

# CANADA-U.S. BORDER

Canada shares a border with only one other country. That country is the United States. The border between these two countries is an invisible line that is 8891 kilometres long. Until recently, thousands of people and many different products crossed the border each day. Even now, the border between Canada and the United States is an important connection between the two countries.

You might have heard people refer to the border as “the 49th parallel.” Much of the border runs along the southern edge of Canada close to an **imaginary** line at 49 degrees north of the **equator**, but this line is not always straight. The line goes through water south of Vancouver Island, runs north to south between Alaska and Yukon, and dips south in Ontario.

Many borders around the world are heavily guarded, but not the one between Canada and the United States. People cross at one of the 119

official crossings, but the rest of the border is unguarded. Normally, about 200,000 people cross the border every day to work, visit family or friends, or to shop.

Goods for sale also cross the border, including fruit, vegetables, lumber, and furniture. Trucks go back and forth



between the countries, taking oranges from Florida to Manitoba and wheat back south, as well as many other goods like cars, oil, and even toilet paper.

COVID-19 has changed much of that. The border between the two countries has been closed to most traffic. People just visiting to shop or take a vacation are no longer allowed to cross, although trucks carrying goods are still allowed to cross. This is important as Canada depends on the U.S. for much of its food supply, while the U.S. depends on Canada for many resources, like wood and oil.



**Imaginary:** Existing in the imagination and not the real world.

**Equator:** An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth that is equal distance from the North and South poles.

# CANADA-U.S. BORDER QUESTIONS

1. With what country does Canada share a border?

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2. The border between these two countries is an invisible line that is

\_\_\_\_\_ long.

3. Much of the border runs along the southern edge of Canada close to an imaginary line at \_\_\_\_\_ north of the equator.

4. Many borders around the world are heavily \_\_\_\_\_, but not the one between Canada and the United States.

5. How many official border crossings are there?

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6. Normally, about \_\_\_\_\_ people cross the border every day to work, visit family or friends, or to shop.

7. What are some of the goods for sale that cross the border?

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8. Who is no longer allowed to cross the border?

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