

A decorative illustration in the top right and bottom right corners. The top right shows large, dark green, tropical-style leaves. The bottom right shows a large, vibrant green leaf with two bright pink, fluffy flowers. A light orange, cloud-like shape is positioned in the top right, containing the text '4th grade'.

4th
grade

Nature Mosaic

Social Studies & Art

The Meaning of the Land

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT



The background is a light green color with a subtle, repeating pattern of small green leaves. Large, stylized green leaves are placed around the edges: a fern-like leaf in the top left, a large broad leaf in the top right, a branch with small leaves in the middle left, and a cluster of leaves with two pink flowers in the bottom right. The number '01' is centered in a light orange, irregular shape.

01

WHY IS ALBERTA UNIQUE?

It's geography, climate, geology, and
paleontology

The background features a vibrant tropical theme. It includes various types of green foliage such as monstera leaves with characteristic holes, long feathery ferns, and broad, smooth-edged leaves. Interspersed among the leaves are several pink flowers, including a prominent bird-of-paradise flower with its long, pointed petals and a cluster of smaller, fluffy pink blossoms. The background is composed of two main color areas: a light green area on the right and a light orange area on the left, separated by a soft, wavy white border. The word "Geography" is centered in the green area in a bold, dark green font.

Geography

GEOGRAPHY

- Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places, and environments.
- Alberta has **6 natural regions**:
 - Grassland Region
 - Boreal Forest Region
 - Canadian Shield Region
 - Foothills Region
 - Rocky Mountain Region
 - Parkland Region
- **Which natural region is your city/town in?**
- A natural region is made based on the **natural vegetation** and **landforms** that it has and its **climate**



Alberta's 6 Natural Regions



Grassland

- In the South
- Can be very dry
- Used for farming
- Also called the grassland prairies



Boreal Forest

- Takes up most of Northern Alberta
- Almost entirely covered with trees
- Has many rolling hills, plains, rivers and wetlands



Canadian Shield

- In the North
- Has many marshes and lakes
- Has very little soil
- Some plants can still grow here

Alberta's 6 Natural Regions



Foothills

- Made up of hills that lead to the Rocky Mountain
- In the far south, grasslands cover it: ranching area.
- Covered with trees when you go north



Rocky Mountain

- The highest area in Alberta
- Deep valleys and rugged peaks
- Some glaciers are here
- Some trees and small plants grow here

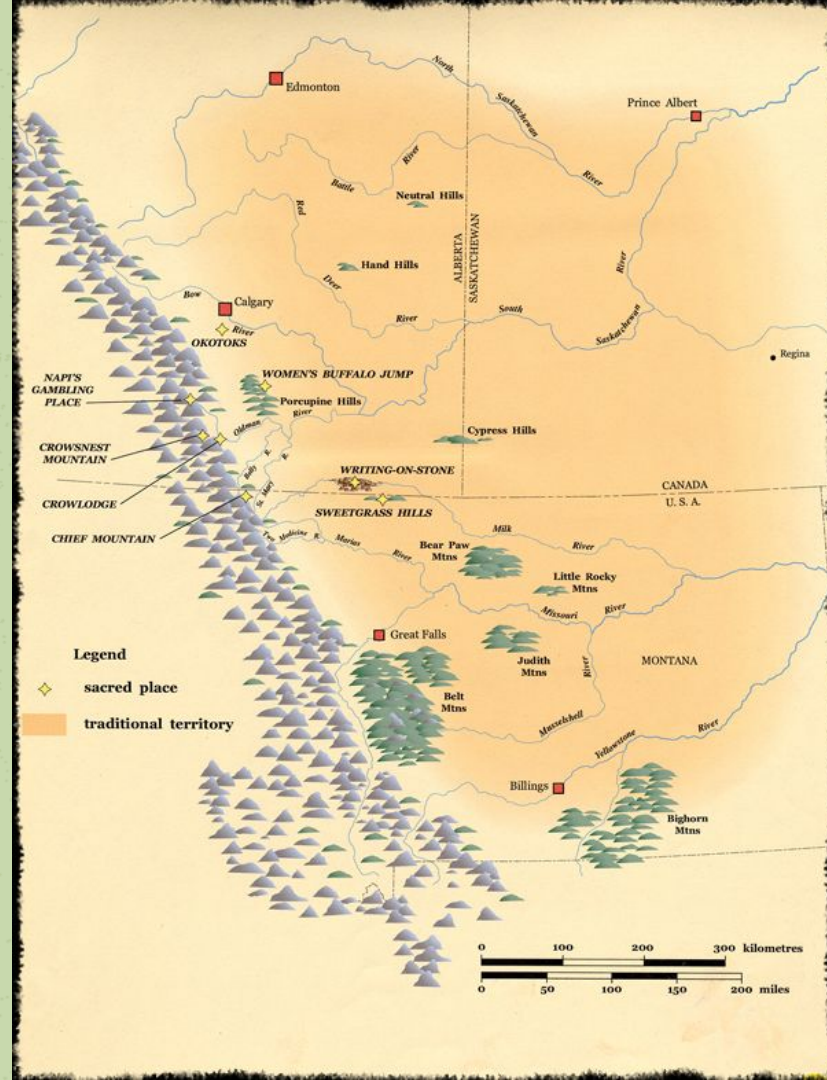


Parkland

- Was once an area of grass and trees, but these were cleared for farms
- Has rich soil
- Has rolling hills
- Sometimes called the parkland prairie

GEOGRAPHY

- The traditional territories of Alberta's Indigenous Peoples were marked by physical geography.
- Treaty boundaries sever these traditional territories.



