Northern Canada is made up of three Territories, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The territory split from the Northwest Territories in 1898 and was named the Yukon Territory.

The Yukon is the westernmost and smallest of Canada’s three territories. The territory is very sparsely populated with a population of 35,000 people. Whitehorse is the capital of the Yukon and its only city.

At 5,959m, Yukon’s Mount Logan is the highest mountain in Canada and the second highest in North America. Most of Yukon has a subarctic climate, long cold winters and brief warm summers.

To view images of the Yukon click here http://bit.ly/2f08rdG

The Northwest Territories became part of Canada on July 15, 1870, but current borders were formed on April 1, 1999, when the territory was divided to create a new territory, Nunavut to the east.

The Northwest Territory is a land of forests and tundra; it covers a vast part of Canada. Only a small part of the territory is on North American mainland. The rest is made up of islands in the Arctic Ocean in the north. The Northwest Territories reaches over 1,300,000 km2 so the climate varies from north to south. Summers in the north are short and cool, with daytime highs in the mid teens and lows in the single digits. Winters are long and harsh, daytime highs in the mid -20 degree Celsius and lows around -40 degrees Celsius.

It is estimated that 44,291 people live in the Northwest Territory, half of which are First nations or Inuit descent.

To view images of the Northwest http://bit.ly/2f1sh8p
Fun Facts - Northwest Territories

1. Time Zone: The Northwest Territories is on Mountain Time, which means they are two hours behind us.

2. Capital of the Northwest Territories: Yellowknife is the capital city of the Northwest Territories. It lies on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, with views of the northern lights in the fall and inter months.

3. Territorial Animal/Bird: The Gyrfalcon is the territorial bird; it is a bird of prey, the largest of the falcon species.

4. Territorial Flower: Mountain Avens is the territorial flower in the Northwest Territories; this short, white flower with small leaves can grow in high, rocky ground.

5. The Northwest Territories is one of the best places to see the Northern Lights.

6. Territorial Tree: The Tamarack Larch is the territorial tree. The word tamarack is the Algonquian name for the species and means "wood used for snowshoes."

Fun Facts - Yukon

1. Time Zone: Yukon is on Pacific Time, which means they are three hours behind us.

2. Capital of the Yukon: Whitehorse is the capital city of the Yukon. To the south are the basalt cliffs of Miles Canyon, the site of a former gold rush town.

3. Territorial Animal/Bird: The Common Raven is the territorial bird of Yukon. The Raven is a larger bird and is all black.

4. Territorial Flower: Fireweed is the territorial flower of Yukon.

5. The Yukon is one of the best places to see the Northern Lights.

6. The Highest Mountain in Canada is in Yukon, Mount Logan.

7. The word Yukon comes from the native word "Yu-kun-ah", meaning Great River. Referring to the river that runs across the territory into Alaska.

8. About 75% of Yukon's population lives in its capital city, Whitehorse.
What are the Northern Lights? The northern lights, also known as "Aurora Borealis", which in Latin means "dawn of the north", look like dancing lights in the sky. The Northern Lights are actually collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth’s atmosphere. The lights appear in many colours although pale green and pink are most common. Shades of red, yellow, green, blue and violet have been reported. Not only can the lights be seen in different colours, they also appear in many forms from patches, scattered clouds, streamers, rippling curtains or shooting rays that light up the sky with an eerie glow.

What causes the Northern Lights? The Northern Lights are actually the result of collisions between gaseous particles in the Earth’s atmosphere with charged particles released from the sun. Variations in colour are due to the type of gas particles that are colliding. The most common colour is a pale yellowish-green, it is produced by oxygen molecules located about 60 miles above the earth.

Where can you see the Northern Lights? Northern Lights can be seen in the northern or southern hemisphere, in an irregularly shaped oval centred over each magnetic pole. The lights are known as 'Aurora borealis' in the north and 'Aurora australis' in the south. Scientists have learned that in most instances northern and southern auroras are mirror-like images that occur at the same time, with similar shapes and colors.

Areas that are not subject to ‘light pollution’ are the best places to watch for the northern lights. Areas in the north, in smaller communities, tend to be best, which is why the northwestern parts of Canada, particularly the Yukon, Nunavut, & Northwest Territories are best.

When to see the Northern Lights? You need dark clear skies to see the Northern Lights best, so winter-spring is the best time, December - April.

Create Your Own Northern Lights

Create your own Northern Lights in the snow - with multicolored glow sticks and a snowy ground.

What you need:

- Colourful glow sticks
- Snow
- Warm clothes to play in the snow

What to do:

1. Crack the glow sticks to activate their glow.
2. Place them in the snow as it starts to snow and let nature cover them up to create some cool effects.

OR

3. Children can dig a shallow trench in the snow and lay the glow sticks inside. The snowy ground will radiate with beautiful colours!

Paint the Northern Lights in the Snow

What you need:

- Spray bottles
- Water
- Food colouring
- Snow
- Warm clothes to play in the snow

What to do:

1. Mix food colouring and water in spray bottles.
2. Dress warm and head outside.
3. Paint the Northern Lights in the snow by spraying the colours all over the snow.

_PROVIDERS_ don't forget to take pictures and send them in!
For a true northern cultural experience, soar across a snow-covered lake behind a dog team! The Canadian Championship Yellowknife Dog Sledding Derby is held annually at the end of March in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The race covers 150 miles on Great Slave Lake and takes place over three days.

A dog sled team is made up of 11-12 dogs, a sled and a Musher (driver). Each dog on the team has a job and a title.

Sled dogs were important for transportation in arctic areas, hauling supplies in areas that were inaccessible by other methods.

