

Forestry in Canada

Content: Resources and economic development in different regions of Canada

Name: _____

Curricular Competency: Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to — ask questions, gather, interpret, and analyze ideas, and communicate findings and decisions

Curricular Competency: Develop a plan of action to address a selected problem or issue

Curricular Competency: Construct arguments defending the significance of individuals/groups, places, events, or developments (significance)

Curricular Competency: Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of a variety of sources, including mass media (evidence)

Curricular Competency: Sequence objects, images, or events, and recognize the positive and negative aspects of continuities and changes in the past and present (continuity and change)

Curricular Competency: Differentiate between short- and long-term causes, and intended and unintended consequences, of events, decisions, or developments (cause and consequence)

Curricular Competency: Take stakeholders' perspectives on issues, developments, or events by making inferences about their beliefs, values, and motivations (perspective)

Curricular Competency: Make ethical judgments about events, decisions, or actions that consider the conditions of a particular time and place, and assess appropriate ways to respond (ethical judgment)

First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is reflective

Canada



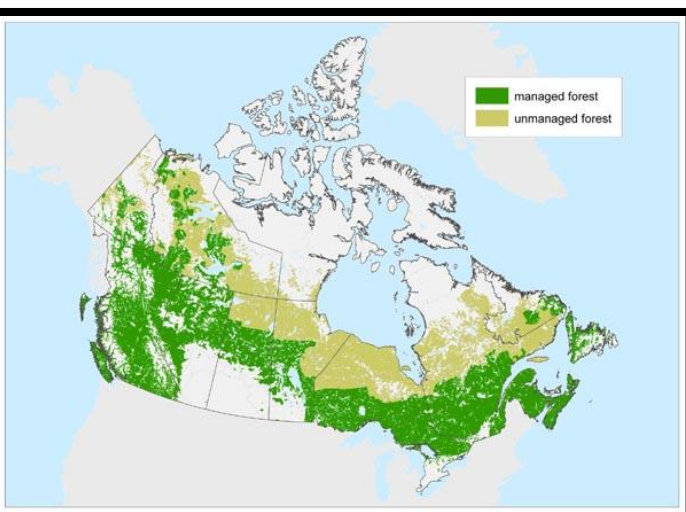
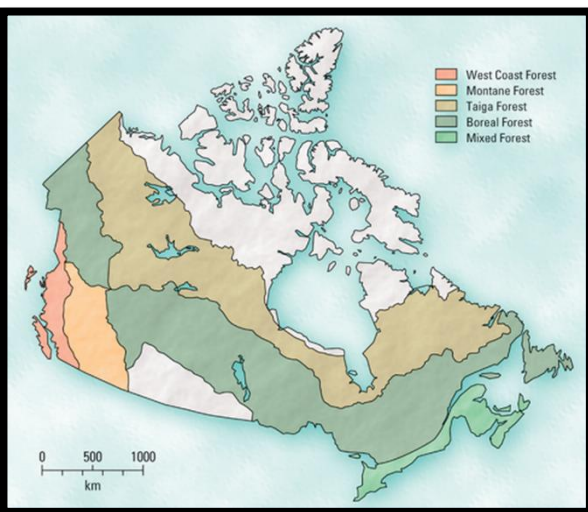
Instructions:

- Use a highlighter to highlight in all of the areas that Canada has forests. Use the maps on the next page to help you

Forestry is the use and care of trees and forests for things people need. In Canada, forests cover almost half of the land, making them one of our most important natural resources. Trees are used to make paper, lumber for building houses, and many everyday products like furniture and even some kinds of medicine. The main trees used in forestry are **softwoods** like pine, spruce, and fir, which are good for making lumber and paper, and **hardwoods** like maple, oak, and birch, which are used for furniture, flooring, and special products.

Forestry also provides thousands of jobs in communities across the country, especially in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Forestry is very important to Canada's economy. It provides **over 200,000 jobs** in communities across the country, especially in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Every year, forestry brings in **tens of billions of dollars**. While it is not as big as oil and gas, it is still one of the top natural resource industries in Canada. For example, forestry is often the main industry in small towns and northern areas where other jobs are harder to find.

At the same time, forests are home to animals, plants, and are very important for the environment because they clean the air and store carbon. That means forestry has to be managed carefully – if too many trees are cut down, habitats can be destroyed and it takes a long time for forests to grow back. This is why Canada works on "sustainable forestry," which means using the forest in a way that still protects it for the future.



An overview of Canada's FOREST RESOURCES

HOW MUCH OF CANADA'S AREA IS FOREST?



3,470,690 km² of Canada's total area of 9,979,685 km² is forest. That's a larger area than Alberta, Ontario and Quebec combined.

FOREST AREA



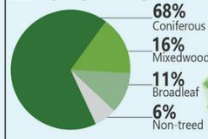
THE BOREAL ZONE

Canada's boreal zone spans 5.5 million km² including all or part of 10 ecozones and accounts for over three-quarters of Canada's forest area.

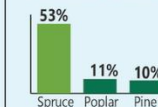


WHAT DO CANADA'S FORESTS LOOK LIKE?

