabasca (AB/SK)
Davis Strait (NU)	Great Bear Lake (NT)
Foxe Basin (NU)	Great Slave Lake (NT)
Gulf of St. Lawrence (QC/PE)	Lake Winnipeg (MB)
Georgian Bay (ON)	Lake Manitoba (MB)
Ungava Bay (QC)	Lake Winnipegosis (MB)
Cabot Strait (NL/NS)	Hudson Strait (NU)
M'Clure Strait (NT)	Amundsen Gulf (NT)