There are three breeds considered to be the true sled dogs, selected based on their performance, endurance and the task at hand: Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky and the Eskimo Dog. The Alaskan Malamute is a hardy dog that is a descendant of the Arctic wolf.
Build a Mini Dog Sled

What you need:

- Several clean Popsicle sticks
- Glue (wood glue would work best)
- Pipe cleaners

What to do:

1. Lay two popsicle sticks down for runners. Cut two popsicle sticks in half. Lay two halves on each other and glue them on the runners, one on each end. Let them dry.
2. Lay four sticks down in the exact middle of the runners (next to one another) as a flat base. Glue them down so that one end fits squarely and the other end sticks out over the runners. Allow it to dry.
3. Cut four more sticks in half. Glue five of the halves together as shown laying the pieces on two or more stick halves, which will serve as a back support. Glue one half at the very bottom of the piece and one at the top, but leave a little room at the top so five curved ends of the popsicle sticks still show.
4. Glue the pieces from step #3 on the end of the runners where the base ends squarely.
5. Glue two sticks as rails along the base. The flat part of the sticks should face sideways. Glue the tops next to the vertical piece and the bottoms next to the base.
6. Cut two small sections of pipecleaner and arch them. Glue one arch at the end of the base for the front of the basket and glue the other at the top for a handlebar.
Digging for Gold: A Sensory Activity

The discovery of gold in the Yukon in 1896 led to a stampede of prospectors to the Klondike region between 1896 and 1899. This led to the development of Dawson City and subsequently, the Yukon Territory in 1898.

Have little ones try their luck at digging for gold.

What you need:
- Shaving foam or Cool whip (if children put thing in their mouth use this option, but it melts faster)
- Wide shallow bin
- Green food colouring (it is St. Patrick’s Day this month after all)
- Gold Coins (you can spray paint jar lids, or use yellow lego/duplo, or yellow applesauce lids)

What to do:
1. Spray shaving foam into a bin. Add some green food colouring.
2. Hide some “gold” treasures within the foam.
3. Let little ones dig in and search for gold.

Gold Digging in the Yukon

What you need:
- Paper cups
- Rice
- Pasta (penne, macaroni, bowtie)
- Gold or yellow paint
- A bin/bowl

What to do:
1. Poke holes in the bottom of the cups, big enough for rice to get through.
2. Using gold or yellow paint, paint a few pieces of penne pasta (these will be the gold).
3. Once pasta is dry, pour rice and pasta (gold) into bin/bowl, enough to cover the pasta pieces.
4. Now children can dig their cup into the rice/pasta mixture, shake the cup so the rice comes out the bottom and hopefully they will reveal some GOLD in their cup.
1. *A Brush of Colour: The World of Ted Harrison* by Margriet Ruurs

2. *Yukon River: An Adventure to the Gold Fields of the Klondike* by Peter Lourie

3. *Dogteam* by Gary Paulsen

4. *T is for Territories: A Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut Alphabet* by Michael Kusugak
The flag of Yukon, Canada is a green, white and blue tricolour with the coat of arms of Yukon at the centre above a wreath of firewood, the territorial flower.

- Green representing Yukon’s forests
- White representing snow
- Blue representing Yukon’s lakes and rivers

The crest of the Coat of Arms is a Malamute sled dog, a common work dog in the Yukon, standing on a mound of snow, the shield of the Coat of Arms, below in the middle of the shield are two wavy lines representing Yukon’s rivers on a blue background. Finally at the bottom of the shield are two red triangles representing Yukon’s mountains with gold circles in them representing the Yukon’s great mineral resources.
The current flag of the Northwest Territories was adopted in 1969. The flag features a blue field (blue strips on either side) with a white square in the centre, the shield from the coat of arms. The blue represents the abundant Northwest Territories waters and the white represents snow and ice.
Quick Bannock Bread

A specialty in the northern parts of Canada, especially in many First Nations communities, is bannock, a typically round quick bread. The version prepared by First Nations people usually uses white or whole-wheat flour, baking powder and water. The dough is kneaded and spices or dried fruits can be added before it is pan-fried or baked in an oven.

Ingredients:

• 2 cups all-purpose flour
• 1 tsp. salt
• 1 tsp. baking powder
• 1 tsp. sugar
• 1 - 1 ½ cups water
• Raisins or dried cranberries (optional)

Directions:

1. Measure flour, salt, baking powder and sugar into a large bowl. Stir to mix.
2. Pour 1 cup of water over flour mixture; whisk together to make a pastry batter. Add up to half a cup more water if needed.
3. Add raisins or dried cranberries if you wish.
4. Heat up half a cup of oil in a frying pan; drop the batter one tablespoonful at a time and fry it until golden brown. Flip and cook other side.
5. Place on paper towel to drain access oil and cool down.
6. Serve with butter or jam.

Check out this instructional video on how to make Bannock Bread

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What you need:

- Paint brushes
- White paper
- Black construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

What to do:

1. Paint streaks of colour on your white paper, use as many colours as you like.
2. Cut out a tree silhouette using black construction paper.
3. Glue the tree line onto the bottom half of your white paper.
A postcard is a card with a photo on one side and a space to write on the other side. People sometimes purchase postcards while on vacation; they either collect them or send them to someone back home.

Below outlines what a postcard consists of. Use the template on the following page and have children create their own postcard from the Yukon and/or Northwest Territories. Cut it out, fold it in half and glue the two sides together so it becomes a two-sided card.

**Message:**
Summarize the event, location, etc.

**Using:**
- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?

**Front:**
Illustrate the event, person, place, or location. This can be hand drawn or use cut outs.