

The Pattern of Canada's Landforms

What you need know:

1. Canada has **three** basic types (shapes) of landforms.
2. They are not random features; they form a pattern that can be explained by the processes or forces that created them.

#1 - The Canadian Shield

(also called the **Precambrian Shield**)

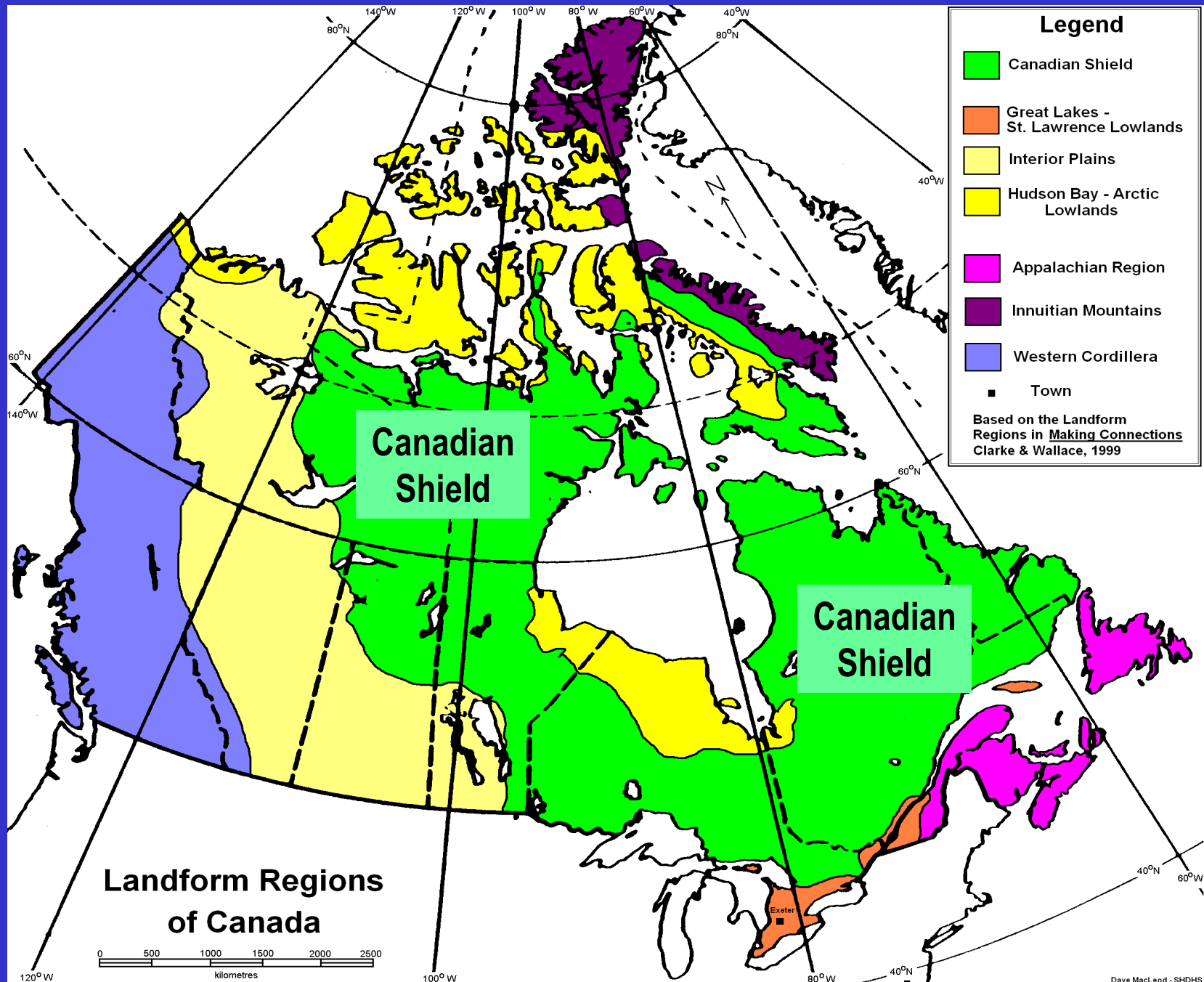
**#2 - The surrounding series of plains
or lowlands**

