

Canadian Geography 1202

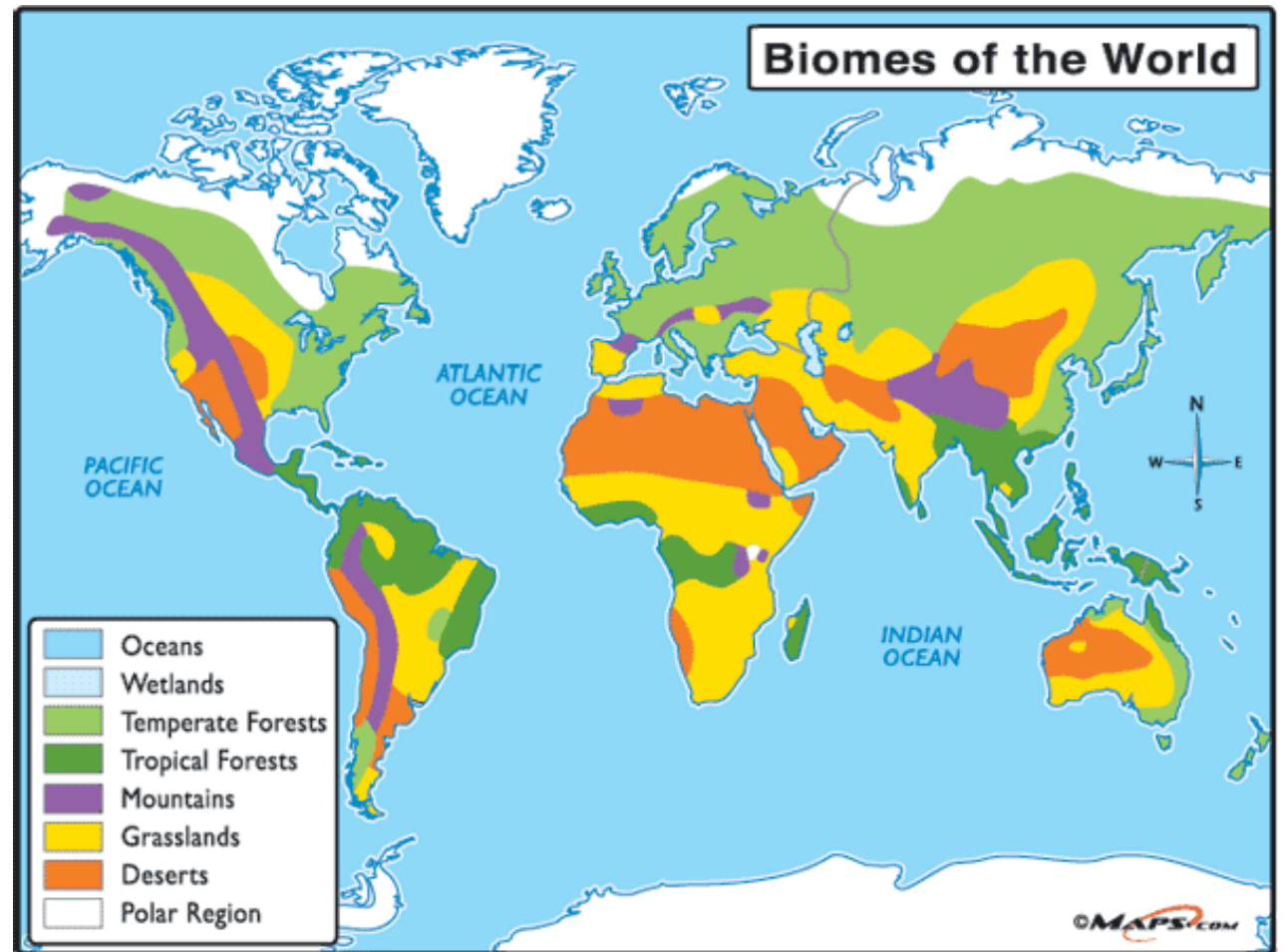
Canada's Natural Vegetation and Water Systems

Glossary Terms

- Biome
- Boreal
- Coniferous
- Deciduous
- Natural Vegetation
- Tree Line
- Tundra
- Temperate
- Temperate Rainforest

