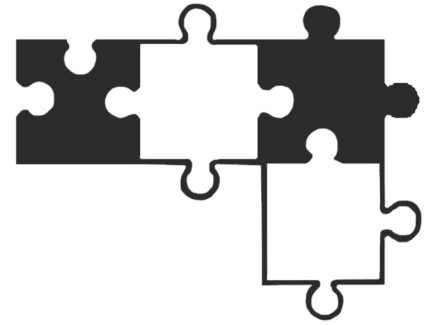


Activity 12

(Lesson Two of Two Lessons)

Growing Conditions in Alberta



Activity:

Students will receive 3 maps of Alberta which show the amount of precipitation, number of frost-free days and soil regions. Students will color code each region on the maps and from the maps identify the growing conditions of their home area.

Curriculum Fit:

Grade Four - Social Studies

- Topic A: Alberta - Its Geography and People
 - The environment can affect the way people live

Grade Five - Science

- Topic D: Weather Watch
 - Investigate interactions between weather phenomena and human activity

Agriculture Concepts:

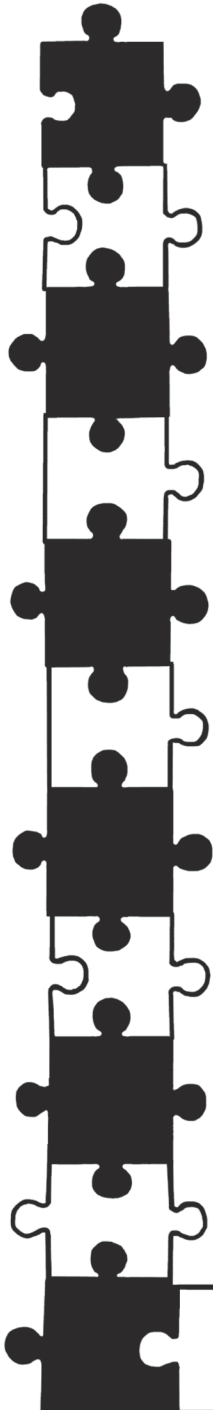
Diversity
Importance of soil and water

Cognitive Level:

Analysis, Evaluation

Time Required:

One 40-minute class.



Background — For the Teacher

Alberta is blessed with growing conditions that can produce bountiful crops, although the growing season is relatively short. This is a simple lesson which shows that soil, precipitation and frost are three important factors that determine what can be grown and where it can be grown.

Procedure

Preparation

1. Make copies of the three maps of Alberta showing rainfall regions, frost-free regions, and soils, allowing a copy of each map per student.

Introduction

2. Explain purpose of each map and what each map shows.

Activity

3. Identify and highlight, through color-coding, your local region on each map.

Conclusion

4. Discuss what conclusions a person can draw from the three maps. (eg. Is your local area a good place to grow crops?)

Discussion Questions

1. How does your local area compare with other areas in the province in terms of resources to grow crops?
2. Which crops do you think would grow best in your area? Why?

Resources

Websites:

The maps on the Resource Sheets are available in color, with additional info, at:

(Soil Zone)

www.agric.gov.ab.ca/navigation/sustain/soil/index.html

(Climate)

www.agric.gov.ab.ca/navigation/sustain/climate/index.html

Related Activities / Resources:

“Cultivation v. Grazing,” Pride in Alberta, Grade 4
All About Food - Alberta
A Lunch Kit For Growing Plants

