



cross country CANADA

How do geographers define a region? **Regions** are areas that share common characteristics. They are identified by the natural features or geographic characteristics that an area shares.

Regions are often named by the main physical or geographic feature. For example, the main geographic feature in the Atlantic region is the Atlantic Ocean. The main geographic feature in the Canadian Shield region is a “shield of rock.”



Landscapes Across Canada



1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Each photo on the previous page shows a region of Canada. Can you identify the region pictured in each photo? Use the map of **Canada's Six Geographic Regions** below to revisit where each region is located.

Canada can be divided into six regions that are based on geographic features. Can you use the legend to describe all six on the map below?



Canada's Six Geographic Regions



Another way to identify the characteristics of Canada's six natural regions is through ecozones. An **ecozone** is formed where there are similar types of plants, animal life, climate, landforms and human activities. The living and non-living characteristics of one ecozone are different from those found in another ecozone.

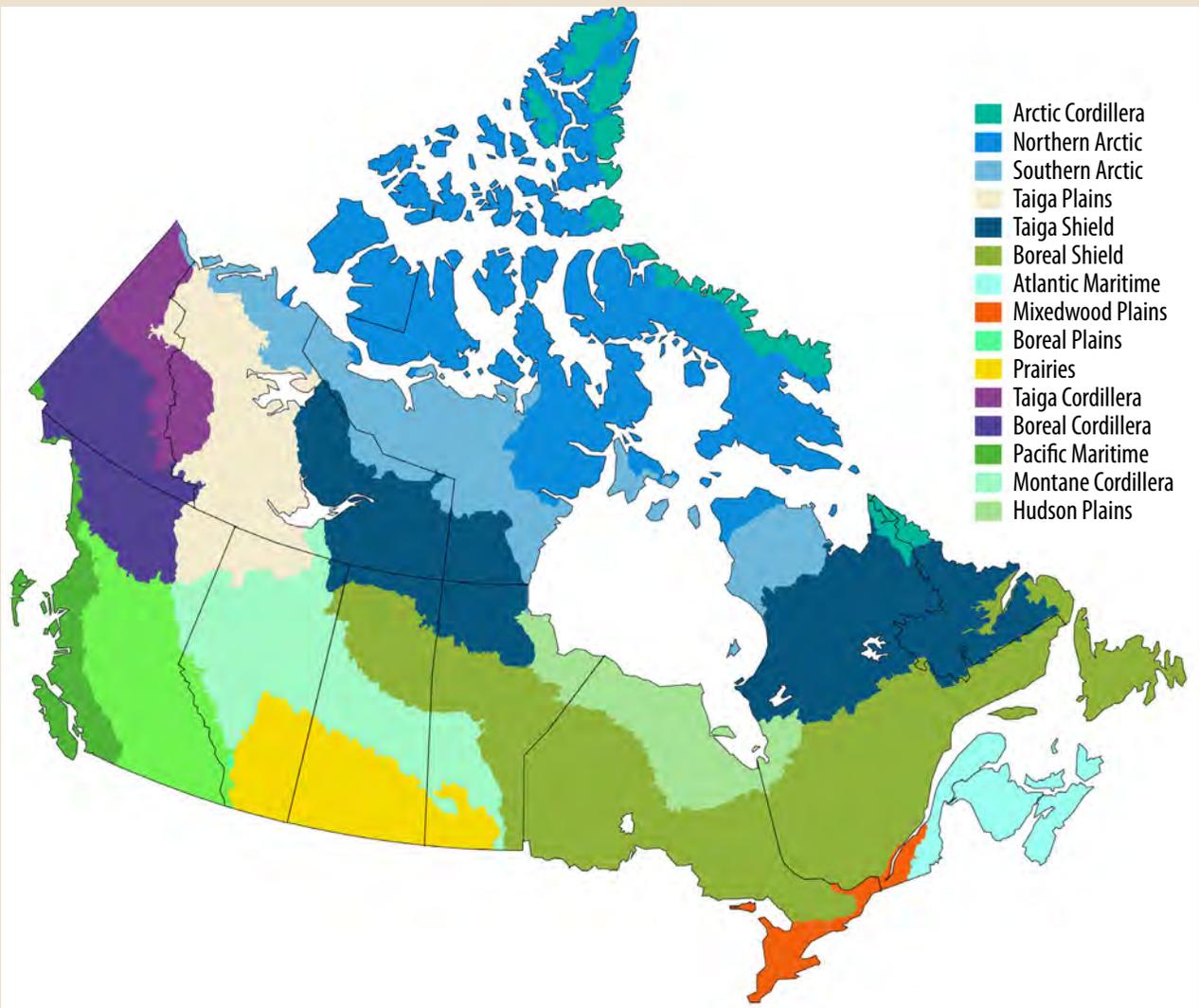
Canada has 15 ecozones throughout its six regions. Ecozone maps can help us understand more about the characteristics of each region.



