

Canada's Features Impact Human Activities

OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES	GRADES
<p>Students identify the physical regions of Canada on a map and chart the characteristics of those regions, which are based on landforms, climate, bodies of water, and resources. Students will engage in two activities: write questions about their region for other students to answer and describe in what regions various activities might occur.</p> <p><i>Students will be able to...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify physical regions of Canada Identify physical and human characteristics of Canada's regions Describe where various activities would occur in Canada 	8 th
	TIME
	1-2 days depending on number of activities and extensions selected
	REQUIRED MATERIALS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blank outline map: "Capital City Locations and Names of Canada" http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/reference/outlinecanada/canada08 ✓ Colored pencils ✓ Atlas ✓ Computer projector ✓ Computer access for students ✓ Handout: "Regions Chart"

MINNESOTA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS & BENCHMARKS

Standard 6. Geographic factors influence the distribution, functions, growth and patterns of cities and human settlements.

8.3.3.6.1 Describe how the physical and environmental features of the United States and Canada affect human activity and settlement.

Example: Physical and environmental features—Climate, landforms, distribution of resources, waterways, ecosystems.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

Opening

Go to the Canadian Atlas website www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas and click "Explore by Themes" and then "Regions" on the left and "Canadian Landforms". Explain to students that they will investigate one of the 6 regions of Canada based on its ecosystem. Go to any region and click on the "Basics" tab at the top and play "Six Natural Regions" for the students.

Development

Click the "Landforms" tab on top and show each of the six regions. (You may click on each to show a brief video of individual regions.) Explain that the regions have two names based on ecosystems and landforms. Next, place students in six groups representing one of the six regions:

- Arctic and Taiga (Arctic Lands)
- Pacific and Mountains (Cordillera)
- Central Plains (Interior Plains)
- Boreal Shield (Canadian Shield)
- Mixedwood Plains (Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands)
- Atlantic Region (Appalachian)

Hand out the blank map and the Regions Chart. Students will complete two tasks. First, students will map their region on the blank map of Canada (“Capital City Locations and Names of Canada”) and label its major landforms and bodies of water. Second, students will complete the “Regions Chart”. Students read the Introduction for their region and then select features that are found in their region from “Industry” or “Features” to complete the Regions Chart. (Other tabs will also prove useful.)

Students complete the chart for their region and share the chart information and their map by jigsawing the groups or posting the chart and map. After the information and map are shared, the Regions Activity occurs. Questions are posed by a chosen method, such as a game (baseball, jeopardy), activity (group competition), or quiz.

Regions Activity: Students prepare for the regions activity by writing 3 questions with answers that are important to understand their region. The answers to the questions must be based on the information that will be shared with their classmates.

Possible questions might include:

- Diamonds were discovered in this region 20 years ago—Arctic
- This region is famous for its potash and oil and gas resources—Interior Plains
- 75% of Canada’s fish, especially cod, sole and flounder, are caught in this region—Appalachian
- This region has Canada’s largest interior lake and longest river—Arctic
- This region contains most of Canada’s population—Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands

Closing

Identifying Feature Activity: Students determine in which Canadian region several features would be placed. Students work with a partner to determine the location of each feature and identify 2 reasons why it should be placed there. (Answers will vary within the region, but students should identify factors of population, resources, climate, transportation, and location.)

Feature	Region	Reason for Location	Reason for Location
Steel mill			
Wheat farm			
Mining center			
Lumber mill			
Vegetable & fruit farming			
Lobster fishing			
Hydroelectric Power Plant			
Ski lodge			
Automobile factory			
Game fishing camp			
Site to photograph polar bears			

Extensions

1. Students will compare and contrast Canada and the U.S. using a Venn diagram or card sort. Give students cards with terms associated with Canada, the U.S., and both Canada and the U.S. such as the listed terms. Students work in pairs or small groups to complete a card sort to identify the

terms that are unique to Canada, unique to the U.S., and common to both Canada and the U.S. Discuss the results.

Optional: Students work in small groups to create cards and exchange sets of cards with another group to sort.

Great Lakes	Urban Population	Rich Soils	Territories	States	Provinces*
Bilingual*	Columbia River	Immigrants	Economically Developed	Nuclear Power	Mineral Wealth
Oil Resources	Bears	Lobsters	Logging	Wheat	Mississippi River+
Multi-cultural	Manufacturing	Indigenous People	Rockies	Canadian Shield	Red River
Appalachian Mountains	Hudson Bay*	Arctic Ocean	Permafrost	Prairies	St. Lawrence Seaway

* Only Canada

+Only U.S.

2. Where would a highway or railroad be located that connects the people of Canada using minimal resources to do so? Determine where a trans-Canadian railroad or highway would be built and plot its route. Explain what determined where the route would be located. Explain what areas of Canada would be ignored and why.

Assessment

- Map of Canada
- “Regions Chart” Handout
- Regions Activity (Questions and Answers)
- Identifying Features Activity

Website Resources:

“Capital City Locations and Names of Canada”; blank outline map from Natural Resources Canada <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/reference/outlinecanada/canada08>

“The Regions” from Canadian Atlas www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas

Relief Map from Atlas of Canada <http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/reference>

Climate Map from Rand McNally http://education.randmcnally.com/classroom/action/viewLargerMapImage.do?mapFileName=North_America_Climate.png&imageTitle=North%20America%20Climate%20Map&skillLevel=Elem&oid=1073906576

Regions Chart

Regions	Identify: Landforms, Water, Climates	Describe: Industry	Describe: Industry	Describe: Industry	Describe: Industry
Arctic					
Pacific and Mountains					
Interior Plains					
Canadian Shield					
Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Lowlands					
Appalachian Highlands					