

THE COAT OF ARMS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



B.C.'s Coat of Arms was officially unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1987. It is unique as it incorporates Her Majesty's Royal Crest at the top - the crowned lion standing on the imperial crown. To differentiate B.C.'s Royal Crest from the original, it has been changed to include the crowned lion wearing a collar of dogwood flowers. Below the crown is a helmet - the heraldic symbol of sovereignty - that represents B.C.'s provincial sovereignty in our Canadian system. The red and white mantling displays Canada's official colours, which represents the British and the French.



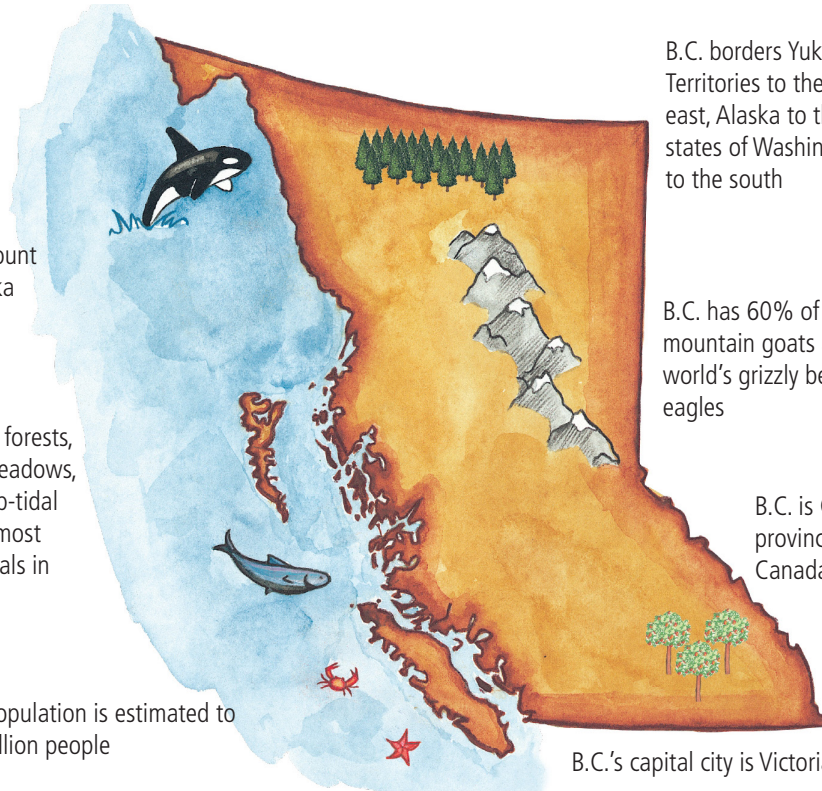
The Union Jack flag with the centre crown symbolizes our colonial origins. The setting sun indicates we are the western-most province and next to the Pacific Ocean which is represented by the blue stripes. The white stripes represent the snow on the Rocky Mountains. On the left side, the elk represents the former Colony of Vancouver Island. The bighorn sheep on the right represents the former Colony of British Columbia. The Latin motto at the bottom - "*splendor sine occasu*" - means "*Splendour without Diminishment*". Entwining the motto is a dogwood garland.

DID YOU KNOW?

B.C.'s highest point is Mount Fairweather, on the Alaska border (4,663 m)

B.C. has rich habitats of forests, grasslands, wetlands, meadows, rivers, inter-tidal and sub-tidal zones that support the most diverse plants and animals in Canada

B.C.'s population is estimated to be 5 million people



B.C. borders Yukon and the Northwest Territories to the north, Alberta to the east, Alaska to the northwest, and the U.S. states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana to the south

B.C. has 60% of the world's mountain goats and 25% of the world's grizzly bears and bald eagles

B.C. is Canada's 3rd largest province with nearly 10% of Canada's total land area

B.C.'s capital city is Victoria

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE
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