FOREST TYPES

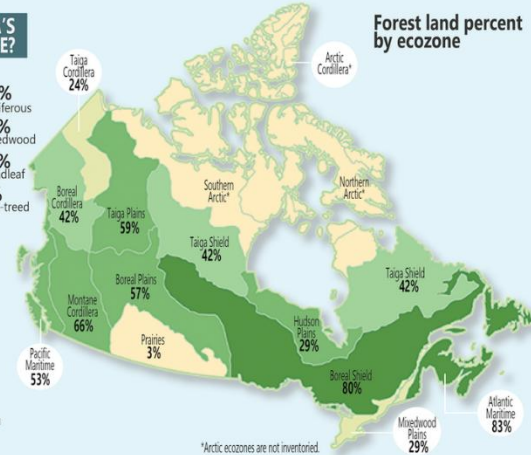


FOREST SPECIES



AGE CLASSES

42% of Canada's forests are between 81 and 120 years old, followed by 26% between 41 and 80 and 12% under 41.



WHAT TYPES OF DISTURBANCES AFFECT CANADA'S FORESTS?

INSECTS



In 2015, insects damaged 176,318 km² of forest.

FOREST FIRES



In 2015, 7,140 wildfires burned a total of 38,616 km² of forest.

HARVESTING



In 2015, Canada harvested 7,796 km² of forest.

DEFORESTATION



From 1990 to 2015, forest area decreased 0.3% from 3.48 million km² to 3.47 million km².

An overview of Canada's FOREST SECTOR

HOW MUCH DOES CANADA'S FOREST SECTOR CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY?



In 2014, gross domestic product (GDP) for the forest sector in Canada was **\$22.1 billion**.

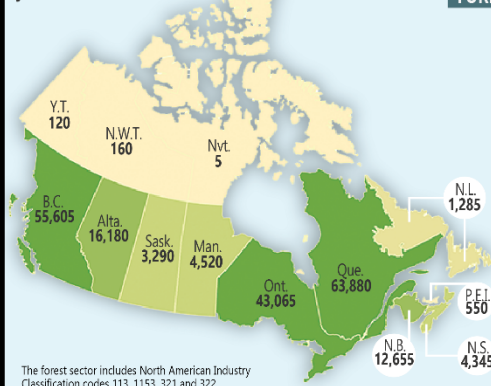


In 2016, forest product exports were valued at **\$29.5 billion**.



In 2016, employment in the forest sector was **205,660**.

Distribution of forest sector jobs across Canada, 2016



HOW VALUABLE ARE CANADA'S FOREST ASSETS?

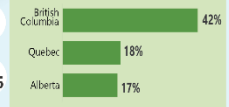


Forests provide many products, but also ecosystem services such as water filtration, air purification, carbon sequestration, and recreational and spiritual services.



In 2016, the value of Canada's accessible timber stocks—a component of natural resource wealth—was estimated at **\$215.4 billion**.

Volume of roundwood harvested, 2015 as a proportion of Canada's total



COMMUNITIES FOR WHICH THE FOREST SECTOR WAS A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME

The forest sector continues to be an important provider of jobs and income in communities across the country, particularly in smaller and Indigenous communities. It was a major economic driver for 105 communities in 2016 compared to 463 in 2001.

2001 463 communities



2016 105 communities



Curricular Competency: Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to – **ask questions**, gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions

Write down 5 questions that you are wondering about the forestry industry in Canada:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Curricular Competency: Take stakeholders' perspectives on issues, developments, or events by making inferences about their beliefs, values, and motivations (perspective)

What do you think the following people might believe about **commercial forestry**? (large-scale forestry operations, to then sell the trees)

A lumber company owner in Ontario	An environmentalist / conservationist in Ontario
Why might they support/oppose commercial forestry? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Why might they support/oppose commercial forestry? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
What might make them want to encourage / discourage MORE forestry operations than there already are? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	What might make them want to encourage / discourage MORE forestry operations than there already are? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Curricular Competency: Construct arguments defending the **significance** of individuals/groups, places, events, or developments (significance)

Someone tells you that "forestry isn't that big of a deal in Canada." What are your thoughts? Would you agree with them? Disagree with them? Is forestry actually that significant of a thing in the Canadian economy, and in Canadian society? Explain your thinking.

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Forestry in Canada: Causes and Consequences

Short-Term Causes (things that made forestry grow quickly):

- High demand for wood, paper, and furniture in Canada and other countries.
- New technology like chainsaws, trucks, and logging machines made it easier to cut and transport trees.
- Jobs were needed in rural communities, and logging could provide immediate income.

Long-Term Causes (things that built up over time):

- Canada has vast forests that have been used for thousands of years by First Peoples for building, tools, and firewood.
- European settlers developed towns and industries that depended on lumber.
- Global trade made Canadian wood and paper valuable products for other countries.

Intended Consequences (what people wanted):

- Jobs for workers in logging towns and cities.
- Lumber, paper, and other products for Canadians and export markets.
- Economic growth for the country.

Unintended Consequences (what happened by accident):

- **Deforestation** and loss of old-growth forests in some areas.
- Damage to animal habitats, affecting species like birds, bears, and wolves.
- Conflicts with Indigenous communities when logging happened on traditional lands without permission.
- Soil erosion, water pollution, and other environmental effects.

Which of these short-term or long-term causes impacted forestry the most? Why is that?

Which of these consequences is the most disastrous? Why is that?

Curricular Competency: Develop a plan of action to address a selected problem or issue

If you were in charge of forestry in Canada, what would you do? What would be your course of action, in regards to forestry operations in the future? Why is that?