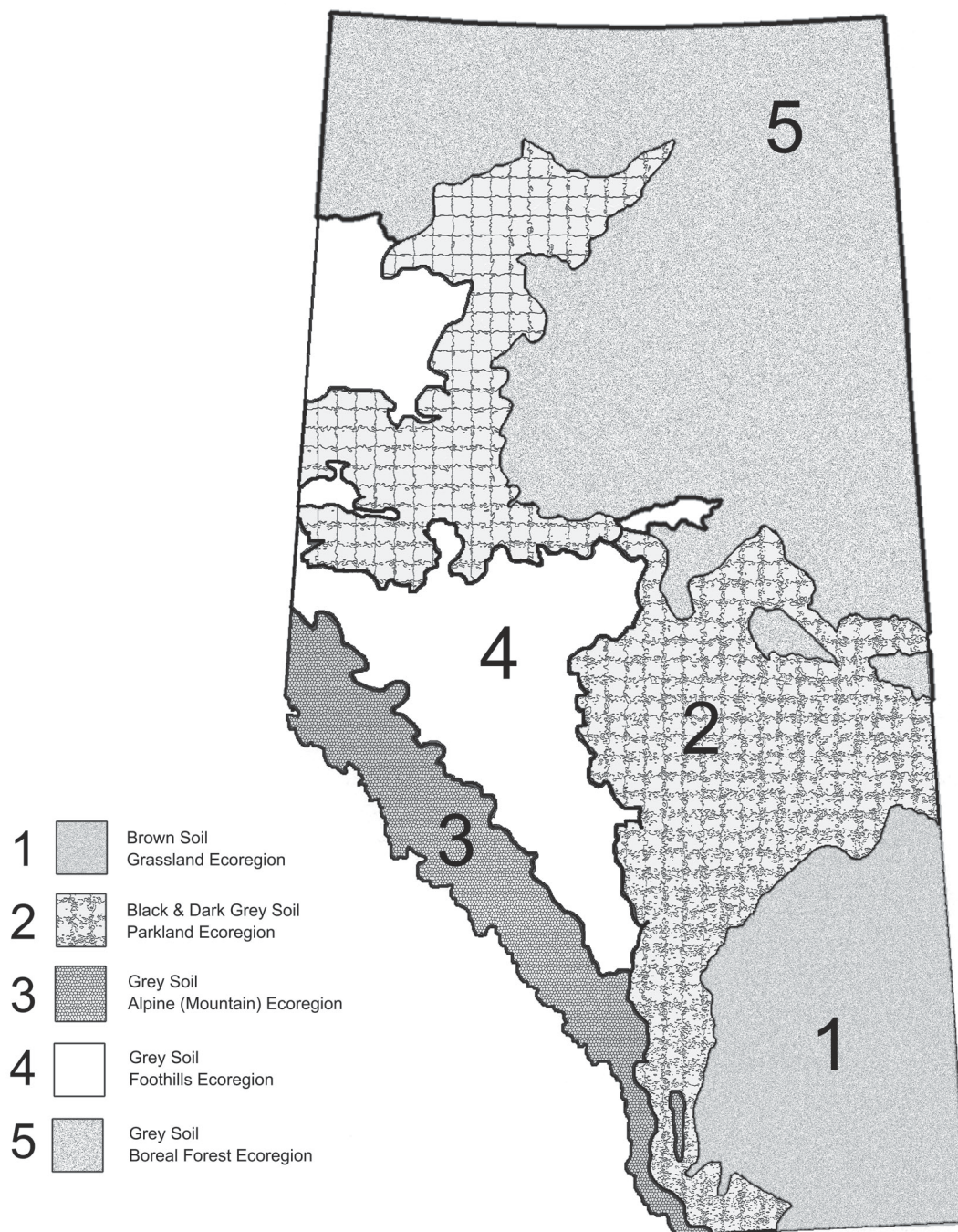
available from:

Agriculture in the Classroom Program
Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Room 201, 7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6
Phone: (780) 427-2171 / Fax: (780) 422-7755