Case Study: Should City Grasslands be protected?: Nose Hill Park

- Nose Hill Park is a large park in Calgary that is mostly used for **recreation**
- It is also home to over 200 animal and plant species: some of which are hard to find anymore.
- Nose Hill Park contains significant archaeological sites which include stone Indigenous tipi rings and the Siksikaitsitapi medicine wheel.
- The park was a sacred place used for ceremonies and burials by Indigenous Peoples.



Case Study: Should City Grasslands be protected? Nose Hill Park



- To protect sacred areas and the grasslands, the city of Calgary made a plan to keep people out of more than half of the park.
- This means that the number of trails that people could walk on would be cut back.
- Many people agreed with the plan, but some did not.
- **Do you agree with protecting these natural areas? Why or why not?**



A decorative border of various tropical plants including monstera leaves, ferns, and pink flowers framing the central text. The background is split into a light green textured area and a light orange textured area.

Climate



CLIMATE

- The typical weather of a place over a long period of time (usually 30 years or more)
- It includes:
 - **Temperature:** how hot or cold a place is
 - **Precipitation:** the amount of rain or snow or hail a place gets





FACTORS THAT DETERMINE CLIMATE IN ALBERTA

LATITUDE

- How far north or south a region is
- Areas that are further north get more snow
- The further north you go, the cooler it gets

ELEVATION

- If the region is high up in the mountains or low in the plains
- Areas that are higher up get more snow
- The higher up you go, the cooler it becomes

WINDS

- Alberta is famous for its chinook winds
- In the Siksika language, chinook means “snow eater”. **Why do you think that is?**

CHINOOKS AND CLIMATE

- Chinooks or si'kssopo ("snow eater in Blackfoot) are dry, warm, west winds that come from the mountains
 - They bring warmer and dryer weather
 - They can raise temperatures as much as 25° C
 - They are felt more in the SE (ex. Treaty 7 (includes Calgary)) than the North (Treaty 6 (includes Edmonton) & 8 (includes Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie))





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WINDS

- Alberta is famous for its chinook winds
- Chinooks make the temperatures feel warmer
- Cold winds from the arctic also make temperatures drop

The background features a vibrant tropical theme. It includes various types of green foliage such as monstera leaves with characteristic holes, fern fronds, and broad, smooth-edged leaves. Interspersed among the leaves are several pink flowers, including a prominent bird-of-paradise flower and some smaller, bell-shaped blossoms. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, with accents of bright pink and a soft, warm yellow-orange on the left side. The word "Geology" is centered in a bold, dark green font.

Geology

GEOLOGY

- Geology is the **study of the land and rocks and how they formed**
- Alberta's land has gone through many changes which has given it unique landscapes (natural scenery) and landforms (ex. mountains)
 - As the glaciers melted, they left lakes, rivers and unique landforms
 - One of these landforms is the Big Rock
 - The Hoodoos are another landform in Alberta that were shaped by wind and water



The Story of the Big Rock (in Okotoks)



The background features a vibrant tropical jungle theme. It includes various types of green leaves such as monstera leaves with characteristic holes, fern fronds, and broad, smooth-edged leaves. Interspersed among the foliage are several pink flowers, including a prominent one with multiple stamens in the upper right and another in the lower right. The background is composed of soft, overlapping shapes in shades of light green and pale yellow, creating a layered, organic feel.

Paleontology

PALEONTOLOGY

- Paleontology is the **study of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago.**
 - This includes studying **fossils** (remains of the past)
- Alberta is filled with fossils!
 - Many dinosaur and plant fossils
 - Most are found in the badlands
 - First Nation Peoples knew that fossils were in the land from the dawn of time:
 - Called them: iinisskimm or “buffalo stones”
 - They called the animals that they came from “grandfather of the buffalo”
 - The fossils are considered sacred



Thinking time

**Do you think the fossils that
are found in Alberta should
be protected?**

Ex. Stored in museums or so that the public can't
keep them





**Today we learned that there are
different things that make
Alberta's land unique!**

Now it's time to think about what
you love about the land we live
on.



Nature Mosaic Project



1. Think about all the things you love about the land you live on
 - a. This can be the weather, different activities, the food, etc.
2. **Find pictures and physical artefacts** that represent the different things that you love
 - a. Ex. you can find pictures of fish if you like fishing or use dirt if you like farming or you can gather leaves/ flowers
 - b. If you are taking an item from the land, please offer the land water as we do not take without giving back.
3. **Draw an outline** of one of the things you like about the land
 - a. Ex. you might draw an outline of a mountain or the sun
4. In that outline, **draw or glue the pictures and artefacts** that you gathered in an appealing design
5. Decorate your mosaic
6. Below your mosaic, **craft a thoughtful land acknowledgment** that shows gratitude to the land.



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