#3 – The Highlands

#1 - The Canadian

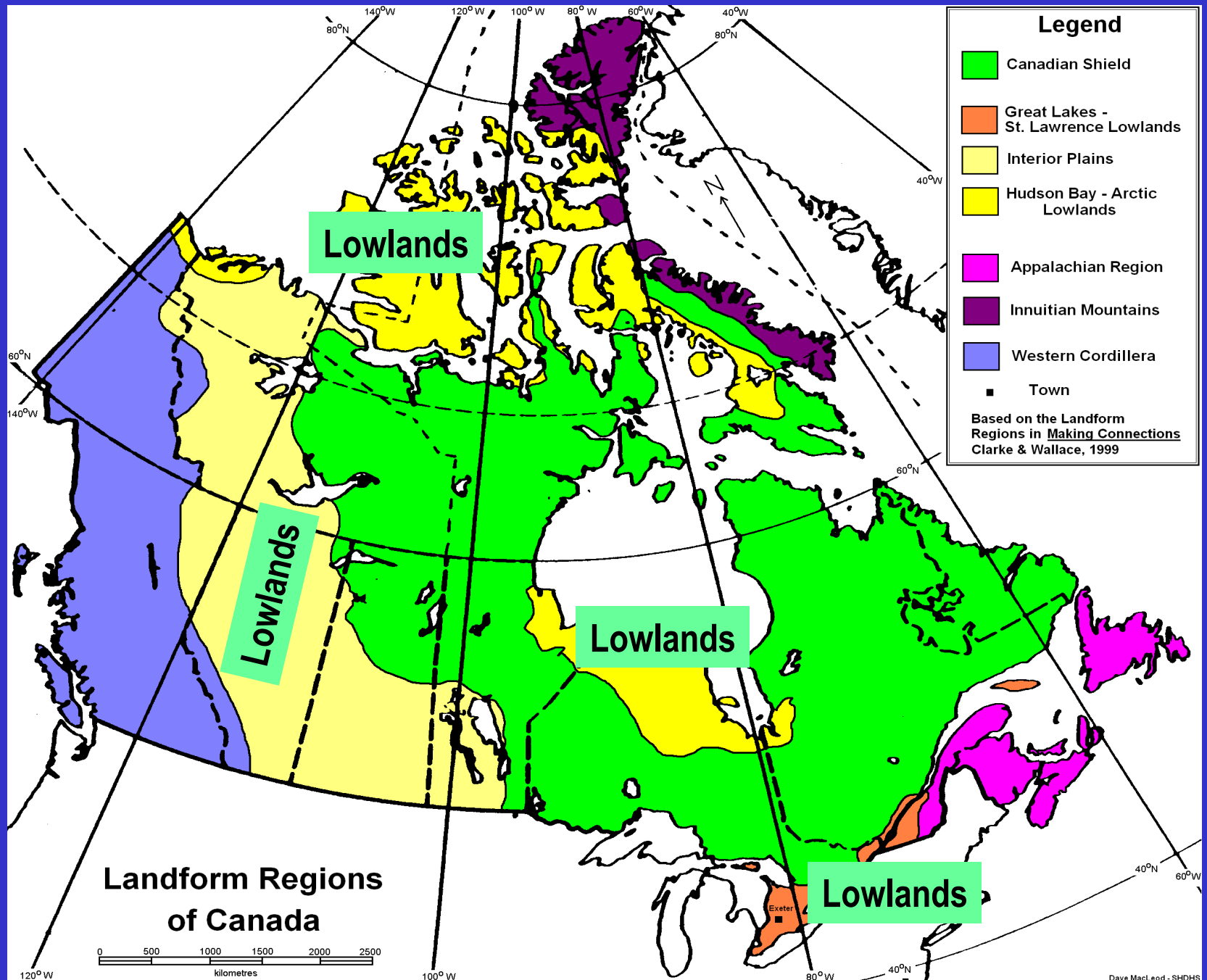
(also called the **Precambrian Shield**)

- ❖ the geologic core of the country
- ❖ ancient (4 billion years in some places), hard *igneous* rock from which all the other areas were created
- ❖ used to be a huge mountain range



