



The Canada Forest Accord

Age range: 16-18 (senior)

Time: 75 minutes

Subjects: Geography, Anthropology, World Issues, Civics, Science

Resources: Handout

Learning Outcomes

By analyzing the Canada Forest Accord students will understand the various values placed on Canada's forests as well as our dependence upon them, and our interdependence on each other in relation to forest products.

🕒 Hook: National and International Agreements

Have students brainstorm and list as many national and international waters, agreements to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means, such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), trade agreements such as NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), and agreements on the treatment of civilians and prisoners of war during a conflict, such as the Geneva Conventions. Within countries, there are treaties between Aboriginal People and governments, agreements between provinces over electricity sharing, and agreements between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Within various fields, there are voluntary agreements on best practices, which companies and individuals agree to comply with (e.g., livestock farming standards) and non-voluntary codes of conduct for professionals (e.g., doctors, biologists, nurses, engineers etc.).

Discuss how agreements are created (an issue needs to be addressed), and what the disadvantages and advantages are in terms of signing or not signing a particular agreement (e.g., the Kyoto Accord). While agreements may take a long time to create, and do not hold much meaning if they are not respected, they are a vital part of the democratic process.

Procedure

1 Hand out copies of the Canada Forest Accord, created by the National Forest Strategy Coalition. Go to http://nfsc.forest.ca/index_e.htm and select *Canada Forest Accord*. Explain the purpose of this agreement and go over the list of signatories.

2 Students analyze this agreement using handout: *The Canada Forest Accord: Would You Sign?*

3 Take up and discuss answers.

✳️ Extension

In 2008, the Canada Forest Accord will be renewed under its regular five-year review process. As part of this lesson, the class could come to a consensus about how they would like to see the Accord changed and their teacher, who is over 18 years of age, can submit it on their behalf to the National Forest Strategy Coalition (via the NFSC website).



The Canada Forest Accord: Would You Sign?

Section: “Our Forest”

1. Give as many concrete examples as possible about how “the forest is fundamental to our environment, economy, culture, traditions and history – and to our future.”
2. How do Canadian forests matter “to all citizens of the world?”
3. Give two or three interpretations of the following statement “It is critical to realizing our aspirations as a society and as a nation.”

Section: “Our Vision”

4. What does the phrase “long-term health of Canada’s forest” mean to you?
5. Describe the types of activities that are involved in keeping Canada’s forests “maintained and enhanced.”
6. Do you believe that the health of the forest can or even should be “maintained and enhanced for the benefit of all living things”? Consider invasive pests such as Asian long-horned beetle, Dutch Elm disease, as well as predators like bears and wolves. Is this goal possible? Is it desirable?

Section: “Our Principles”

7. This section states “Forest management must therefore sustain ecosystem health while meeting expectations of social well-being as well as continued environmental services and economic activity.” How could this be contradictory?
8. Explain the six boxed principles in your own words.

Section: “Our Commitment”

9. Read over the 10 commitments. Do you agree with them?
10. What do the phrases “ecosystem-based approach” and “community sustainability” mean to you?
11. How can Canadians be “actively engaged” “in being stewards of the entire forest”?

Overall:

12. Would you sign the Canada Forest Accord as it is now? Give three reasons why or why not.
13. Describe at least two sections that you would change and how you would change them.
14. Describe at least one sentence/concept/idea that you would like to see added.

