

CGC1P Unit 1: The Diversity of Canada's Natural Landscapes

Activity 3: Regions

Overview

In this activity, you will explore the geographical concept of regions. The ability to organize geographic information and detect patterns in natural and human settings allows students to group this information into regions. Regions can be created in various sizes - from a room in your house, to a city area, country or even a continent.

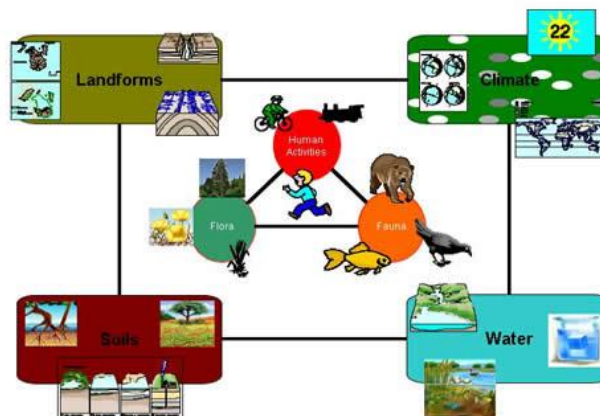
Lesson

Regions are areas which have things in common. The type of region depends on the type of things being investigated or compared. There are soil regions, climate regions, vegetation regions, even which-way-the-water-drains-into-the-oceans regions.

Pretend your home is the earth. When you describe your home, you might describe each room. Each room would be a different region. You probably see these rooms every day and you can easily tell them apart.

Geographers look at regions on the earth as a way of organizing and making the earth easier to understand. Geographers try to understand what's going on with the earth, then they communicate that information to everybody else. Some of the ways they show that information is with maps, drawings, charts, graphs, or even words.

The graphic organizer to the right shows how the earth can be organized into regions. The four rectangles on the outside are the non-living regions of the earth, while the three circles on the inside are the living regions.



Transition Zones and Borders

When we look at maps we see lines dividing one type of region from another. Do those lines really exist in nature? *No!* If the line represents the difference between things like soil, vegetation, climate, ecozones, etc, the line on a map can be misleading.

A transition zone is an area between two different regions, in which the characteristics of one region gradually blend into those of the other. A border is the line or frontier area separating political divisions or geographic regions.

Assignment

1. What is a region?
2. Why do geographers use regions?
3. What is the difference between a transition zone and a border?