

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION—WHY DO WE LIVE WHERE WE DO?

Suggested time: 60 minutes

What's important in this lesson:

You will review the difference between population density and population distribution, then you will explore population distribution in Canada to discover where most of us live and why we live there.

Complete these steps:

1. Complete **Handout #1: Population Density in Canada**. You will need **Handout #2: Ecozones Base Map** to do this.
2. Using the population map on page 26 of the Oxford School Atlas, 7th Ed., or on page 203 of *Making Connections*, complete **Handout #3: Population Distribution in Canada**.
3. Consult maps of transportation, agriculture, trade, and resources to complete **Handout #4: Why do Canadians Live Where They Do?**
4. Get the **Answer Key** from your teacher and check your answers. Make any corrections in a different coloured pen or pencil.
5. Get the Reflection Sheet and reflect on the reasons that your family lives where it does in Canada. Are there any reasons that weren't mentioned in this exercise?

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Your completed and corrected handouts.

Questions for the teacher:



POPULATION DENSITY IN CANADA

Population patterns reflect patterns that humans make on the land. We can look at population in two (2) ways: ① **population distribution** or ② **population density**. In order to find out exactly where people live, you must look at the population distribution. A population distribution map usually uses dots on the map to represent a given number of people. Generally, population distribution is uneven: population tends to clump in specific cities or highly urbanized areas.

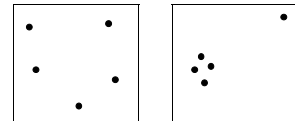
Population density is helpful in comparing areas like ecozones, provinces or even countries, but it does not give specific information about where people live. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Population density} = \frac{\text{total area}}{\text{total population in that area}}$$

Population distribution is defined as *the pattern of where people live in an area.*

Population density is defined as *the average number of people living in an area, usually given as the number of people per square kilometre.*

eg. each square below has a density of 5 people/ km², but they have a different distribution





Population Density of Canada's Ecozones

Ecozones	Population Density (# people/ km ²)
Arctic Cordillera	0.005
Atlantic Maritime	12.8
Boreal Cordillera	0.037
Boreal Plains	1.08
Boreal Shield	0.96
Hudson Plains	0.028
Mixedwood Plains	124.03
Montane Cordillera	0.98

Ecozones	Population Density (# people/ km ²)
Northern Arctic	0.01
Pacific Maritime	12.77
Prairies	8.73
Southern Arctic	0.013
Taiga Cordillera	0.001
Taiga Plain	0.037
Taiga Shield	0.027

1. a) Divide the population density values into three (3) categories: **high** (over 100), **medium** (1 to 100) and **low** (below 1). In the space given in the chart above, mark an **H** for the ecozone with a **high** population density, an **M** beside the ecozones with **medium** densities, and an **L** beside the ecozones with **low** densities.
 - b) Choose one colour family that you have three shades of, for example, brown (dark), orange (medium) and yellow (light). On the Ecozone Base Map, shade the ecozone in the **high** category the **dark** colour. Shade the ecozones in the **medium** category a **medium** shade. Colour the ecozones in the **low** category the **light** shade of pencil crayon.
 - c) Title the map and complete the legend. You have now created a special kind of map called a **choropleth map**, one in which the density of the colour reflects the density of the population.
2. Look at your map. What parts of Canada appear to be most densely populated?
Hint: think about what the locations have in common.

① Areas that are _____ are densely populated because _____.

② Areas that are _____ are densely populated because _____.

③ Areas that are _____ are densely populated because _____.



POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA

1. In 2006, the following cities were the top 25 in Canada based on population:

Mixedwood Plains Ecozone	
Toronto	5,304,100
Montreal	3,635,700
Ottawa-Gatineau	1,148,800
Quebec	717,600
Hamilton	714,900
London	464,300
Kitchener	458,600
St. Catherines-Niagara	396,900
Windsor	332,300
Oshawa	340,300
Sherbrooke	163,700
Trois-Rivieres	142,200

Atlantic Maritime Ecozone	
Halifax	380,800
Saint John	126,700

Boreal Shield Ecozone	
St. John's	182,500
Greater Sudbury	161,1,00
Saguenay	153,000
Thunder Bay	126,500

Prairie Ecozone	
Edmonton	1,016,000
Calgary	1,060,300
Winnipeg	706,900
Saskatoon	235,800
Regina	199,000

