

Chapter 12

Use with Section 2

ENRICHMENT

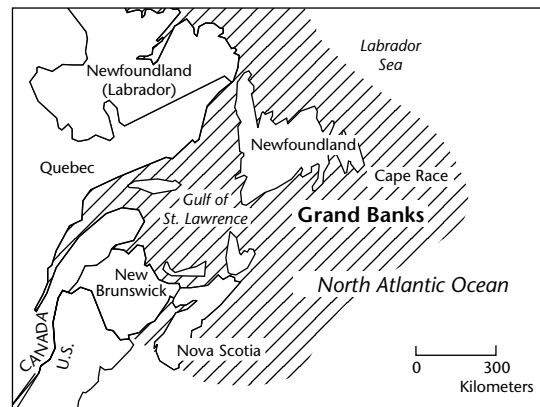
● Life in the Ocean

Fishing in the Grand Banks

The Grand Banks includes more than 350 000 square kilometers of shallow ocean water above the continental shelf off the southeast coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Fish thrive here because the waters are a rich source of plankton, the tiny algae and animals that drift in the ocean currents. The plankton live on nutrients brought up from the ocean's depths by deep currents that rise toward the surface when they reach the shallow waters of the banks. Commercially valuable fish include cod, flounder, haddock, herring, and redfish.

Fishing off the Grand Banks attracted fishing fleets from Europe as early as the 1500s. Over the years, large numbers of commercial fishing fleets came to the Grand Banks to fish. Fleets came from countries including England, France, Portugal, Spain, the Soviet Union, and the United States as well as from Canada. By the 1960s, overfishing had significantly reduced the number of fish in the area. So many fish were being removed that the total population dropped greatly. In 1977, Canada claimed authority over all fishing as far as 370 kilometers

from its coastline. This included most of the area of the Grand Banks. All fishing vessels, Canadian and foreign, must have a license to fish in these waters. Canada also restricted how many of certain kinds of fish can be caught. As populations of some kinds of fish continued to fall, the Canadian government in 1992 banned all cod fishing and reduced the number of other fish that could be taken.



1. Refer to the key on the map above. Shade in the area about 370 kilometers from the coastline of Canada.
2. What might happen to the fish population if the pattern of deep currents near the continental shelf changed? _____

3. What caused the population of fish to fall by the 1960s? _____

4. How does Canada hope to increase the population of fish in the Grand Banks? _____

5. Would increasing the amount of plankton in the Grand Banks help maintain or increase the population of fish in the area? _____