*Original lesson idea by Harold Rands
Modifications by AITC*

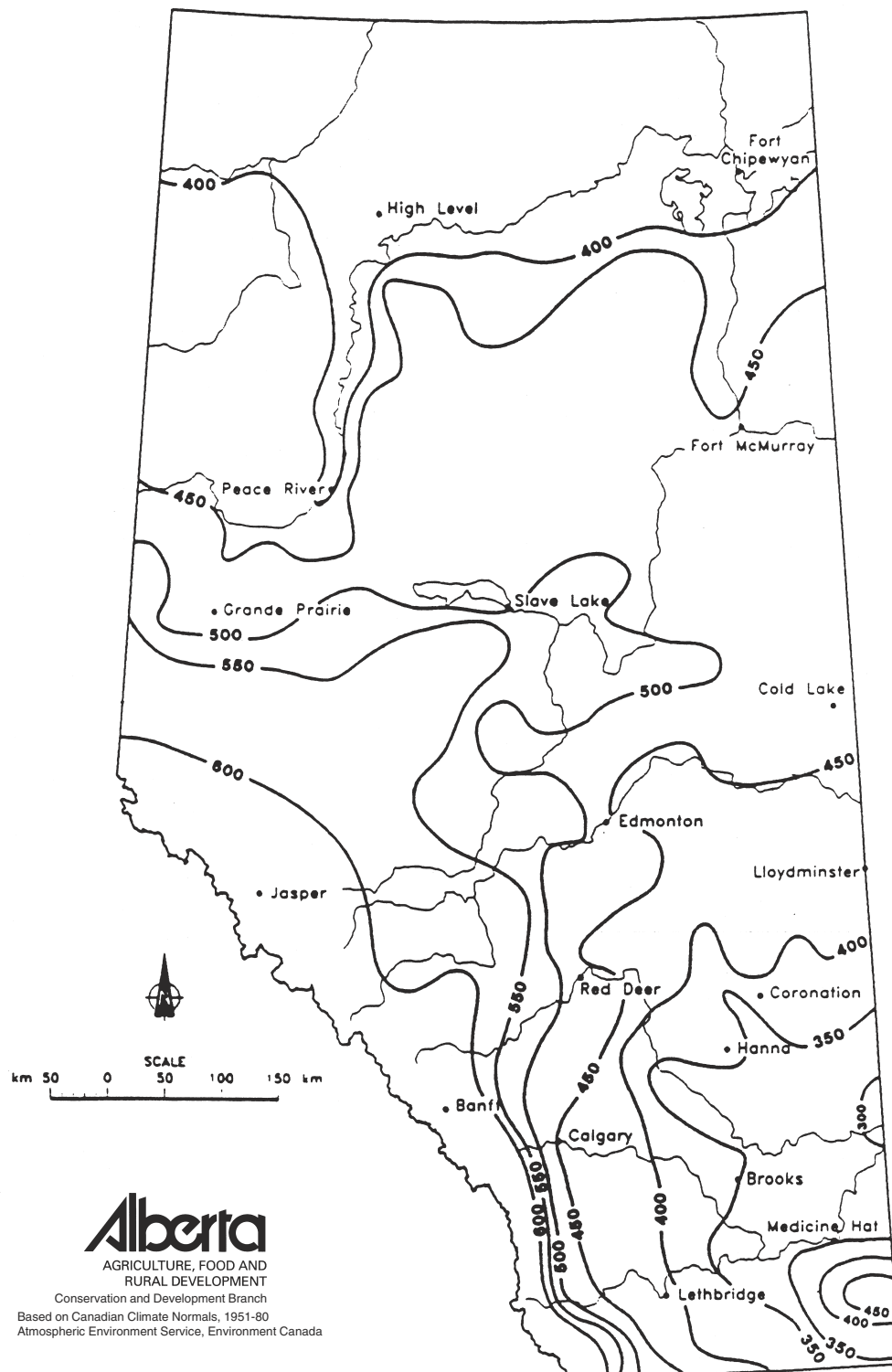
Student Resource Sheet #1

Map of Alberta - Soil Zones & Ecoregions



Student Resource Sheet #2

