

# Summary: North American Neighbors

## Our Northern Neighbor: Canada

The United States is part of North America. Canada is also in North America. It is north of the United States. Canada is the second largest country in the world in land area. But the United States has nine times more people. The United States trades with Canada more than any other country.

Canada stretches far north into the Arctic Circle, so the climate is cold. Mountain ranges on the coast block warm winds from the Pacific Ocean. Most people live where it is warmer, on the coasts or on the southern border.

The United States and Canada share landforms, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains. Forestry is a major industry in Canada.

American Indians have lived in Canada for thousands of years. Settlers from France and Britain came in the 1600s. In Quebec, many people speak French. In other parts of Canada people mostly speak English. Canada has ten provinces and three territories.

## Mexico and the Caribbean

Mexico is on the southern border of the United States. It is large and has many regions. The capital, Mexico City, is on the Mexican Plateau. It is one of the world's biggest cities. Mountain ranges go down both coasts. It can be cold in the mountains, but the climate of Mexico is mostly tropical, warm, and dry. The United States trades a lot with Mexico and the Caribbean islands.

The Caribbean islands are southeast of the United States. American Indians lived in the Caribbean and Mexico for thousands of years. In the 1400s, European countries took land for colonies. Spain conquered the Aztec people of Mexico. Spain and other European nations also colonized Caribbean islands. Europeans brought enslaved Africans to the area. Today, most Mexicans speak Spanish and have Spanish or Indian backgrounds. Many people in the Caribbean have African backgrounds.

### Before You Read

Find and underline the vocabulary word.

**province** *noun*, a unit of government into which a nation is divided

### After You Read

**REVIEW** How do Canada's area and population compare to those of the United States?

Underline the sentences that tell about Canada's size and how many people live there compared to the United States.

**REVIEW** In what ways is the history of Mexico and the Caribbean like the history of the United States? Circle the sentence that tells who lived in Mexico and the Caribbean before Europeans arrived. Draw a box around the sentence that tells what the Europeans did when they arrived. Then underline the sentence that tells how Africans came to these places.