Canada’s Natural Regions and Their Varied Characteristics

Lesson Overview
Students will study Canada’s six natural regions, with all their underlying human and economic activities. They will discover the economic and human riches of the natural regions and, by so doing, discover those of Canada as a whole. A quiz could be given as an extension to the lesson or as an evaluation tool.

Grade Level
Grades 9-12

Time Required
Two periods

Link to Canadian National Geography Standards

Essential Elements #2 (Grades 9-12) - Places and Regions
  • Physical and human processes shape places and regions
  • The importance of places and regions to individual and social identity

Essential Elements #3 (Grades 9-12) – Physical Systems
  • Components of Earth’s physical system

Essential Element #4 (Grades 9-12) - Human Systems
  • Economic development by regions

Geographic Skills #2 (Grades 9-12) - Acquiring Geographic Information

Geographic Skills #3 (Grades 9-12) – Organizing Geographic Information

Geographic Skills #4 (Grades 9-12) - Analyzing Geographic Information

The Canadian Atlas
Pages 16 to 29 or the website at http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required
Student worksheet

Main Objective
The primary goal of the lesson is to have students study Canada’s six natural regions with a view to their socio-economic dimension.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the lesson, students will be able to recognize the specific characteristics of the six natural regions.
## The Lesson

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<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Show students a map of Canada with its 6 natural regions and ask them to identify the characteristics of each region.</td>
<td>Students study the map and say what they know about the 6 natural regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ask students to study pages 16 and 17 of the Atlas or to visit the website at <a href="http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atl">http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atl</a> as/.</td>
<td>Students study the contents of pages 16 and 17. (Photos – Tables - Map)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read pages with class.</td>
<td>Students read the assigned pages.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson Development</strong></td>
<td>Divide the class into working groups. Assign a natural region to each group. Hand out the necessary materials for students’ presentations (e.g. cardboard, paper).</td>
<td>Students form working groups. Each team prepares a presentation on one natural region, emphasizing different facets, such as population patterns, economy, natural resources, ecozones. Students describe their assigned region to the class, in the form of an oral presentation.</td>
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<td>Ask students to present the results of their work to the class.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
<td>Display all the classroom presentations on walls or in corridors.</td>
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### Lesson Extension / Assessment of Student Learning

In order to reinforce newly-acquired material, hand out the question sheet to students. This sheet could also be used as an evaluation tool.
Discovering Canada’s Natural Regions

As a first step, answer the following questions without referring to resource materials. When you have completed the exercise, correct your answers using your Atlas as a reference.

1. This natural region covers half of Canada.

2. The Canadian Rockies are situated in this region.

3. Resolute, Iqualuit and Yellowknife are towns in this region.

4. Hibernia is a deposit of over 3 billion barrels of oil in this region.

5. This is the most densely populated zone in Canada.

6. A forest of spruce and balsam firs is to be found in this region.

7. ALSAMA is the abbreviation for the three provinces situated in this region.

8. In this region, only a very small proportion of the land is good for agriculture.

9. The output of this region’s mines ensures Canada’s position as a leading mineral producer.

10. Charlottetown, Fredericton and Halifax are three large cities in this region.
Student Worksheet (cont’d)

11. Although this region has a small population, 38% of the land is used for agriculture.

12. 70% of Canada’s oil reserves are to be found in this region.

13. The magnetic north is situated in this region.

14. Even if arable land forms only 9% of this ecozone, it is still agriculturally prosperous.

15. The wood of this region is used mainly in the pulp and paper industry.

16. 49% of all agriculture in this region is made up of wheat farming.

17. Its navigable waterways allow access to the country’s heartland.

18. The Fraser and the Okanagan valleys are two fertile zones in this region.

19. This is the largest land ecozone in Canada.

20. Almost 75% of all fish catches in Canada come from this region.

21. The polar bear is the king of mammals in this region.
**Student Worksheet (cont’d)**

22. The Yukon and British Columbia are situated mainly in this region.

______________________________________________________________________

23. Thanks to this region, Canada can export 95% of its potash production to more than 30 countries.

______________________________________________________________________

24. Medicine Hat is a city in this region.

______________________________________________________________________

25. A province in this zone produces 40% of Canada’s goods.

______________________________________________________________________

26. Val-d’Or and Sept-Îles are towns in this region.

______________________________________________________________________

27. Diamonds are now the driving force of this region’s mining industry.

______________________________________________________________________

28. Douglas firs are found in this coniferous forest.

______________________________________________________________________

29. Canada’s largest cities are situated in this region.

______________________________________________________________________

30. The Gulf Stream brings equatorial waters to this region.

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