Urban & Rural Communities

A community is a place where people live, work, and share the same interests. When people live in a village, reserve, or hamlet, it is called a rural community. When people live in a town, city, or suburb, it is called an urban community. Some communities, such as the town of Fox Creek, Alberta, are small. Some communities, such as the city of Toronto, Ontario, are very large.

Rural Communities

Rural communities are usually small and have less traffic than towns or cities. People usually live spread out from each other and there is lots of open space. Some people in rural communities work in jobs related to farming, forestry, mining, or fishing.

Urban Communities

Urban communities usually have lots of people, buildings, stores, and traffic. People usually live very close to each other in houses, duplexes, or apartment buildings.

Brain Stretch

1. Using information from the reading and your own ideas, explain the type of community you live in.
Encouraging Topic Interest
Keep a class collection of maps showing population, climate, topography, etc., to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of different types of maps. The Government of Canada website (http://gc.ca/aboutcanada-ausujetcanada/maps-cartes/maps-cartes-eng.html) and tourism bureaus are great sources of free maps. Encourage students to add to the class collection by bringing in a variety of maps for roads, tourist attractions, neighbourhoods, parks, amusement parks, floor plans, etc. Also have atlases and other resources handy for further study.

Vocabulary List
Record new and theme-related vocabulary on chart paper for students’ reference during activities. Classify the word list into categories such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, or physical features.

Blackline Masters and Graphic Organizers
Use the blackline masters and graphic organizers to present information, reinforce important concepts, and to extend opportunities for learning. The graphic organizers will help students focus on important ideas, or make direct comparisons.

Outline Maps
Use the maps found in this teacher resource to teach the names and locations of physical regions, provinces, territories, cities, physical features, and other points of interest. Encourage students to use the maps from this book and their own information reports to create an atlas of Canada.

Learning Logs
Keeping a learning log is an effective way for students to organize thoughts and ideas about concepts presented. Student learning logs also provide insight on what follow-up activities are needed to review and to clarify concepts learned.

Learning logs can include the following types of entries:

- Teacher prompts
- Students’ personal reflections
- Questions that arise
- Connections discovered
- Labelled diagrams and pictures
- Definitions for new vocabulary

Rubrics and Checklists
Use the rubrics and checklists in this book to assess students’ learning.
A map is a flat drawing of a place. This is a map of the world’s seven continents and five oceans. Colour each part of the legend with a different colour. Then colour the map to match your legend.

MAP LEGEND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oceans</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>South America</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Antarctica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Brain Stretch**

1. List the seven continents.

2. List the five oceans.

3. Which continent do you live on?
This is a map of Canada. A map is a flat drawing of a place.

Canada is the second-largest country in the world. It has 10 provinces and 3 territories. Canada is on the continent of North America and borders three oceans. The Atlantic Ocean is on the east coast. The Pacific Ocean is on the west coast. The Arctic Ocean is on Canada’s northern coast. The United States is Canada’s neighbour to the south.

Use the information above to complete the following sentences:

Canada is the ________-largest country in the ________. It has ________ provinces and ________ territories. Canada is on the continent of ________ and borders three ________. The Atlantic Ocean is on the ________ coast. The Pacific Ocean is on the ________ coast. The Arctic Ocean is on Canada’s ________ coast.
Outline Map of Canada
The St. Lawrence Lowlands

Location

The St. Lawrence Lowlands include part of the Ottawa River Valley, Anticosti Island, and part of the southern coast of Québec and Labrador. The region also spans from Georgian Bay south to the Niagara River in Ontario and east along the St. Lawrence River to Québec.

Physical Features

The St. Lawrence Lowlands region has both flat land and some hills. The rivers drain into the five Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. The five Great Lakes are Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario. There are islands in the Great Lakes. The plain around the Great Lakes was formed by sand and soil particles, called sediment, that were carried by rivers and streams. The particles settled to the bottom of the water. This formed the deep and fertile soil of the plain.

The Niagara Escarpment is located near the Great Lakes. An escarpment is a long rocky cliff that marks the boundary of a flat or gently sloping upland area. The Niagara River flows over the escarpment at Niagara Falls.

Climate

For the most part, the St. Lawrence Lowlands have hot and humid summers. Winters are cool and are frequently snowy. The area near the Great Lakes has one of the longest growing seasons in Canada.

Vegetation

- The St. Lawrence Lowlands have mixed forests of coniferous and deciduous trees. Coniferous trees include fir, spruce, and hemlock. Deciduous trees include sugar maple, walnut, and oak.
- The region has very fertile soil and some of the best growing areas in Canada.

Wildlife

- mammals such as white-tailed deer, squirrels, moose, and lynx
- fish such as yellow perch and northern pike
- birds such as bluebirds, blackbirds, loons, and woodpeckers

Natural Resources

- fresh water
- fertile soil
- sugar maple trees
- hydroelectricity
- iron ore, zinc, silver, coal, copper, and lead
The Interior Plains

Location
The Interior Plains region is located along the east side of the Cordillera and reaches as far north as the Arctic Ocean. The region also includes large parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as part of the Northwest Territories.