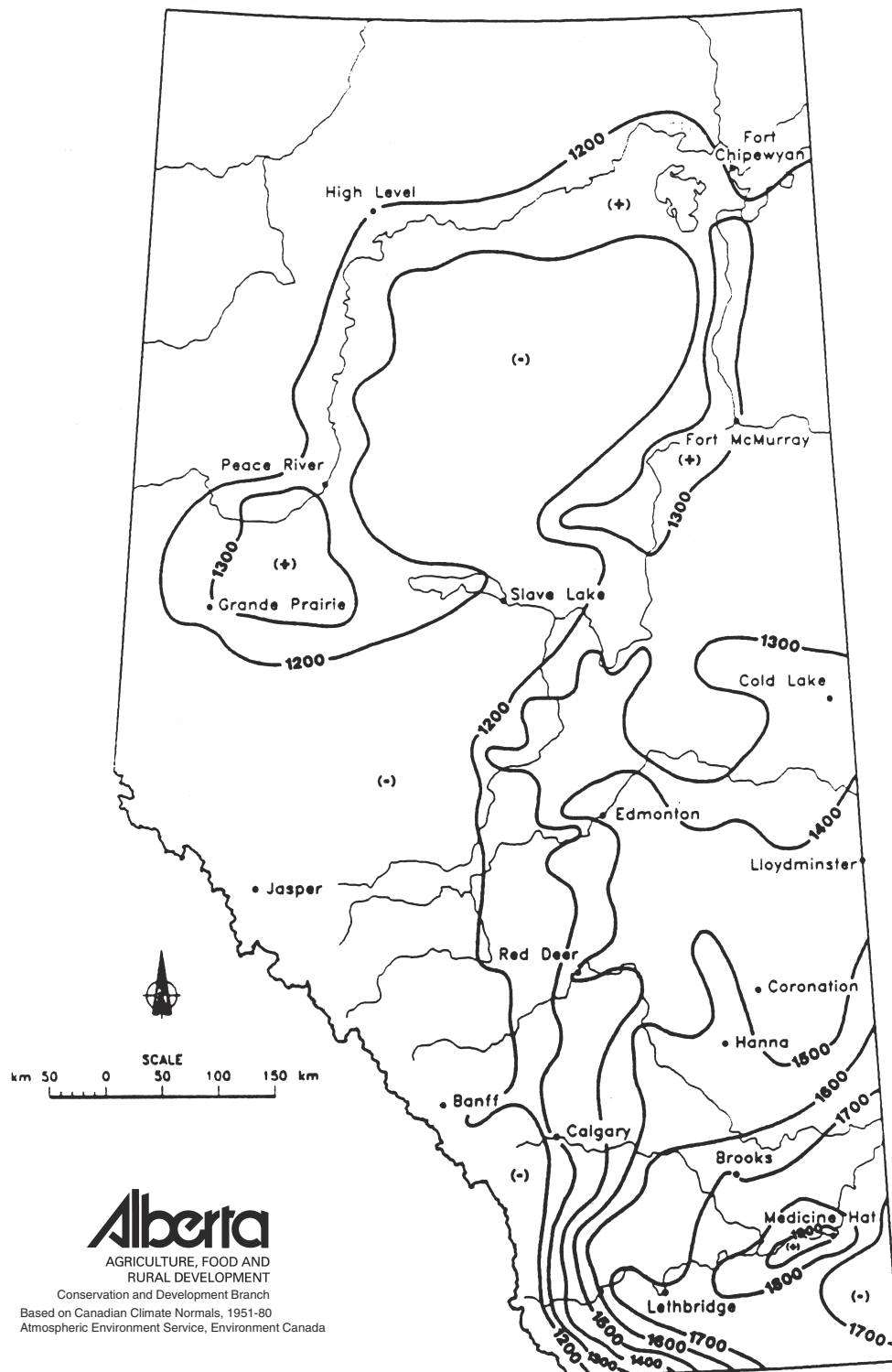
Map of Alberta - Precipitation



Annual total precipitation (mm) 1951-80

Student Resource Sheet #3

Map of Alberta - Frost-Free Days



Annual total degree - days above 5°C, 1951-80