

LESSON #3: A WALK IN THE PARK

LESSON CONTENTS:

- Banff National Park: More Than Mountains!
- Banff National Park: A Quick Tour!
- Consolidation Tasks
- Differentiation Options
- Answer Key

LEARNING GOALS:

Students will explore Banff National Park and understand how the park is a cultural symbol, a home of natural resources, and an important part of Canadian History.

Students will use knowledge gained through the reading activity to complete tasks of their choice.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

5.1.1 Value Canada's physical geography and natural environment:

- Appreciate the variety and abundance of natural resources in Canada.
- Appreciate the environmental significance of national parks and protected areas in Canada.
- Demonstrate care and concern for the environment through their choices and actions.
- Appreciate the influence of the natural environment on the growth and development of Canada.

5.1.2 Examine, critically, the physical geography of Canada by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues:

- How are National Parks and protected areas important to the sustainability of Canada's Natural Environment?
- How do landforms, bodies of water and natural resources affect the quality of life in Canada?

TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS:

Two versions of the text about Banff National Park have been included to suit varying needs in the classroom.

The texts could be shared, guided, or independent reading tasks.

Students could conduct further research about National Parks in Alberta, Canada, or the world (see research template in previous lesson).

DIFFERENTIATION OPTIONS:

Assign the reading tasks as necessary. Banff National Park: More Than Mountains is the more challenging reading while Banff National Park: A Quick Tour is written at a less challenging reading level and includes less content. The consolidation tasks for each are designed with this in mind.

Students could work in mixed-level partnerships on both tasks, each as the expert of their own text and activity while also supporting the other student.

If available, assistive technology for the reading tasks is recommended for students who may benefit.

Students needing additional extensions could conduct further research on the historical events (internment camp, Assiniboine Indigenous Peoples) mentioned in the reading and share their findings with the class.

Any part of the lesson could be guided or shared in format; they are not necessarily independent tasks.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- copies of reading materials as needed.
- copies of student activities as needed.

ANSWER KEY:

Banff National Park: More than Mountains

1. 1885 2. 6,641 squared kilometres 3. Answers may include: the landforms they might see, activities they might take part in, a desire to help conserve the park, see wildlife, etc. 4. Answers may include: humans negatively impacting the park, there are 3 million tourists a year, a lot of traffic, a lot of garbage, need for conservation and/or sustainable development.

Section B depends on ideas the student has taken from the text and their own ideas. The possible answers listed above may appear in the chart.

Banff National Park: A Quick Tour

In order of blanks: 1885, 3, landforms, swimming, non-native species, traffic, garbage (these could be reversed), conserve.



Banff National Park: More Than Mountains

Have you visited Banff National Park? Have you stared up into the sky, wondering how far past the clouds the tips of the Rocky Mountains reach? Maybe you have explored trails, while hiking through the park's dense forests? Perhaps you have paddled down the Bow River in a kayak or a canoe? If not, join us now. Our exploration of Canada's very first National Park is about to begin. Let's take a walk in the park...

SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO

Deciding what to do and what to see is one of the biggest challenges at Banff National Park! There are so many different landforms and landscapes to take in. The mountains are memorable but so are the glaciers, the ice fields, the lakes, the rivers, and the valleys. It would take weeks to tour it all and to take part in the many activities available. From camping, swimming, and horseback riding to shopping in the busy town of Banff, the options are endless!



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Knowing about the past is an important part of any exploration. Hopefully on an adventure in this National Park you would learn a few facts, like how the park was established in 1885 and how it became popular as the Canadian Pacific Railway brought more and more people to the West. Banff became extremely popular over the years and all of those tourists brought a lot of money to the area, boosting the **economy**. Even a place as beautiful as Banff has conflicts in its



history: Banff was originally home to Indigenous Peoples like the Assiniboiné, who were forced out of their home as the tourists flooded in. Another source of conflict came during World War One, when **internment camps** were established in Banff. Immigrants from European countries like Ukraine and Germany were sent to work in these camps during the war.

PROTECTING THE PARK

Banff National Park is not just a tourist destination. It is home to many different plant and animal species, including humans! With over three million visitors to the park each year, measures must be taken to preserve the natural environment and the **biodiversity** in Banff. There are even a few endangered and threatened species, like the Banff Springs snail, that must be protected from the human activities that negatively impact the ecosystem! For example, the Trans-Canada Highway helps many humans travel through Banff but it also means danger for many animals, such as wolves and bears, living in the park. That's a lot of traffic for the animals to avoid!

