Extraction And Use of Natural Resources On The Canadian Shield

The Canadian Shield is a large area of uplands surrounding Hudson Bay. This region covers most of the eastern half of Canada. The soil here is thin and rocky. Beneath the soil is one of Canada’s most valuable resources: minerals. The mines in this area produce gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, iron ore, uranium, and nickel. The most valuable minerals available in Canada are in The Canadian Shield area. Approximately 1.5 million people make their living in the mining industry in Canada-many of them in the Canadian Shield.

Mining can be dangerous, messy work. The land around mines can be damaged and the environment ruined. Blasting and digging with heavy machinery are common ways to extract the resources in mining areas. Slag, or leftover rock from the chemical extraction process, is often dumped into nearby lakes, streams, and rivers, killing vegetation and animals that live in the area. The mining process can spew sulfur dioxide into the air, contributing to the acid rain problem.

The Canadian Shield’s minerals are located near the most heavily populated areas of Canada. Pollution related to mining can have an impact on the large metropolitan areas to the south. The government has made new rules about mining. Some of the new rules cut back on the amount of pollution allowed in water sources. Canada’s government hopes to keep its fish alive and safe to eat without shutting down important mining industries.