

Comparing Ecozones

Key Words

ecozones
 comparison chart
 documentation
 bibliography

In this performance task you will learn to

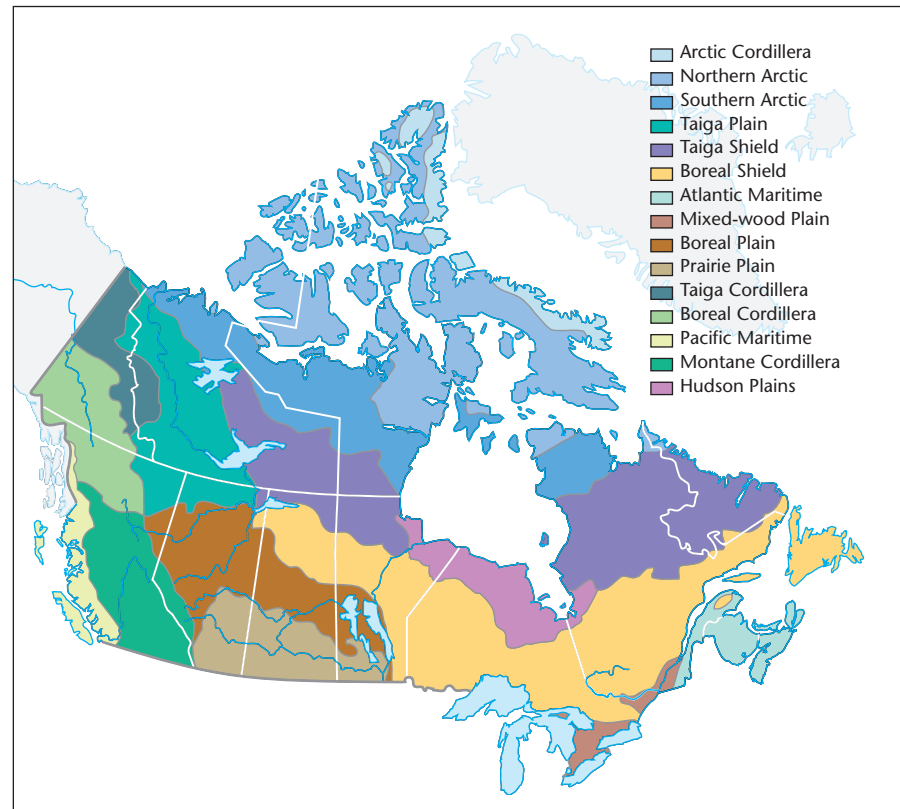
- ▲ illustrate regional differences using the concept of ecozones
- ▲ use the methods and tools of geographic investigation to understand Canada's ecozones

Introduction

The physical and human systems within Canada work together to give us the quality of life we enjoy. One way to see the connections among the systems is to look at **ecozones**. Ecozones are regions of Canada that are broken down into land and water zones with the same characteristics. Ecozones include both human and physical characteristics, such as landforms, climate, soil, vegetation, wildlife, and human activity. We will focus on the land ecozones.

FIGURE PT2.1

Canada's Land Ecozones



Mountain High Maps® Copyright © 1993 Digital Wisdom, Inc.

Performance Task Assignment

Your job is to compare the ecozone you live in with one other ecozone. You are doing this so that you can determine which is the better ecozone in which to locate a new national park.

Step 1 Ask your teacher to explain how you will be evaluated on this assignment.

Step 2 Determine the ecozone you live in. Choose one other ecozone to compare to your own.

Step 3 Review the purposes of national parks by checking the list of points on page 49.

Step 4 Find information that will help you to understand the characteristics of the ecozones. There are many good Web sites you can access on the Internet. Your search words could be *ecozones*, *Canada*.

Step 5 Organize your collection of information by preparing a **comparison chart**. Your comparison chart might have these headings:

Decide which characteristics to record by thinking about the purposes of national parks.

Characteristics	Your Ecozone	The Other Ecozone

Step 6 Record information in your chart. Make sure that you give full **documentation** of your sources; that is, that you supply all the references you used. Ask your teacher for a good way of recording your information. Source information is included in your **bibliography**.

Step 7 Find a picture from each ecozone. The picture should show some of the important characteristics you are noting. Make sure to record the sources of your pictures.

Step 8 Review the information you have collected and decide whether you have enough information to make a good decision about where to locate the new national park. If you can't decide, you may need to find and record more details.

Step 9 Make your decision and write a short summary paragraph in which you give some of the reasons for your decision.

Step 10 Share your research findings. Make up a poster or a Web site that includes

- a map showing the two ecozones that you investigated
- your two pictures
- your completed comparison chart
- a bibliography of your information sources
- your summary paragraph