Another big impact that humans have had on the national park is the introduction of **non-native species**. For example, different species of trout were introduced into the lakes and this changed the food web, changing the natural balance that existed in the ecosystem.

QUICK FACTS: BANFF NATIONAL PARK

Year established: 1885

Size: 6,641 km²

Tourists per year:
around 3 million

In order to keep the park beautiful for humans and animals to enjoy, all visitors must take care to leave the park the way they found it. Banff National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984 and since then, the government has worked very hard with the population of Alberta to keep the **conservation** or **sustainable development** of Banff National Park at the top of the to-do list.

THINKING OF THE FUTURE

Our exploration of Banff National Park may be drawing to a close but for many, the actual experience of visiting this popular destination is still on the horizon. If you do get to visit, remember to think of all the ways you can help to conserve this beautiful Canadian park so that many who are still waiting to visit will have their turn in the years to come.

Vocabulary & Activities: Banff National Park: More Than Mountains

Economy: the way money is organized in a specific place.

Internment Camp: a prison camp for people considered to be the enemy.

Sustainable Development: conserving resources for the future.

Non-native species: a type of plant or animal that was not originally from that location.

Biodiversity: the variety of plant and animal life in a particular area.

Conservation: preventing the loss of resources by protecting the environment.

Instructions: Re-read the text ***Banff National Park: More than Mountains!*** Answer the following questions using information from the text, the definitions above, and your own ideas. Remember to answer in complete sentences!

Section A: Short Answer

1. When was Banff National Park established? _____

2. How big is Banff National Park? _____

3. What might attract visitors to Banff National Park? _____

4. Why might it be important to think of the future of Banff National Park? Use key words and information from the text to explain your answer.

Section B: After reading this text about Banff National Park, think about the effects that humans might have on other parks and protected areas. How might these parks and protected areas affect humans? Fill in the chart below with key words and information from the text about Banff and your own ideas.

Positive impacts that humans might have on parks and protected areas:	Negative impacts that humans might have on parks and protected areas:
The effects that parks and protected areas might have on humans that visit:	Questions I have:



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SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO

Deciding what to do and what to see is one of the biggest challenges at Banff National Park! There are so many different **landforms** and landscapes to take in. The mountains are memorable but so are the glaciers, the ice fields, the lakes, the rivers, and the valleys. There are so many activities to take part in too, like swimming, camping, and horseback riding.

PROTECTING THE PARK

Banff National Park is not just a tourist destination; it is home to many different plant and animal species, including humans! There are over three million visitors to the park each year so the park must be protected from all the problems that come with human visitors. Tourists bring extra traffic to the area, as well as extra human waste (garbage!), and sometimes even other species of animals that do not belong in the park. These animals, such as the Banff Springs snail, are called **non-native species**.

THINKING OF THE FUTURE

Can you imagine Canada without Banff National Park? Everyone needs to work together to make sure that Banff National Park stays clean and to make sure that the wildlife stays protected. This is called **conservation**. Conserving the resources in the park will make it possible for people to visit and experience its beauty for years to come.

QUICK FACTS: BANFF NATIONAL PARK

Year established: 1885

Size: 6,641 km²

Tourists per year:
around 3 million



Key Vocabulary & Activities: Banff National Park: A Quick Tour

Landforms: features of Earth's surface, like mountains, hills, plateaus, and valleys.

Non-native Species: a type of plant or animal that was not originally from that location.

Conserve: to prevent the loss of resources by protecting the environment.

Instructions: Re-read the text ***Banff National Park: A Quick Tour!*** Fill in the blanks using your understanding of the text and the definitions above.

Banff National Park was established in _____. It is Canada's very first National Park and sees about _____ million visitors a year! There are so many different _____ to see in the park, including mountains, valleys, and hills. Tourists love to see the sights but they also like to participate in activities like camping, _____, and horseback riding.

A lot of visitors means a lot of good things happen at the park but some things that cause problems as well. For example, _____ like the Banff Springs snail can affect all the other animals that live at the park by changing the food web. Other issues with the number of visitors include the fact that humans bring a lot of extra _____ and extra _____ to the park.

In order to make sure the park stays clean and the wildlife is protected, everyone must work together to _____ the natural environment.