

1.4

Canada's Natural Regions

p. 29 – 33

- Natural regions are areas where animals and plants live in relation to each other and the non-living parts of the environment.
- The environment of Canada is made up of several ecosystems or **biomes**, each with its own type of vegetation & animal species. Biomes in Canada include:
 - Subarctic
 - Tundra
 - Open woodland
 - Coniferous forest
 - Coast & interior forest
 - Mixed forest
 - Parkland
 - Grassland

The Effect of Human Activity

- First Nations did little to change the ecosystems, but the arrival of Europeans and later on immigration and industrialization has drastically altered natural regions.
- Water quality is becoming a major issue across Canada but especially in the prairies.
- Run-off from farms and animal feed lots are a threat to water quality.
- Northern Alberta also faces water threats from the oil industry, especially the oil sands.
- Contamination from the oil can ruin water supplies, harming plant & animal life in these regions.

The Cultural Landscape

p. 34 – 38

- All settlements have functions or activities responsible for their economic & social development. These include:
 - Trade
 - Retail/Wholesale
 - Finance/Commerce
 - Transport
 - Government
 - Residential centre
 - Recreation/Resort
 - Cultural
 - Defence

Settlement & Population

- Where people decide to settle depends on several factors including:
 - Physical environment
 - Climate
 - Economic possibilities
- Places that lack good land & weather can experience brief periods of economic prosperity harvesting resources. These resource towns go through cycles of **boom or bust**, as a resource is developed then depleted. (Ex. Dawson City & Barkerville Gold Rushes)

Boundaries: The Lines on a Map

- People used to use natural boundaries like rivers and mountains as borders until they were replaced by political boundaries.
- With climate change and the loss of pack ice, the Arctic will face issues in establishing political boundaries between Canada, USA, Russia, Denmark & Norway.

Aboriginal People & Boundaries

- In the past Aboriginal people didn't have a say in where political boundaries would go. This has begun to shift by the end of the 20th century.
- Inuit & First Nations have become more successful in reclaiming control of their traditional territories.