Physical Features
The Interior Plains region is very flat and has rolling hills. The land is at its highest level in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The land is almost at sea level in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Thousands of years ago, glaciers covered the Interior Plains and much of Canada.

- The weight of the glaciers compressed the land and caused it to become flat with rolling hills. The glaciers left behind rock, silt, gravel, and sand. As the glaciers melted, lakes and rivers were formed. The Interior Plains now include many of the largest and longest rivers in Canada.
- The southern part of the Interior Plains has the largest area of farmland in Canada. The fertile soil is excellent for growing cereal grains such as wheat, oats, rye, and barley.

Climate
Most areas of the Interior Plains have cold winters and hot summers. The region has the lowest amount of precipitation in Canada and some areas can experience droughts. A drought occurs when there is no rain or snow for a long period of time. When there is drought, the grasses of the southern Interior Plains go dormant and do not grow until there is rain. Irrigation, or watering the soil, is sometimes necessary to grow crops.

Vegetation
- Trees and shrubs grow along streams and near bodies of water.
- Most trees are deciduous.
- In the southern Interior Plains, the natural vegetation is mostly grasses.
- In the northern part of the Interior Plains, only small plants, mosses, and grasses grow.

Wildlife
- birds such as ducks, geese, and swans
- wolves and polar bears live in the north
- herbivores such as deer, moose, elk, and caribou
- carnivores such as coyotes, eagles, and hawks

Natural Resources
- coal and potash
- oil and gas
- minerals
- fertile land in the southern part of the region
The Cordillera

**Location**
The Cordillera is a region of mountains found on the west side of Canada, next to the Pacific Ocean. The Cordillera region includes the province of British Columbia and some parts of the Yukon, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories.

**Physical Features**
The Cordillera region includes many different landforms: mountains, hills, plateaus and valleys. There are also many lakes and major river systems. The Fraser River system is the largest. There are also several mountain ranges in the Cordillera region including the Columbia Mountains, Rocky Mountains, and the Coast Mountains.

These mountain ranges were formed millions of years ago, when enormous folds of rocks bent and crushed against each other.

**Climate**
The northern part of the Cordillera region has cold winters and cool summers. There are warmer temperatures in the southern part of the Cordillera region. Along the coast, there are mild winters, warm summers, and lots of rainfall. The ocean helps to keep areas near the coast cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

**Vegetation**
- Most forests in the Cordillera region are coniferous. The Giant Sequoia are the largest coniferous trees in Canada. They are found in the rainforest near the Pacific Coast.
- Many plants, shrubs, and trees grow larger on the coast compared to other places.
- There is little vegetation at the tops of the high mountains.
- Grassland is the natural vegetation of much of the interior plateau.

**Wildlife**
- polar bears and caribou in the far north
- birds such as eagles, ravens, and owls
- marine life such as whales, sea lions, and seals
- mammals such as deer, elk, and lynx
- fish such as salmon, trout, halibut, herring, and northern pike

**Natural Resources**
- Okanagan Valley for growing fruit
- fish such as salmon and halibut
- gold, silver, copper, and zinc
- lead, sand, and gravel
- forests
- hydroelectricity
# The Hudson Bay Lowlands

## Location

The Hudson Bay Lowlands are located around the southern part of Hudson Bay and James Bay, and includes parts of Manitoba, northern Ontario, and Québec.

## Physical Features

The Hudson Bay Lowlands were once part of Hudson Bay and are known as one of the flattest parts of Canada. The Hudson Bay Lowlands were created over long periods of time. As the glaciers from the Ice Age slowly melted away, the level of the land got higher. Since the land is near sea level, it is marshy and water does not drain away.

The Hudson Bay Lowlands region has the largest area of **wetlands** in the world. Wetlands are lands that are covered with water all or almost all of the time. Much of the Hudson Bay Lowlands has permafrost, which means that the ground stays frozen all year round. Only the surface of the ground thaws in the summer. Permafrost is another reason why the water does not drain away easily.

## Climate

The Hudson Bay Lowlands region has a climate very similar to the northern part of the Canadian Shield. The winters are long and cold. The summers are short and warm. During the winter, precipitation mostly falls as snow.

## Vegetation

- The Hudson Bay Lowlands are mostly muskeg or peat forming wetland.
- There are long marshes along the coastline of Hudson Bay and James Bay.
- In the southwestern part of the Hudson Bay Lowlands, there are thick forests of trees such as white spruce, white birch, and balsam poplar.

## Wildlife

- birds such as snow geese, whistling swans, ducks, and loons
- sea life such as seals and walruses
- mammals such as caribou, Arctic foxes, weasels, and polar bears

## Natural Resources

- hydroelectricity
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