



NATIONAL PARKS AND ECOZONES

Suggested time: 90 minutes

What's important in this lesson:

1. You will investigate two National Parks to see which one best represents the Boreal Plains ecozone.
2. You will base your decision on a rating process.
3. You will write a brief report to explain your decision.

Complete these steps:

1. Use the understanding you have of ecozone features to complete the **Ecozone Ranking Table**. (Don't forget the work you did in previous lessons!)
2. Access the Internet site for **Parks Canada's Teacher Learning Centre** and print out Fact Sheets for two (2) National Parks in the Boreal Plains, or get the printouts from your teacher.
3. Use the information on the Fact Sheets to complete the **National Parks Information Sheet**.
4. Choose the National Park that best represents the Boreal Plains and use the paragraph organizer given to write your report.
5. Create a map identifying the Boreal Plains and showing the location of the two (2) parks you investigated.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Handout sheets.
2. Paragraph.
3. Map

Questions for the teacher:



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You are a travel writer who works for an environmental magazine. Your assignment for the next issue of the magazine is to identify the best place for your readers to visit if they want to see the real “Boreal Plains”. You decide to send your readers to a National Park in that ecozone, since you know that one of the purposes of Canadian National Parks is to protect natural environments. You decide that you will choose two (2) National Parks in the Boreal Plains ecozone and compare them to decide which one does the best job of representing the ecozone. Then you will write a short report to your readers to explain why that Park is the best representative of the real “Boreal Plains”.

Step 1: Fill in the Ecozone Ranking Table

1. For each of the following ecozone features, describe (**in point form**) what you would expect to see in the Boreal Plains ecozone. (Use a textbook and/or the website at www.canadianbiodiversity.mcgill.ca/english/ecozones/ecozones.htm to gather this information.)
2. Then decide why the feature either **important** or **not important** to be within a National Park, and write these reasons (**in point form**) in the chart.
3. Finally, rank how important you feel this feature would be in deciding which Park does the best job of representing the ecozone. Use the rating scale given below:

Boreal Plains Ecozone

Ecozone Feature (describe what you would expect to find in this ecozone)	Is this feature important/ not important to be represented by the Park? (circle one)	Why is this feature important/not important to be represented?
Landforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	important not important	
Climate winter: summer: total precipitation: (in mm)	important not important	
Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 	important not important	



Wildlife • • •	important not important	
Human Activities • • •	important not important	

Step 2: Research Two (2) National Parks

Use the **Teacher Resource Centre** section of the Parks Canada website to discover which National Parks are found in the Boreal Plains (http://www.pc.gc.ca/apprendre-learn/prof/trc/htm/ecozone06_e.asp).

1. Choose two (2) of the Parks identified on the map.
2. Click on the link at the top of the webpage called “**List All Resources**” to see a list of the fact sheets for all National Parks.
3. Click on the name of one of the Parks you have chosen, then print out the fact sheet given (or get the printout from your teacher).
4. Repeat this for your second Park.

Step 3: Complete the National Parks information sheet

1. Transfer the important/not important decisions from the **Ecozone Ranking Table** (above) into the first column of the **National Parks Information Sheet**.
2. Write the names of the **two (2) National Parks** you have chosen into the spaces at the top of the chart. For each Park, use the **Fact Sheet** to fill in the description for each of the features.
3. Decide which Park does the best job of representing the features you would expect to find.
4. Put a check mark Y in the corner of the box for the Park that does the best job. Add the check marks Y in each column. The Park with the most check marks Y is your best choice

National Parks Information Sheet

PARK FEATURES	National Park Description	National Park Description
LANDFORMS <i>important</i> or <i>not important</i> (circle one)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____
CLIMATE <i>important</i> or <i>not important</i> (circle one)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____
VEGETATION <i>important</i> or <i>not important</i> (circle one)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____
WILDLIFE <i>important</i> or <i>not important</i> (circle one)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____
HUMAN ACTIVITIES <i>important</i> or <i>not important</i> (circle one)	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____	_____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ _____
NUMBER OF CHECKS FOR EACH NATIONAL PARK:	TOTAL: _____	TOTAL: _____

Step 4: Write A Report On The Park You Have Chosen

Complete the organizer below using the information you gathered during the decision-making process. Use point form in the chart. Then use your organizer to create an 8 sentence paragraph explaining which Park best represents the Boreal Shield. You must either type your report or write it on a separate page, double spaced.

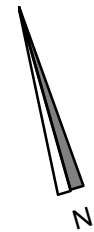
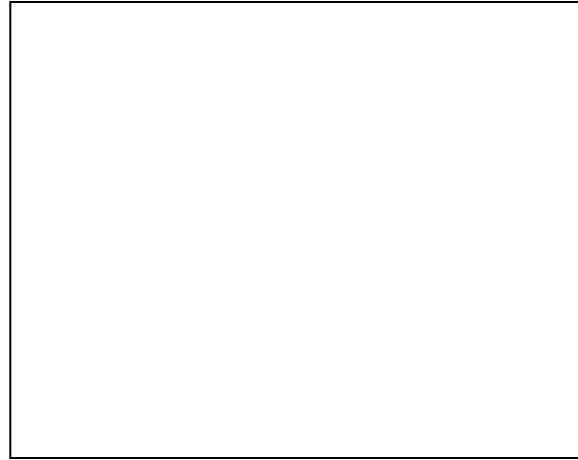
Introduction: The Park which best represents the Boreal Plains ecozone is _____ National Park.

Point 1:	Proof/examples for point 1:
Point 2:	Proof/examples for point 2:
Point 3:	Proof/examples for point 3:
Conclusion:	

Create a map to go with your report. Take the copy of the Ecozones Map (given) and show the location of the Boreal Plains Ecozone and the specific location of the two (2) Parks you have investigated. Follow all proper map conventions (see Lesson 1).



UNIT 1 SUMMATIVE ACTIVITY: BASE MAP





ECOZONES REFLECTION

Canada is a physically diverse country. The concept of ecozones was developed to help us to bring together a collection of information about different parts of Canada, so that we could understand the **patterns** within the **variety**. In some ways ecozones help us to understand the Canada's differences but in other ways they cover up differences.

Use the following chart to identify ways in which ecozones may be a useful idea and ways in which ecozones may be a problematic idea.

Ecozones are useful because	Ecozones are problematic because
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
If you have more ideas, write them in ...	If you have more ideas, write them in ...
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.