

# Geographic Regions of Canada

## Grade 4: Social Studies

- **Purpose:** For students to learn about the geographic regions of Canada. In small groups they will research the location, types of landforms and waterways, temperature range, seasons, natural resources, plants and animals in the area. Finally, students will learn about the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada found throughout these geographic regions.
  - **Estimated time:** Two 60-minute periods
  - **Resources required:**
    - Resources for research (e.g.: books, encyclopedias, internet, etc.)
    - BLM1 and BLM2
  - **Activity:**
    1. Ask students to define a geographic region. Write students' answers on the board.
    2. Explain that a geographic region is an area on the earth that has similar and distinct characteristics. These characteristics are different from the regions around it.
    3. Explain to students that Canada has distinct geographic regions:
      - The Pacific Coast
      - The Cordillera or Plateau
      - The Prairies
      - The Canadian Shield
      - The St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Lowlands
      - The Atlantic Provinces or Eastern Woodlands
      - The Sub-Arctic
      - The Arctic North
    4. Divide the class into eight groups and assign each group one of the eight geographic regions.
    5. Distribute BLM1 and BLM2 to each group.
    6. In their groups ask students to research the following characteristics about their region, filling in Chart 1 on BLM1 and colouring the region into the map on BLM2:
      - Location in Canada
      - Landforms
      - Waterways
      - Range of temperatures
      - Seasons
      - Natural resources
      - Plants
      - Animals
7. Encourage students to use resources around the classroom (e.g.: books, encyclopedias, internet, etc.) to research their geographic regions.
  8. Once students have completed Chart 1 on BLM1 and coloured their region on BLM2, bring the class back together. Encourage each group to say a few words about their assigned region.
  9. Following this discussion, explain to students that Aboriginal Peoples of Canada of common cultures existed in these geographic regions at the time of first contact with Europeans.
  10. Explain that in their groups they will be assigned to First Nations and Inuit Peoples who resided in their region. Students must research these Peoples and fill out Chart 2 on BLM1, identifying traditional food, shelter, transportation and clothing.
  11. At the conclusion of this research, groups must analyze how the characteristics of the geographic region influenced the traditional lifestyles of First Nations and Inuit People in the area.
  12. Provide students with the following suggested topics:
    - The Pacific Coast: The Haida
    - The Cordillera or Plateau: The Kootenay
    - The Prairies: The Blackfoot
    - The Canadian Shield: The Cree
    - The St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Lowlands: The Huron

- The Atlantic Provinces: The Mi'kmaq
  - The Sub-Arctic: The Dene
  - The Arctic North: The Iglulik Inuit
13. Encourage students to search for additional First Nations and Inuit Peoples from their geographic region.
  14. When students have completed Chart 2 on BLM1, ask groups to create a small one-minute presentation on their topics to inform the rest of the class.
  15. Bring the class back together and allow presentations to begin.
  16. At the conclusion of the presentations, encourage active discussion among the students by asking the following suggested questions:
    - What are the similarities and differences between the regions in Canada?
    - How did the environment influence the way of life of the First Nations and Inuit Peoples in the area?
  17. Before concluding this activity, ensure students have a firm understanding of the regions in Canada and the First Nations and Inuit Peoples in these regions.

# Blackline Master 1

## Geographic Regions of Canada

**Chart 1: Regional Area** \_\_\_\_\_

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>          |  |
| <b>Landforms</b>         |  |
| <b>Waterways</b>         |  |
| <b>Temperatures</b>      |  |
| <b>Seasons</b>           |  |
| <b>Natural Resources</b> |  |
| <b>Plants</b>            |  |
| <b>Animals</b>           |  |

**Chart 2: Aboriginal Peoples** \_\_\_\_\_

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Food</b>           |  |
| <b>Shelter</b>        |  |
| <b>Transportation</b> |  |
| <b>Clothing</b>       |  |

# Blackline Master 2

## Map of Canada