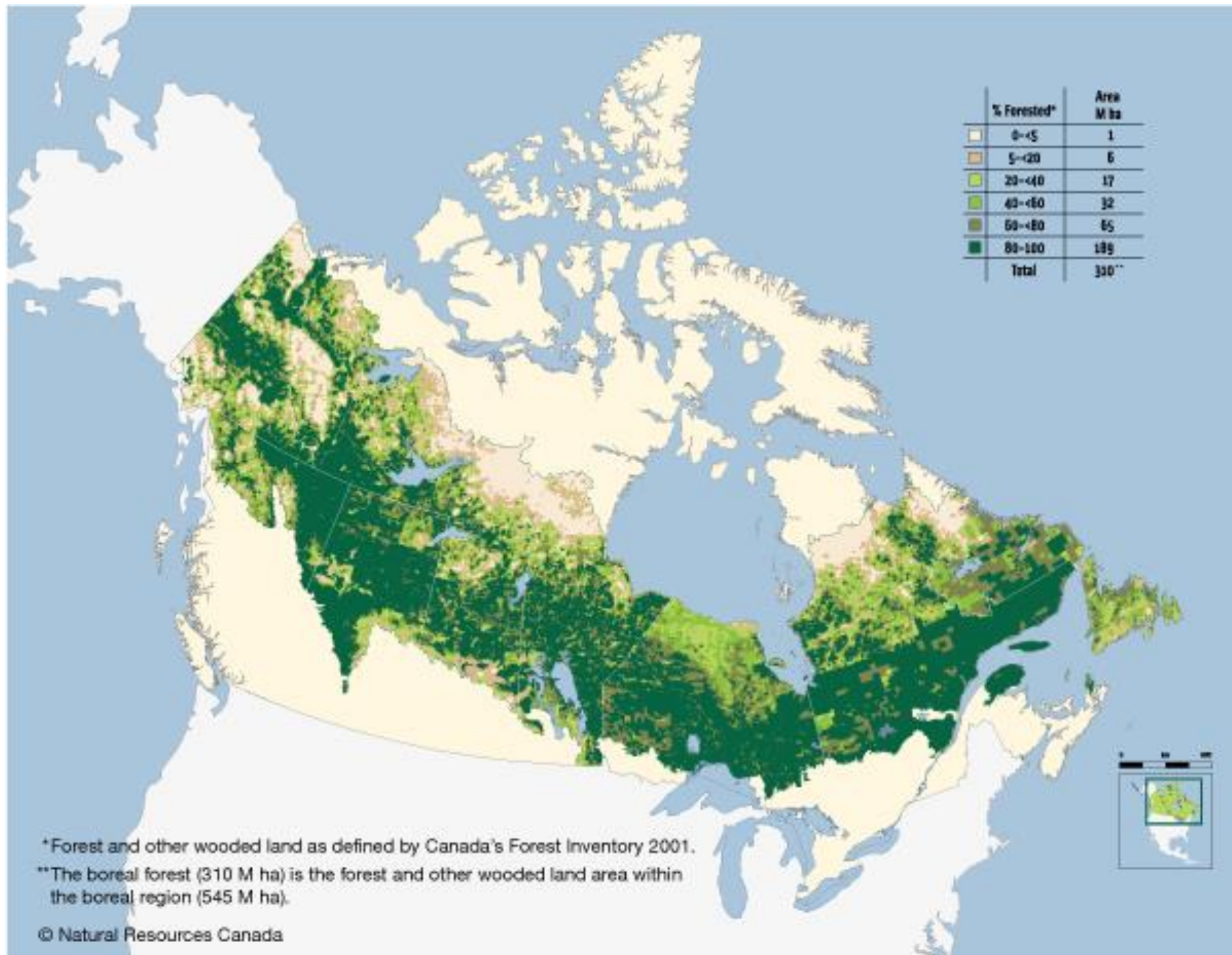
Biomes

- The types of plants in a **biome** depend on the climate and landforms in that biome.
- Biomes closer to the equator have larger trees and plants while biomes further north or south have less vegetation.



Canada's Boreal Forest

- The largest biome on Earth, the **boreal forest** has both...
- **Coniferous trees** (trees with cones that are evergreens) and
- **Deciduous trees** (trees that lose their leaves before winter)
- Animals like moose, bears, and wolves are also found there.



Canada's Rainforests

- Canada's rainforests are found along the coast of British Columbia.
- This is largely because of the orographic rain that falls on the leeward sides of the various mountain ranges in the area.
- Unlike tropical rainforests, the **temperate rainforests** of B.C. are far from the equator.



Recipe For a Temperate Rainforest

- Rain all year round
- 300 cm or more of rain per year.
- Mild temperatures (0° - 26° C).
- A **canopy** layer of coniferous trees that blocks sunlight from causing too much evaporation, keeping the ground damp.
- Moss and ferns growing on the forest floor, covering tree trunks.
- Rainwater collecting on forest floor.
- Countless shades of green year round.



