

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

## Activity 8: Biosphere

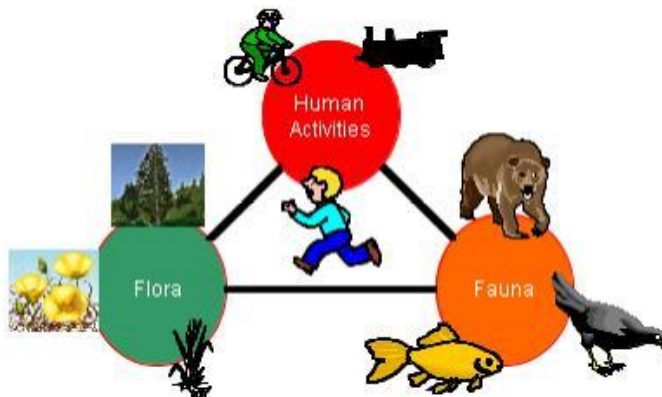
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### Overview

Canada's living things have worked hard to adapt to the various landforms and climates. Over time these two components, living and non-living things, have worked well in adapting to form unique and interesting habitats for plants, animals and people. In this activity students will research the various vegetation regions in Canada and discover the unique relationship between humans and the natural environment.

### Lesson

The **biosphere** has three components that include **flora, fauna, and human activity**.



#### **Flora - Vegetation**

The vegetation regions of Canada include:

- Boreal and Taiga Forest
- Cordilleran Vegetation
- Deciduous Forest
- Grasslands
- Mixed Forest
- Tundra
- West Coast Forest

**Deciduous trees** have broad, flat leaves which change colour in the autumn and fall off when the weather gets cold.

**Coniferous trees** have thin, needle-like leaves which stay green and on the tree all year round. They are also called evergreens. Most of our Christmas trees are evergreen trees, or probably look like evergreen trees if they are artificial.

In the **Mixed Forest** there are both types of trees: coniferous and deciduous.

**Fauna** - Fauna can be described as animals, insects, etc. and their habitats.

#### **Human Activity - How we live on, use, and alter the earth**

The impact of human activity on our planet has been significant. We have removed most of the forests of the world, used the best land for our cities and roads, replacing the flora and fauna that otherwise would be there. We have tried to get rid of what we call pests and weeds in dangerous ways.

The need for stewardship and to protect the environment is more necessary than ever. This includes using more environmentally friendly means for production and daily life and changing the mindset of the world's citizens.

## **Assignment**

1. Identify and define the 3 components that make up the biosphere.
2. What are Canada's vegetation regions?
3. What is the difference between coniferous and deciduous trees? What is a mixed forest?
4. What is human activity?
5. What are 5 things people can do to reduce their negative impact on the environment?