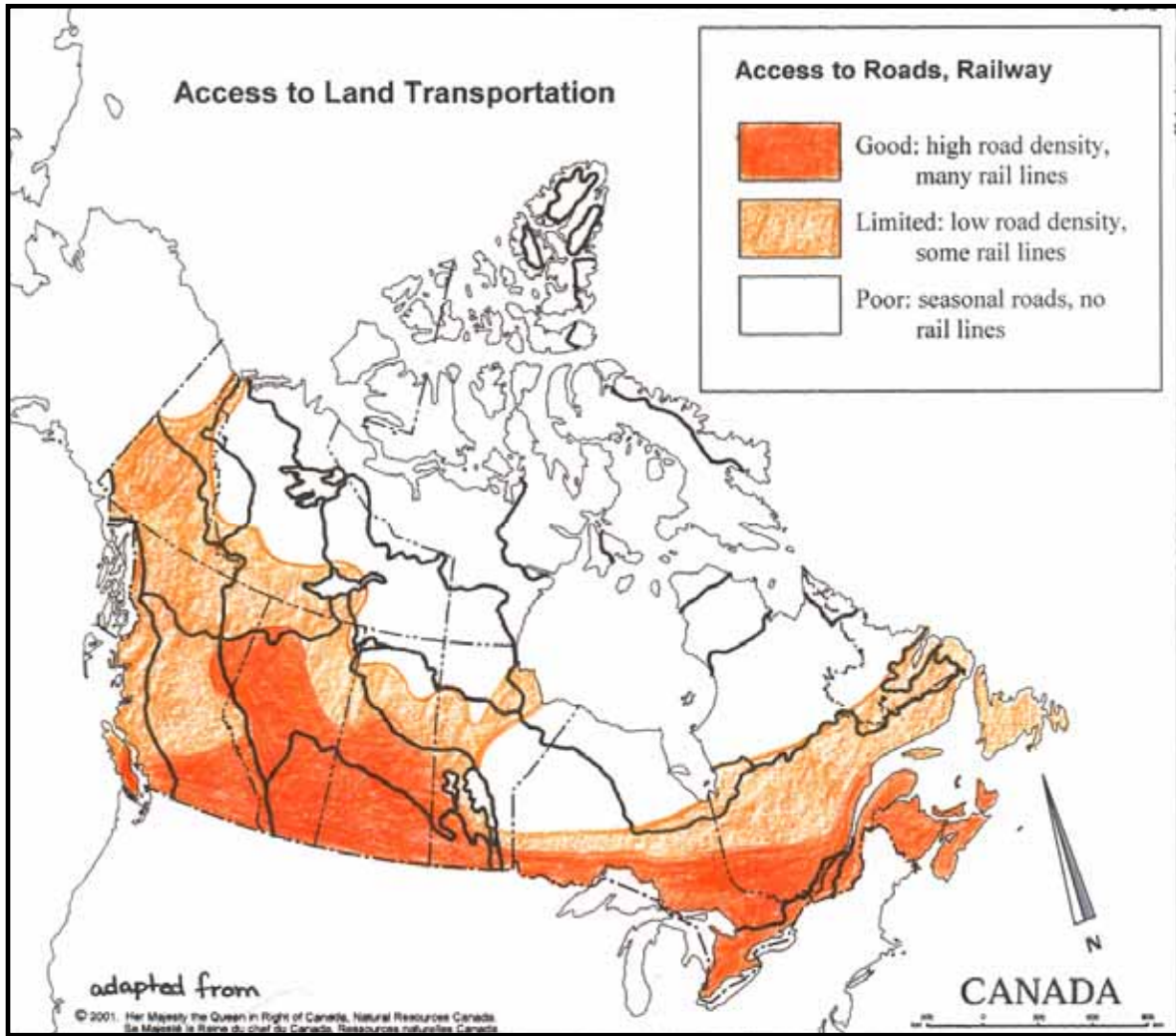
Pacific Maritime Ecozone	
Vancouver	2,208,300
Victoria	334,700

2006 Census

How does this compare to the results from your map of population density?

2. Using the scale on an atlas or textbook map of Population Distribution (page 26 of 7th Edition Oxford Atlas or page 203 in *Making Connections*), determine the number of Canadian cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants that are within 200 km of the USA. _____ cities

3. Look at an atlas map of Canada showing population distribution around 1900 (eg. page 26 of 7th Ed. Oxford Atlas). Where were most people located then? _____



4. Look at the map of transportation above. What similarities do you notice between the transportation map and the population distribution map?

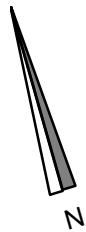


UNIT 2, LESSON 1: HANDOUT #4 WHY DO CANADIANS LIVE WHERE THEY DO?

Use the information you have gathered so far as well as atlas maps of **Agriculture** and **Trade** to complete the following chart. Follow the example given.

Many Canadians live	because... (give at least one)	Some examples are (give at least one)
Along much of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good climate (warm) • good soils (agriculture) • one of the first parts of Canada settled • good transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto • Montreal
Within 200 km of the Canada-US border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Along ocean coastlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
In southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
Along major transportation routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

UNIT 2, LESSON 1: ECOZONES BASE MAP





WHY DO I LIVE WHERE I DO?

You live in the Mixedwood Plains ecozone, along with about half of Canada's population. Consider the reasons that you live here, and compare them to the general reasons that Canadians find the Mixedwood Plains attractive to live in. Use the Venn Diagram below to list your answers.

(Yes, we know that part of the reason that you live here is because your family decided to live here. But take a moment to consider why this area is a good location for your family – jobs? family nearby? other reasons? Include these in your circle.)

