

Interpreting and Comparing Maps

Interpreting Maps

Being able to interpret, or 'read', the information on a map is an essential skill when using and comparing maps. To begin interpreting a map, think of the following questions:

1. What area, or location, is shown on the map?
2. What type of information does it give me?
3. What do the colors, symbols and lines represent?
4. What is the significance of the information on the map?

Look at the maps on the next page - Canada's Natural Vegetation and Canada's Population Distribution. Answer the four questions for each of the maps.

Comparing Maps

Once you have determined the kind of information a map provides, you can use that information to ask questions and draw conclusions about the region you are examining. Even if the maps are large-scale, and do not include many details, you can still learn a great deal about the region.

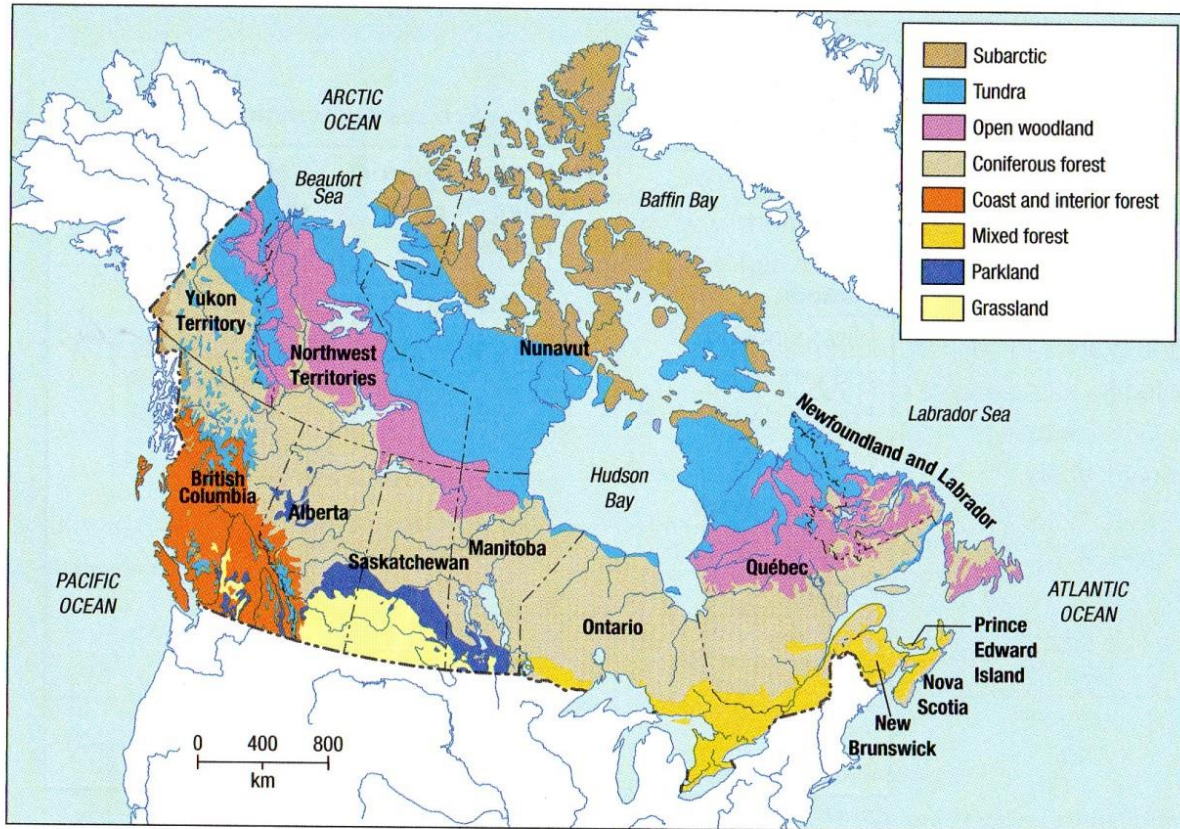
Using the maps on the next page, answer the following questions. Record your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Which area(s) of Canada might be best suited for agriculture?

2. Which area(s) might be suitable for forestry activities?

3. Provide two reasons for the distribution of population in Canada. Why are so many areas of Canada relatively unpopulated?

Canada's Natural Vegetation



Canada's Population Distribution

▼ Figure S-11 Canada's population distribution

