

HOW POPULAR IS TOO POPULAR?

Suggested time: 60 minutes

What's important in this lesson:

You will be gathering data on the Mixedwood Plains ecozone, trying to determine whether or not the ecozone is being put at risk because of the human activity that happens there. You will need to use concepts from previous lessons (and the previous unit) to help you decide. As well, you will be making a map to illustrate some of the human uses (urban development and transportation) that influence this ecozone.

Complete these steps:

1. Use the Canadian Geographic Atlas Online, your own atlas, your textbook and other websites to gather the information needed to complete the chart in your handout.
2. Use the data you gathered to decide whether or not the human activity in the Mixedwood Plains puts the health of the ecozone at risk. You will write a brief paragraph to explain your decision. Ask your teacher for a paragraph organizer if this would help you write the paragraph.
3. Complete a map of the Mixedwood Plains showing urban areas and major road transportation routes.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Information Gathering chart
2. paragraph on Mixedwood Plains
3. map of Mixedwood Plains

Questions for the teacher:

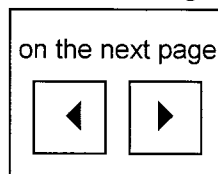
HOW POPULAR IS TOO POPULAR?

You are part of an urban planning consultant team working in Southern Ontario. Your team has been hired by the provincial government to investigate the impact of human activities on the areas around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence (ie. the Mixedwood Plains). The team is trying to identify whether urban and industrial growth in the ecozone needs to be carefully managed in order to reduce the impact of human activities on the physical environment. Your task is to find as much information as you can on human activity in the Mixedwood Plains to report back to the team.

Use the following information-gathering sheet to collect your data, then prepare a short report for the rest of the team. A good source of data on the Mixedwood Plains is the Canadian Geographic Atlas online. Go to www.canadiangeographic.ca and complete the following steps:

- click on Canadian Atlas Online
- click on Explore By Themes
- click on The Regions
- click on Mixedwood Plains

You can navigate through the information using the back and forward buttons on the right-hand side of the page.



Be sure to click on the maps to get additional information from most pages.

Once you have gathered as much information as you can from the Online Atlas, use other resources to fill in any missing information. Two other good sources of information are **your atlas** and **your textbook**. You can use many thematic maps as well as the statistics at the back of the atlas to help you gather your data. Your textbook will contain some of the statistics that you need as well.

The following websites both contain good information about ecozones as well.

<http://www.canadianbiodiversity.mcgill.ca/english/ecozones/ecozones.htm#map>

<http://www.ccea.org/ecozones/terr.html>

When you have gathered your information, you will need to decide whether you think that the amount of human use in the Mixedwood Plains is affecting the “health” of the ecozone. Answer the question at the end of your data sheet in a short paragraph. You must also create a map of the ecozone with major cities (population of over 100 000 people) and major expressways drawn in and labelled.

Student Handout: Unit 2 Summative

Mixedwood Plains Information Gathering:

Population of ecozone	
Population density of ecozone (people/km ²)	
Average population density of rest of Canada (people/km ²)	2.95 people/km ² in 1996
Area of ecozone (in km ²)	
Percentage (%) of Canada's area that ecozone makes up	
Percentages (%) of different landcovers in MWP	
➤ agriculture (crop + other farms)	➤
➤ forest	➤
➤ built-up land (urban)	➤
➤ other land use	➤
Number of cities with population over 100 000	
Why area is good for agriculture	➤ ➤ ➤
Percentage (%) of Canada's agricultural production	
Percentage (%) of Canada's goods produced in MWP	
➤ Ontario	➤
➤ Quebec	➤
Advantages of MWP for industry (especially Ontario)	➤ ➤ ➤ ➤
Evidence of environmental impacts in MWP (use the ecozones websites listed on the previous page to find out more about environmental degradation)	

Student Handout: Unit 2 Summative

Summary:

Given the information that you gathered, do you think that the Mixedwood Plains is too popular for the health of the ecozone? (Answer in a brief, 6-8 sentence paragraph. The first sentence is given for you.) If you wish, you can get a paragraph organizer from your teacher to help you set up the paragraph before you write the good copy below.

The Mixedwood Plains ^{circle one} is/is not too popular for the health of the ecozone.

Map:

Using the map given, create a map of the Mixedwood Plains. You must locate all cities with a population of over 100 000 people (remember where you found that information in previous lessons). As well, you must draw on and label the major expressways found in the ecozone (eg. 401, 400, QEW). An Ontario Road map or an atlas map will be necessary to do this.

Follow all map conventions (title, legend, scale, north arrow)
Use a dot for all cities with a population over 100 000 (you do not need to label them)
Use a red line for the expressways (you do need to label them)
Shade in the ecozone using pencil crayon.