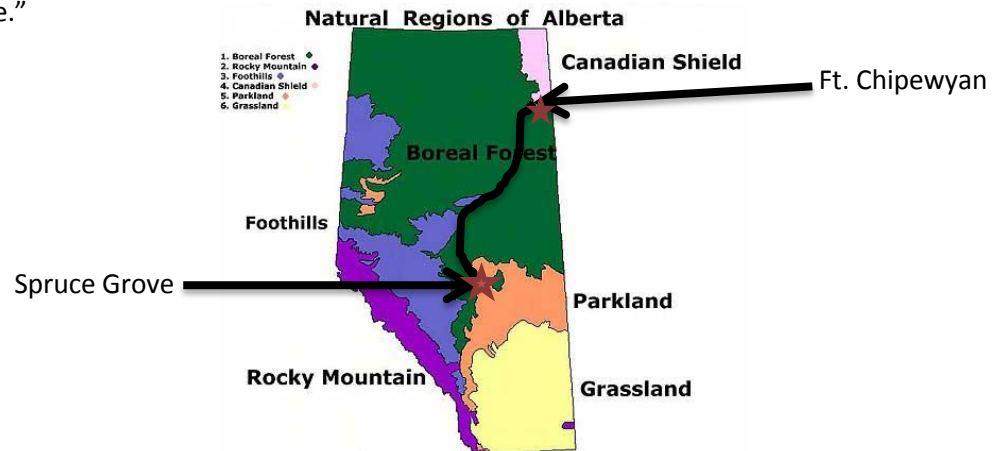


My Vacation to the Canadian Shield

Day #1

We left Spruce Grove this morning heading to the North East part of the province to the region called the Canadian Shield. Dad said, "Don't get too excited it's a long way. It is almost 700 km and it will take us all day to get there."



I decided to bunker down in the back seat and read my book for now.

... Wow is there a lot of trees as we head north and traffic too. Dad says we are traveling through the Boreal Forest and that it is the biggest region in Alberta. He also tells me we will need to take a plane ride from Ft. McMurray into Ft. Chipewyan, because there is no road into Ft. Chip in the summer. In the winter they have an ice road and people can drive there.

...The small plane was kind of freaky, but we landed safely. I took a picture of the some jack pine trees on the road from the airport to the hotel. Guess what I saw? It was a black bear. It's kind of neat having them wander through town. Next Dad wanted to go over the safety rules at the hotel.



NO WANDERING OUTSIDE ALONE

It's dark now but Dad still promised us a swim at the hotel. It's been a long day of driving and flying. Swimming will be awesome.

Day #2

I had a great breakfast. Now Dad is taking us to the fort. Fort Chipewyan was named after the 1st Nations people who lived in the area. The fort was built by early fur-traders who traded goods with the 1st Nations people. This afternoon we are going on across Alberta's largest lake, Lake Athabasca. This ought to be fun.

...I saw some cool wildlife while we boated on the massive lake. I had only read about these animals in books before. Took some pictures and wrote down some facts that Dad told me about below so I don't forget later on.

Arctic fox



I could see him/her right in the open. I was told that it will

scavenge food from wolves' kill. Their coat also changes colour in the winter to white to help protect itself from predators.

Next I saw a **Northern Shrike**.



It feeds on small birds, mammals, and insect. Sometimes it impales them on spines or barbed wire fences. We saw plants that were prickly and would have been idea for such a ghastly capture. They are called a **flat leaved willow** bush.



Later on we were traveling back to town and we saw these beautiful flowers. It had bright pinky red



flowers. Dad said they were **fireweed** plants. They are called fireweed because after a fire destroys the landscape they are usually the first thing to pop up, and they were all over the place. I guess there must have been a fire not too long ago there.

I hope I sleep well tonight. I can't wait for tomorrow. It was an awesome boat ride.

Day #3

It's our last day up in the Canadian Shield. **Jack pine** trees were all over the place.



Dad said they grow really well in dry rocky areas like the Canadian Shield. They have to anchor themselves to rocks and sand because there isn't much soil here.

Some of the oldest rocks on Earth are found in the Canadian Shield. The rocks here are much older than the Rocky Mountains. Here the rocks are exposed to erosion strong winds, rain, and snow and ice.



Today we are going to **Wood Buffalo National Park**. It is the largest National park in Canada.

Wood Buffalo National Park is awesome. We came across a **Red-Sided Garter Snake**.



Dad said the park was first established to protect the **Bison**. The bison were almost hunted and killed to extinction by the white men in the early 1900's. In the afternoon we got to see the **world's largest beaver dam**. It is almost a kilometre long. It was first discovered by satellite imagery.



What a great day and vacation. I can't wait to get home and show mom what Dad and I did on our vacation.



Criteria

What your report needs:

Pictures

Map of where it is in Alberta and what direction you traveled

Things to see and do when you are there (parks, festivals, museums, activities)

Describe the landscape and terrain

Describe at least 2 plants found in the region

Describe at least 2 animals found in the region

Journal what a day could possibly be like if you vacationed there

Elements	4 -Awesome	3- Good/But	2- Okay I want to know more!	1- Limited- Where did you go?
Pictures provide audience with idea of the region				
Map Shows travel route and location of region				
Organization Journal writing is neat, in sequence and tells a story of your vacation				
Information Plants, animals, landscape, things to see and do, and how long and what direction you travel to get there				