#2 – The Lowlands

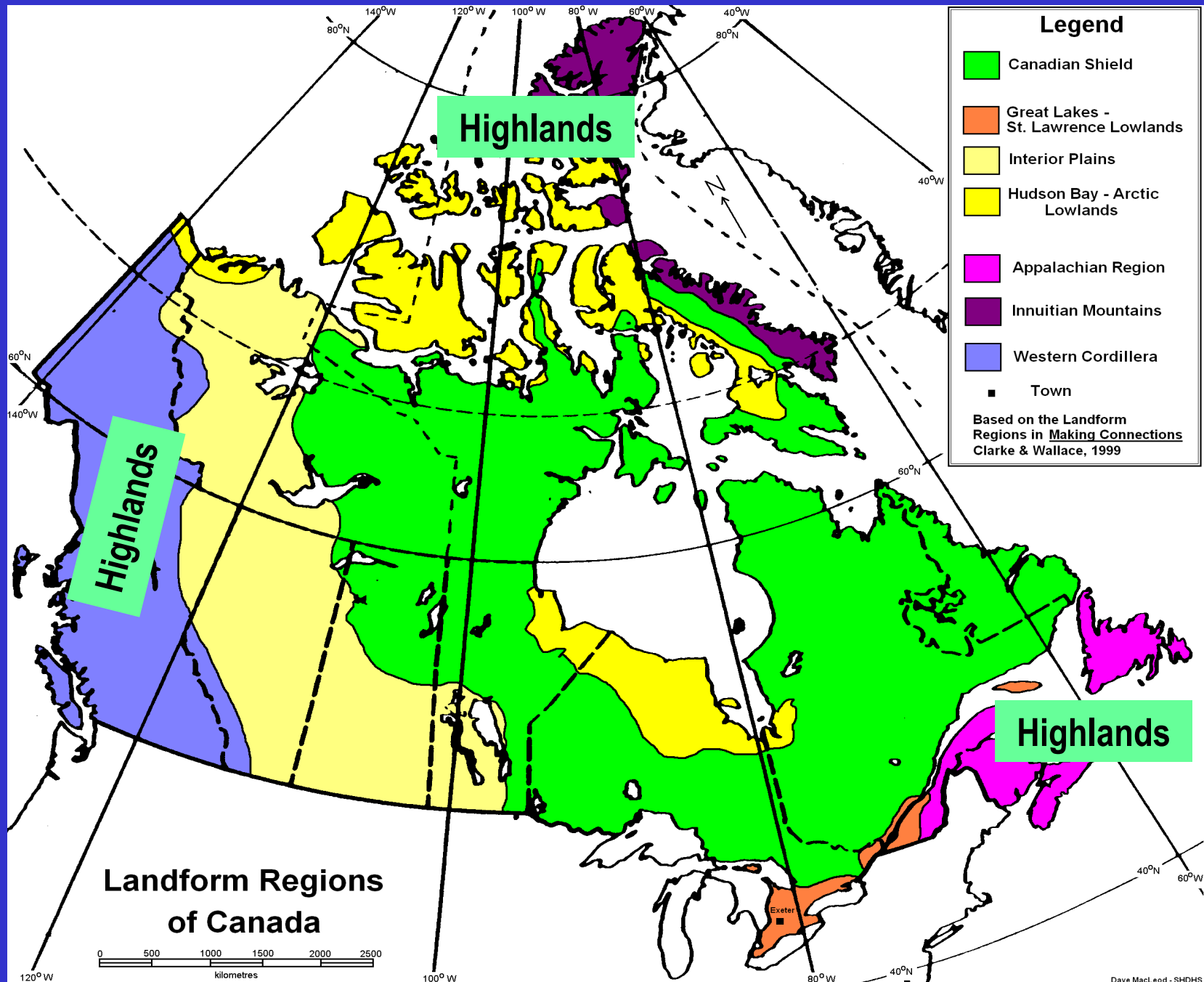
- ❖ made of *sedimentary* rock
- ❖ most of the sediments were eroded from the ancient Precambrian Shield
- ❖ includes the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Lowlands, the Interior Plains, the Hudson Bay Lowlands, and the Arctic Lowlands



#3 – The Highlands

- ❖ also made up of, in part, sediments from the ancient Shield, also with metamorphic rock
- ❖ unlike the flat lowland areas, the mountains have been uplifted by tectonic forces
- ❖ there are three main mountain areas that make up the highlands

- the **Appalachian Mountains** (the oldest and hence the lowest due to longer erosion)
- the **Innuitian Mountains** of the very far north
- the **Western Cordillera** (the youngest, and highest, is actually a series of several different ranges dominated by the famous Rocky Mountains, the most easterly of the Cordilleran ranges)



Highlands

Highlands

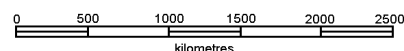
Highlands

Legend

- Canadian Shield
- Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Lowlands
- Interior Plains
- Hudson Bay - Arctic Lowlands
- Appalachian Region
- Innuitian Mountains
- Western Cordillera
- Town

Based on the Landform Regions in Making Connections
Clarke & Wallace, 1999

Landform Regions of Canada



Appalachian Mountains



Canadian Shield

St Lawrence Lowlands



Great Lakes Lowlands



Arctic Lowlands

Interior Plains





Western Cordillera

Arctic Lowlands



Innuitian Mountains



