

CGC1P Unit 4: Canadian Industries

Activity 3: Primary Industry: Farming and Mining

Overview

Like fishing and forestry, the location of farming and mining industries are driven by the geography of the land. In this activity the student will examine the farming and mining industries and discover the factors that determine where these industries are located.

Lesson

Farming

Like fishing and forestry, the location of farming and mining industries are driven by the geography of the land. Fishing on the East Coast is so successful because of the Continental shelf that creates the Grand Banks. Climate and soil conditions dictate where Canada's softwood or deciduous forests are located.

In farming, there are many location factors to consider depending on which type of farming we are talking about, crop farming or animal farming.

Crops like wheat don't grow everywhere in Canada. The conditions have to be just right. For example, the flat prairie with its good soil, hot summers, and plentiful spring rain is perfect for growing wheat. Another example is the Niagara Peninsula (the Niagara Falls area). The Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario combine to create a warm micro-climate that is perfect for growing fruit, and growing grapes for wine.

Dairy cattle can be raised almost anywhere, but other location factors need to be considered.

Mining

Minerals are natural substances that we value because we can use them for something. There are three categories of mineral:

1. **Metallic** minerals: gold, nickel, iron ore
2. **Structural** minerals: (non-metallic) cobalt, potash, sand, and gravel
3. **Fuel** minerals: oil, natural gas, coal

Minerals are found in the earth, which means they have to be extracted (taken out). There are many mining methods used to extract these materials.

Assignment

1. What do you think the problem is in transporting a product like milk?
2. Use the Internet to define "no-tillage or zero tillage farming". Why are more farmers adopting this farming technique?
3. Use the Internet to define **underground mining**, **solution mining** and **surface mining**.