

# Global Interactions

## Big Idea

Climate knows no boundaries: it is a *global* system that encompasses and influences the natural and human systems discussed above. Climate change therefore is a global concern. Seeing the world as interacting systems helps us understand the global collaborative approach that is needed to respond to this issue. For its part, Canada has signed the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement that commits to the reduction of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. These reductions will mean a reduction in the size of our Ecological Footprint.

### Expectations addressed in this Big Idea

#### *Global Connections*

- [OE] describe how Canada's diverse geography affects its economic, cultural, and environmental links to other countries
- [OE] analyse connections between Canada and other countries
- [OE] report on global issues that affect Canadians
- [SE] explain how Canada's natural systems form part of global natural systems (e.g., Pacific Ring of Fire, continental shelves, global biomes)
- [SE] compare Canada's approaches to specific concerns (e.g., species loss, deforestation, pesticide use, cross-border pollution, movement of people, trade) with the approaches of other nations
- [SE] evaluate Canada's participation in organizations that deal with global issues (e.g., global warming, biodiversity, human rights)
- [SE] analyse the global distribution of selected commodities and determine Canada's share of each (e.g., minerals, fuels, forest and agricultural products, manufactured goods and services)
- [SE] summarize ways in which the economies of Canada and the rest of the world are interdependent

#### *Understanding and Managing Change*

- [OE] explain how natural and human systems change over time and from place to place
- [OE] predict how current or anticipated changes in the geography of Canada will affect the country's future economic, social, and environmental well-being
- [OE] explain how global economic and environmental factors affect individual choices
- [SE] predict the consequences of human activities (e.g., agriculture, recreation) on natural systems (e.g., soil depletion, climate change)
- [SE] evaluate the impact of change (e.g., new technologies) on a selected planning project (e.g., residential or resort development, urban renewal, installation of water and sewage systems)
- [SE] predict various global environmental changes (e.g., global warming) and the impact they may have in the future on the occupations of Canadians (e.g., wheat farming in the Arctic) in various sectors of the economy (e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary)

<b>Links to culminating task</b>	
<p><i>Global Connections</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [OE] report on global issues that affect Canadians</li> <li>• [OE] produce a set of guidelines for developing a solution to a global geographic or environmental issue</li> </ul> <p><i>Understanding and Managing Change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [OE] predict the consequences of human activities (e.g., agriculture, recreation) on natural systems (e.g., soil depletion, climate change)</li> </ul>	
<b>Focus Questions and Answers</b>	
<p>For tips on using Focus Questions, please see page 2.</p>	
<p><b>1. How can individual Canadians reduce their Ecological Footprint?</b></p>	<p>▶ See <i>Human-Environment Interactions (above)</i>.</p>
<p><b>2. How can people measure which changes will reduce their footprint – and thus their impact on the environment?</b></p>	<p>▶ See <i>Course Profile Geography of Canada Grade 9 Applied, Unit 3 – Activity 2: “Determining Our Ecological Footprint.”</i> This allows students to chart and graph how their activities affect their Ecological Footprint but does not give a specific number with respect to how many hectares of land they consume.</p>
<p><b>3. How can industries and governments reduce their Ecological Footprint?</b></p>	<p>▶ See <a href="http://www.climatechange.gc.ca">www.climatechange.gc.ca</a> to explore what we can do about climate change, industry actions.</p>
<p><b>4. What actions are governments and non-government organizations taking to reduce climate change locally and globally?</b></p>	<p>▶ See <a href="http://www.climatechange.gc.ca">www.climatechange.gc.ca</a> Search for “What is Canada doing?” For a bigger picture see <a href="http://www.adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca">www.adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca</a> and select “Overview.”</p>