

Activity 2a Handout

Historical and Modern Patterns of Use In The Forest

So, you've reviewed the Forestry Timeline. You've been a busy beaver!
For this activity, place the "event" in the time-period it occurred.



Pre-European Settlement	1700s	1800s	1900 - 1940s	1950 - 1980s	1990s - Present

Events

- A** Alberta's first powered sawmill opens its doors.
- B** Alberta's first Forest Management Plan is created.
- C** Detailed Forest Management Plans are made mandatory for all public areas before harvest can occur.
- D** The fur industry realizes the importance of forest management in protecting its economic interests.
- E** Alberta takes over ownership and responsibility of provincial forests from the federal government.
- F** Indigenous Peoples become Alberta's original forest managers.
- G** The *Crown Timber Act* grants businesses harvesting rights on Crown land.
- H** The first humans arrive in Alberta, using trees for heat, cooking, and shelter.
- I** The Alberta government tells companies they must replant trees in the forests they harvest.
- J** The beginning of large-scale (industrial) forestry in Alberta.
- K** European settlers move to Alberta, with little concern for forest conservation.
- L** The FireSmart program is created to educate Albertans about the dangers of wildfire where towns and cities border natural environments.

Activity 2b Class Discussion Guide

Topic 1: Changes in Environmental Stewardship

From early on, humans have understood the importance of managing forests. Over the years, rules and regulations have become increasingly stringent. Why is it so important to manage forests in a sustainable manner?

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1. What was the main reason Indigenous Peoples protected and managed the forests? What about fur traders?

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2. What are some reasons we manage forests today?

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3. Many of the efforts to encourage sustainability have been introduced by government. Others by the forest sector. Why is it important they work together?

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Topic 2: Changes in Wildfire Management

In the spring of 2016, a devastating forest fire ravaged the city of Fort McMurray. Known as “The Beast”, it is the costliest disaster in Canadian history. It is estimated that 90,000 people were evacuated to escape this blaze, which burned an area of over 500,000 hectares, destroyed 2,400 buildings, and resulted in billions of dollars in damages. Discuss how forest fires can threaten communities and what can be done to prevent these disasters.

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1. How did this forest fire impact the people of Fort McMurray?

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2. Did the fire affect the economy? Who pays for fires?

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3. What types of things can be done to prevent the spread of wildfire caused by human activity?

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Topic 3: Changes in Production Practices

Over the course of the timeline, we've seen how methods of harvesting trees and producing wood products have evolved from cutting down trees with saws to the use of heavy equipment and high speed mills. What are the impacts of this change?

1. How has technology made it easier to harvest trees and mill wood products to meet growing demand for forest products?

2. What is the impact on the economy? Why is it important that increased production go hand-in-hand with increased management and regulation?
