

# Exploring Canada's Forests



## Activity Information

**Level:** junior/intermediate  
**Subject:** geography, environmental science  
**Duration:** 1 class + research time  
**Group size:** individual and class  
**Setting:** classroom  
**Preparation:** copies of blank maps of Canada for each student



## Summary

Using the enclosed map of Canada's Model Forests students will identify the forest regions of Canada and mark the locations of Canada's 11 model forests on a map of Canada. Students will research and discuss the characteristics of Canada's different forest regions.



## Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- be able to describe and identify the characteristics of the different forest regions of Canada
- locate Canada's Model Forests on this map and be able to identify the type of forest in which each is located

**Resources:**  
*Canadian Forests: A Primer*, Ken Armson. 1999. KEY Foundation and Ontario Forest Industries Association.  
*The Natural History Notebooks* section of the Canadian Museum of Nature website contains excellent descriptions of Canada's forest regions. See [www.nature.ca](http://www.nature.ca).



1. Use the map on page 7 to introduce the Model Forests of Canada and discuss their locations. Briefly introduce the different forest regions across Canada.

2. Using a blank map of Canada, ask students to draw on the forest regions and mark the locations of Canada's model forests. Students may refer to the colour map for guidance and should code the different regions by colouring or using different shading techniques. Remind them to include a key.

3. Ask the student to identify the forest region in which they live and to describe its general characteristics [physical features, weather conditions, type of trees, plants and wildlife]. Remind them that boundaries between the different forest regions are not sharp lines and that within each forest region there is still a great deal of diversity.



**Option:** Assign students the task of researching each different forest region, identifying general characteristics.



4,000/day

An average birch tree gives off up to 4,000 litres of water in one summer's day.



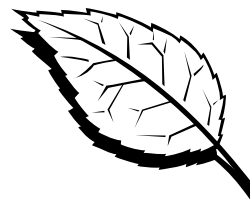
180,000/year

A western Douglas fir can produce 180,000 seeds [3.5 bushels] in a good year.



30,000/year

In a good year, an average white pine can produce about 30,000 seeds [one bushel].



22,000,000 tonnes/hectare

In the average deciduous forest you'll find about 22 million tonnes of leaves per hectare.



8 bushels/spot

A squirrel living in the giant west coast forest may collect and store as much as eight bushels of seeds in one spot.