

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

Activity 9: Ecozones

Overview

In this activity, students will investigate Canada's Ecozones.

Lesson

Terrestrial and Marine Ecozones

There are **15 Terrestrial Ecozones** in Canada.

- Arctic Cordillera
- Atlantic Maritime
- Boreal Cordillera
- Boreal Plains Ecozone
- Boreal Shield Ecozone
- Hudson Plains Ecozone
- Mixedwood Plains Ecozone
- Montane Cordillera Ecozone
- Northern Arctic Ecozone
- Pacific Maritime Ecozone
- Prairie Ecozone
- Southern Arctic Ecozone
- Taiga Cordillera Ecozone
- Taiga Plains Ecozone
- Taiga Shield Ecozone

We also have **5 Marine Ecozones** in Canada:

- Pacific Marine Ecozone
- Arctic Archipelago Ecozone
- Northwest Atlantic Marine Ecozone
- Atlantic Marine Ecozone
- Arctic Basin Marine Ecozone

Often, ecozone information is organized into these general categories:

- Ecosystem Overview
- Landforms and Climate
- Wildlife
- Human Activities

Each ecozone is different from any other in at least one category. Ecozones might be different from their neighbours because the landforms are different, but more likely because how we use the land (human activity) is different.

Below are the statistics from Environment Canada on the Mixed-wood Plain Ecozone. Both physical and human characteristics are taken into consideration when determining and describing an ecozone. Natural Vegetation (flora) and Wildlife (fauna) are included in physical characteristics.

Physical Characteristics		Human Characteristics	
Landforms	Plains Hills	Population	14 630 000
Climate	Cool to cold winters, mild to hot Summers – moderate precipitation	Population density	96.4 per km ²
Soils	Podzols, Clay soils, glacial moraine	Portion of Canada's population	52%
Natural Vegetation	Deciduous forest Mixed forest	Major communities	Ontario: Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton Quebec: Montreal, Quebec city
Wildlife	White-tailed deer, red fox, Raccoon	Economic activities	Agriculture Manufacturing Business and finance Tourism/Recreation
Waters	Lakes: Huron, Erie, Ontario Rivers: St. Lawrence, Grand	Major parks	Point Pelee National Park Bruce Peninsula National Park Sandbanks Provincial Park

Assignment

Visit the Ecozones website at <http://www.ecozones.ca/english/zone/index.html> to learn more about each of Canada's Ecozones and to complete the worksheets below. You must visit the Mixedwood Plains and Boreal Shield ecozones. Select three others at random to explore.

1. Complete the Terrestrial and Marine Ecozones worksheets.

Canada's Terrestrial Ecozones

Fill in the details for **4 other** Terrestrial Ecozones of your choice.

<i>Ecozone</i>	<i>Landforms</i>	<i>Climate</i>	<i>Plants</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>	<i>Human Activity</i>
Mixed Wood Plains	plains, hills, Niagara Escarpment	cool to cold winters, mild to hot summers	deciduous forest, mixed wood forest	white tailed deer, red fox, raccoon	high population density, several major cities, many different types of economic activities.

Canada's Marine Ecozones

Fill in the details for 4 Marine Ecozones of your choice.

<i>Ecozone</i>	<i>Landforms</i>	<i>Climate</i>	<i>Plants</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>	<i>Human Activity</i>