

Ecozones in Canada

What is an ecozone? (p. 102)

- Ecozones are regions based on a combination of natural and human characteristics that are similar throughout.

Characteristics of Ecozones

Ecozones are **multi-factor** regions. They are determined by studying seven different characteristics.

1. Landforms
2. Water forms
3. Climate
4. Soil
5. Vegetation
6. Wildlife
7. Human Features (infrastructure, energy, economic, transportation and communication)

How do Ecozones work?

- Ecozones are places where systems interact. Different combinations of systems will create different conditions. For example: low amounts of water will create dry ecozones. The specific conditions of the natural systems often tell us what human activities will be able to happen in an ecozone.

How do ecozones relate to “systems thinking”? (p. 103)

- Geographers gather a great deal of data about ecozones. They layer the information they receive, one on top of the next, until they can determine specific zones. Knowing what constitutes a specific ecozone allows geographers to answer key questions like: How can we learn more about how to act wisely with respect to our natural habitat and the resources it provides?

Who uses ecozones and systems thinking?

- Universities studying environmental and political concerns.
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs; eg. World Wildlife Fund)
- Municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.
- Different departments within government, like Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Environment Canada.

- International organizations (NAFTA)

These organizations all use ecozone analysis to plan for resource development, conservation, monitor pollution levels and so forth.

Differences between Ecozones

- Biodiversity
- The variety of ecosystems within them.
- The boundaries and transitional areas.