What hints does the ecozone map give you about the characteristics of Canada's six natural regions?



Canada's Ecozones



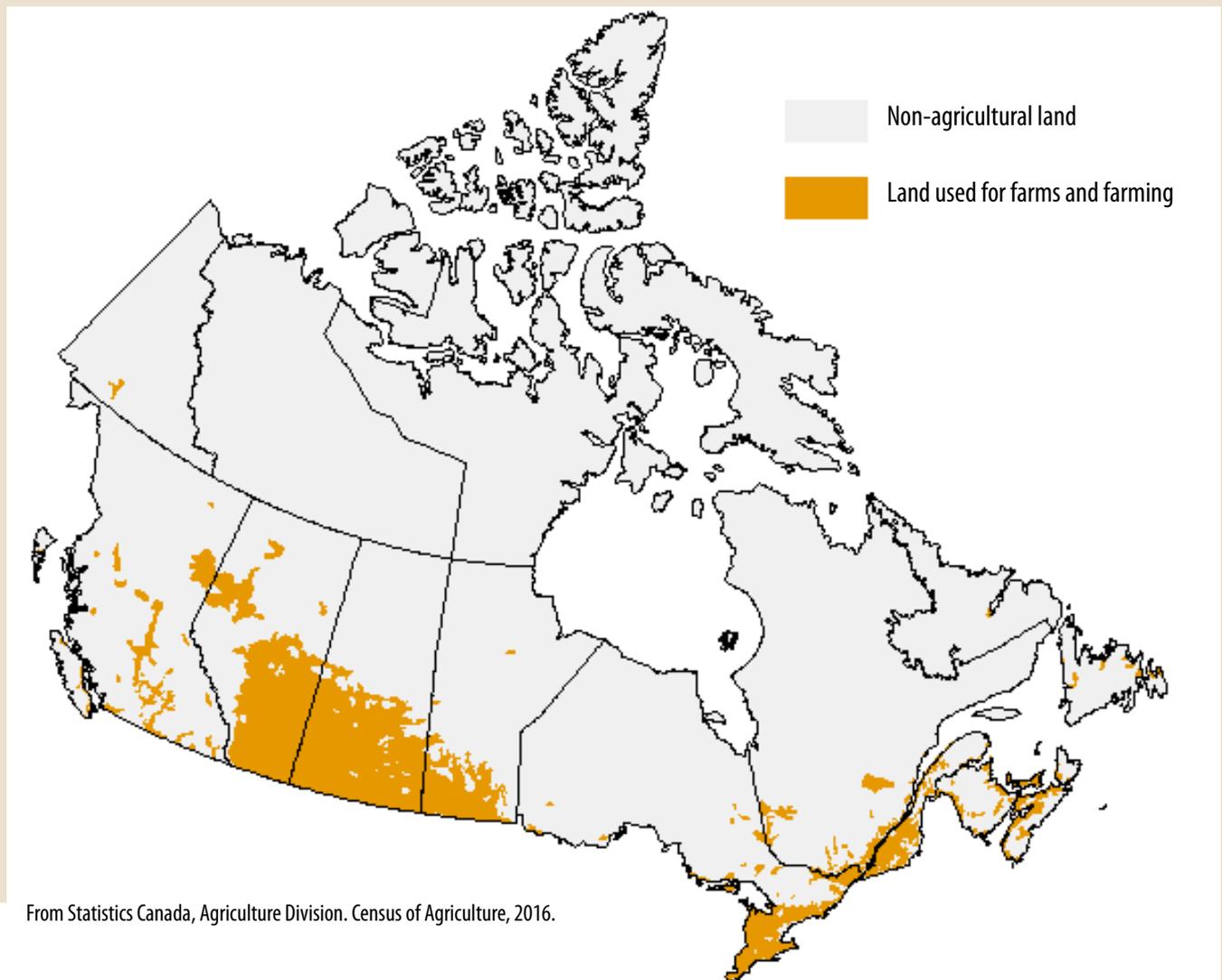
Farmland and Farming

Farms are found in most of Canada's regions, but use a small percentage of land compared to the total land area. Most farmable land is found in western Canada.

The largest farms are located in the prairies, where wheat, barley, oilseeds and other crops are grown. Beef cattle ranches are also found in this region. Dairy and poultry farms that produce milk, chickens, turkeys and eggs are found in the prairies but in larger numbers in the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Lowland region. Corn and soybean are important crops in the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Lowland region. Vegetables and fruits are grown here, but also in the Cordillera and Atlantic regions. For example, you may find potatoes in the Atlantic regions and orchards in the Cordillera.



Areas of Agricultural Activities





What observations can you make from the Areas of Agricultural Activities and Areas of Population maps? How is the information in both maps similar? How is it different?



Areas of Population