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Canada's Water Systems

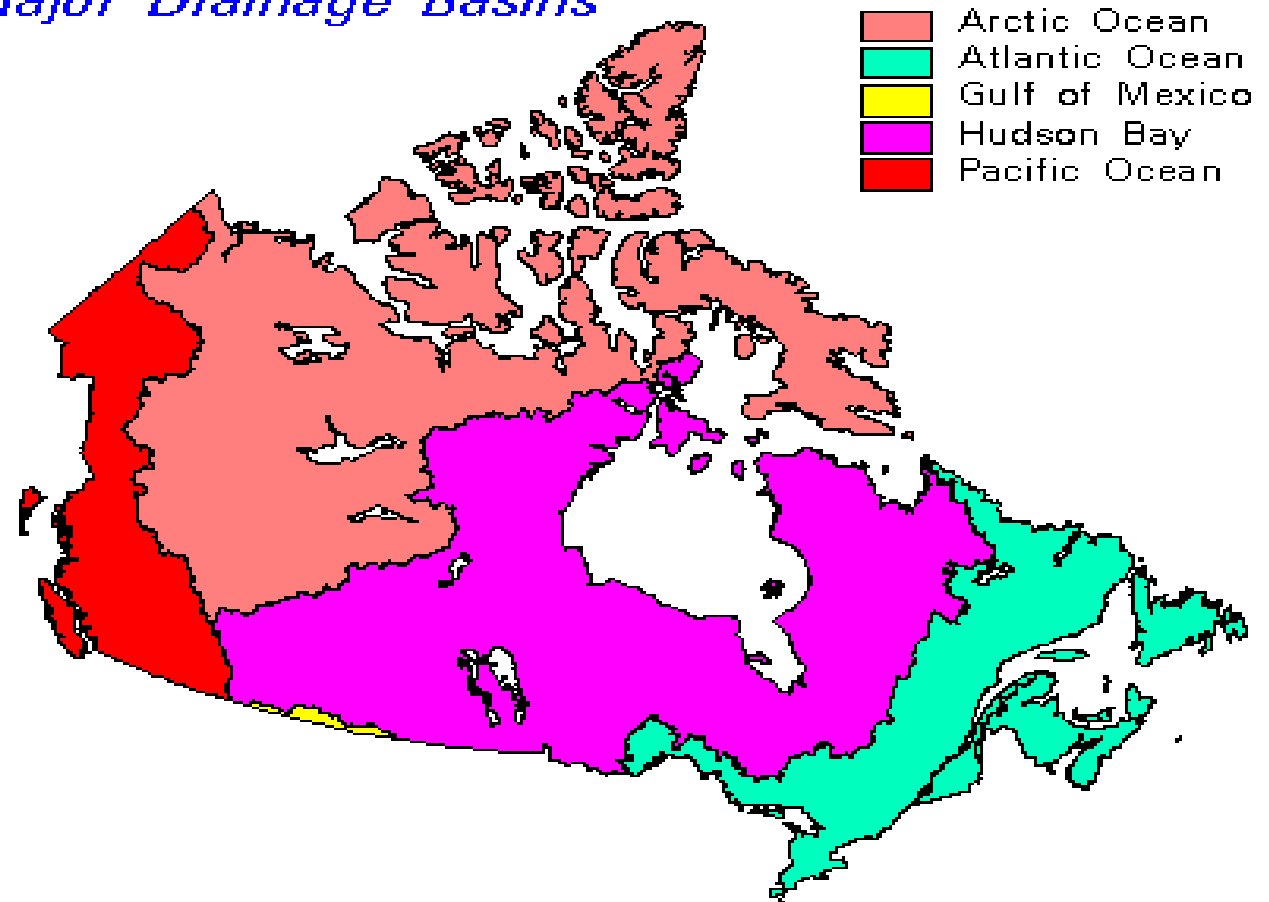
Glossary Terms: Water

- Wetland
- Runoff
- Drainage Basin
- Watershed
- Drainage Divide

Canada's Drainage Basins

- **IMPORTANT:** All rivers flow from areas of higher elevation to an ocean.
- A **drainage basin** is the area of land from which all water received as precipitation eventually flows to a particular ocean.
- The diagram shows that Canada has **5 major drainage basins**.

Major Drainage Basins



Canada's Drainage Basins



- A lot of Canada's rain and snow ends up in rivers and lakes (**runoff**).
- Rivers flow into oceans and bays.
- Some water seeps into the soil (**groundwater**). This is what feeds artesian wells.

Canada's Drainage Basins

- **75%** of the water in Canada drains north to the **Arctic Ocean** or **Hudson Bay**.
- Water flows downhill (of course), so that means areas in the north are at a lower elevation, since water flows in that direction.



Canada – Land of Lakes



- There are about two million (2,000,000) lakes in Canada!
- This is because during the various ice ages, glacier carved holes in the ground that filled up with water once the glaciers melted.
- The Great Lakes water system is the largest in the Atlantic Ocean drainage basin.
- 9 million Canadians and 31 million Americans depend on water from the Great Lakes.

Impact of the Great Lakes

- The city of Toronto uses 540 billion litres of water from the Great Lakes every year!!!
- Approximately half this water is replaced by the tears of Toronto Maple Leafs' fans at the end of each hockey season 😊

