

Canadian Geography 1202

Unit 1 – Lesson 15 Mixedwood Plain Ecozone pgs. 138-149

Define:

- Escarpment
- Dolomite
- Caprock
- Differential Erosion
- Aggregates

Landscape

- The Niagara Escarpment is a 725-kilometre-long cliff.
- Winds along western shore of Lake Ontario, up to the tip of Bruce peninsula.
- Considered the backbone of this ecozone.
- Declared a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) World Biosphere Reserve, making it an internationally recognized ecosystem.
- When the glaciers melted at the end of the Ice Age, sand and gravel settled on sedimentary rock in the area.
- The rock layers at the bottom of the cliff (shale and sandstone) are softer than the rock layers on the top of the cliff (dolomite limestone).

Vegetation

- because so many people live in this small ecozone, much of the natural vegetation is gone.
- there are some heavily forested areas along some lakeshores.
- Agriculture, logging, and city growth have wiped out much of the forests (only 10% of Southern Ontario's original forests remain)
- More than 90% of the wetlands in the area have been converted to farmland or urban areas.
- Before the farmland and urban sprawl took over, the area had a mix of coniferous (pines and hemlocks) as well as deciduous (maple, oak, and elm) trees.

Wildlife

- Like the forests, much of the wildlife of this ecozone has been pushed out because their homes (the trees) have been chopped down.

- Some species that remain include white-tailed deer, foxes and squirrels.
- Other species (coyotes, raccoons, mice, and groundhogs) have adapted to city life but the people living there aren't too happy with that.

People

- smallest ecozone in Canada (9% of total land area of Canada) but has the most people (60% of the country's population live here).
- more than half the top quality agriculture in Canada is in this ecozone.
- Many fruits and vegetables grown there.
- Industrial Heartland – many products (designer clothes, cars, furniture, food) are manufactured here.
- The many banks and corporations around the western shore of Lake Ontario has led to the nickname The Golden Horseshoe
- Lots of tourism – Niagara Falls, CN Tower, Royal Ontario Museum.
- Sports – baseball, hockey, football, and basketball franchises.
- Lots of cottage areas.
- More than 100 people per square kilometre.
- 12.8 million people in Ontario – 90% of them in the Mixedwood Plains
- 8 million people in Quebec – 80% of them in Montreal, Quebec City, and Trois Rivieres, all found in Mixedwood Plains

Threats

- quarries on the Niagara Escarpment – holes are being blasted into the rock.
- expanding urban areas threatening forests and wildlife
- people breathe in smog caused by cars, factories, and thermal-electricity plants.

Case Study

- Read the Case study "The Holes in The Niagara Escarpment" pgs. 140-143
- Complete Handout # 8