

Ministry of Education
Secondary Engagement Programme
September 2020

Social Studies

Grade 8

WEEK 10

LESSON ONE (1)

Topic: Communities in Guyana

Sub Topic: People live in different geographical regions (Natural Regions)

Objectives: Students will:

- Define the term natural or geographic region
- Identify the different geographical regions in Guyana
- Describe key features of each Natural region

Concept :

Guyana can be divided into four Natural Regions. In each region the climate, vegetation and way of life of the people are related. The Natural Regions of Guyana are referred to as geographical regions.

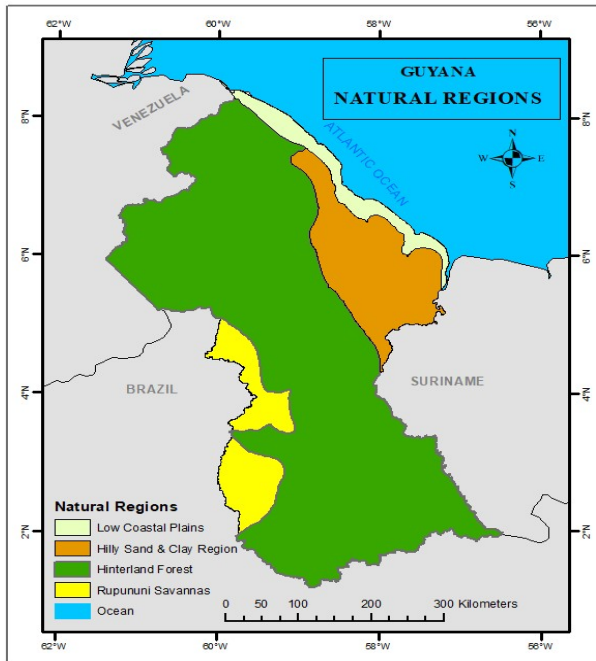
Content

What is a Natural Region?

A natural region is a basic geographic unit. Usually, it is a region which is distinguished by its **common** natural features of geography, geology, and climate. This also means that the buildings, the vegetation and the way of life of people may also be similar.

Guyana is divided into four Natural regions, these are:

- The Low coastal Plain
- The Hilly Sand and Clay Area
- The Forested Highland Region
- The Interior Savannah



Map of Guyana showing Natural regions

Natural Regions of Guyana

The Coastal Plain is below the sea level at high tide. Some parts of it are protected by a massive sea wall. Mangrove, Eta and Courida trees are natural features which help to break the force of the waves, while rip rap, acmons, sand -bags and gabion baskets are man-made features which perform the same function. The purpose of this wall is to keep out the Atlantic Ocean. The soil in this area is a mixture of sand and clay, called loam and is suitable for some types of agriculture. There is a network of drains and canals to drain and irrigate the land. Some crops grown on the coastal plain are rice, sugar cane, coconuts, green vegetables and ground provisions. Small-scale manufacturing is also done on the coastland, e.g. rum, beer, edible oil, aerated drinks and canned juices.

People of the coastal plain are engaged in a number of occupations. Among these are farmers, tradesmen, technicians, builders, engineers, jewellers, mechanics, nurses, teachers, lawyers and doctors.

The Hilly Sand and Clay Region are composed of white and red sands that are used in the construction of roads and buildings. The mining of Bauxite is still important in this region and

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there are also small-scale lumbering and charcoal burning. Pineapples are cultivated and there are some poultry farms.

Like the people on the coastland, those in the sand and clay region are also engaged in community services like education and health care. In this region is found The Cheddi Jagan International Airport. Along the LindenSoesdyke Highway, there are a number of creeks and vegetation, which fascinate tourists.

The Forested Highland Region- This region covers about two-thirds of the area of the country and is the main source of our forest wealth. Logging for local use and for export is very important in this region. Some people live in clearings in the forests. Hunting is one of the main occupations, and maize and cassava are two of the main agricultural crops. Many of the inhabitants of this region are skilled in making baskets, hammocks and fine handicraft for local and foreign markets. Fishing and balata bleeding are activities done by the men. Some of their houses or benabs have thatched roofs.

The Interior Savannah is a tropical grassland with scattered trees. Cattle ranching is the major occupation of the interior savannah. In the Interior Savannah can be found churches, hotels, airstrips, a hospital and government offices. Among the crops planted are cashew, avacado pear, tobacco, cassava and soya. Meat is obtained from cows, deer and sheep. The tourists find the giant anthills, the extensive mountains and lush vegetation very attractive.

ACTIVITY

Answer the following questions:

1. What is a natural region?
2. Name the natural regions of Guyana
3. Draw a map of Guyana and insert the following :
 - the natural region that you live
 - its main resources
 - its main towns and important places
4. What type of soil are found in the natural region that you live in?
5. What types of crops are grown in the soil listed above

HOME WORK

- Research and write one paragraph each on the other three natural regions.

REFERENCE

1. Ministry of education Teacher's guide grade 8 pages 75 and 76
2. Ministry of Education Curriculum Guide grade 8 page 9

Ministry of Education
Secondary Engagement Programme
September 2020

Social Studies

Grade 8

3. New Horizons in Social Studies book 2 pages 20 to 22
4. <https://www.guyanaembassy-kuwait.com/tourism/>