

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 11 Lesson Plans
Geography 11 - Patterns of Development

Activity: PCFS Settlement Project (suggested time: full day activities)

Specific Curriculum Outcomes:

Patterns of Development (compulsory module)

- 3.1 demonstrate and analyze linkages between a regions natural geology and its resource base
- 3.3 explain the impact of resource development on settlement patterns at both local and national scales
- 3.4 model issues pertaining to resource assessment
- 3.6 analyze the interdependent and evolving nature of the Canadian economy.

Regional Development (optional module)

- 4.1 use Heartland and Hinterland as a framework for regional development
- 4.2 analyze regional disparity
- 4.3 explain locational factors in economic development

Rural-Urban Land Use (optional module)

- 5.1 demonstrate an understanding of the criteria used to classify settlements
- 5.3 analyze land use within towns or cities
- 5.4 demonstrate an understanding of the organization of the rural landscapes
- 5.5 identify and analyze land use change in the rural and urban areas (urban fringe)
- 5.6 analyze issues related to migration between rural and urban centres

Materials:

- Various topographical maps
- Big white board
- Shelter building: tarps and rope
- Cooking supplies

Intro/Activation:

This is an inquiry-based and open ended project. Students arrive at PCFS with prior knowledge, inherent skill sets and interests. PCFS instructors and school-based educators are close at hand offering support where needed or posing ‘what-ifs’ along the way to nudge students further into their inquiries.

Planning Phase:

1. Activate student’s prior knowledge regarding the four necessities of life: food, water, air, shelter.

Dig deeper into what are other fundamental human needs: survival vs surthrival.

- 1. a clean and beautiful environment 2. an adequate supply of safe water 3. minimum requirements of clothing 4. a balanced diet 5. simple housing 6. basic health care 7. communication facilities 8. Energy 9. total education related to life and living 10. cultural and spiritual needs (<https://waldenlabs.com/10-basic-needs/>)

2. Using topographical maps and prior research of the PCFS site students are to create a detailed settlement plan using the PCFS site. Students will be applying their prior knowledge of patterns of development to the PCFS site in the following ways:

- What would an initial settlement look like on the PCFS landscape? (e.g., site map sketches: “We will draw timber out of this woodlot; We will pasture animals in this field; We will use this brook as a seasonal water source etc.)

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- How are we gleaning food, fire, shelter, water from the PCFS property?
- Walking the site looking to confirm/alter their earlier hypotheses around the potential of various locations (e.g., “Now that I walk in the lower section of this field it seems too wet to build our shelters.”).

Activity: create a settlement at PCFS

1. The whole group will build survival shelters in a chosen location, having groups of students build their survival shelters together so as to mimic how a village or community functions. This forces students into having to contemplate essential questions around patterns of development:

- Distances to resources (food, fire and building supplies)
- shared communal spaces (who builds where?)
- sharing of resources (who gets what?)
- group decision making on establishing roles in the communities (who does what?)
foraging, food preparation, shelter building
- How to navigate the inevitable group dynamic issues: work ethic, skill sets, design challenges
- Other issues???

2. Students will be tasked with preparing food and making a simple tea.

- Simple pastas, soups, stews can easily be prepared by students.
- Students will forage for edibles to make a tea (e.g., spruce tips, yellow birch twigs, wintergreen leaves, rosehips)

3. Reflections and further wonderings:

- Conversations around successes, challenges, surprises, next steps.
- What would Day 2 look like? Week 2? Month 2? Beyond....?

4. Tear-down and clean up.