

Forest Biodiversity

Scavenger hunt answers



Explore the museum to discover more about forest biodiversity.

Hint: Not all of the answers can be found in the exhibits!

Tetrapods:

Porcupines can be found in Canadian forests. Name one of the other animals on display that has independently evolved porcupine-like spines.

Echidna or hedgehog

What are different about these spines from porcupine spines?

The shape and structure is different - encourage specific observations.

Herbarium:

Find three different plants that are part of a forest ecosystem that fulfil each of the following roles. How do they do their forest job?

Decomposer: **Shelf fungi - recycle dead wood (cabinet 36.13)**

Make food for other organisms: **Salal - berries in understory of forest**

Provide a home for other organisms: **Conifers - large trees with sheltered branches.**

Add in another ecosystem role:

Provides Oxygen; **All green plants photosynthesize**

***Note: there are many answers for each category.**

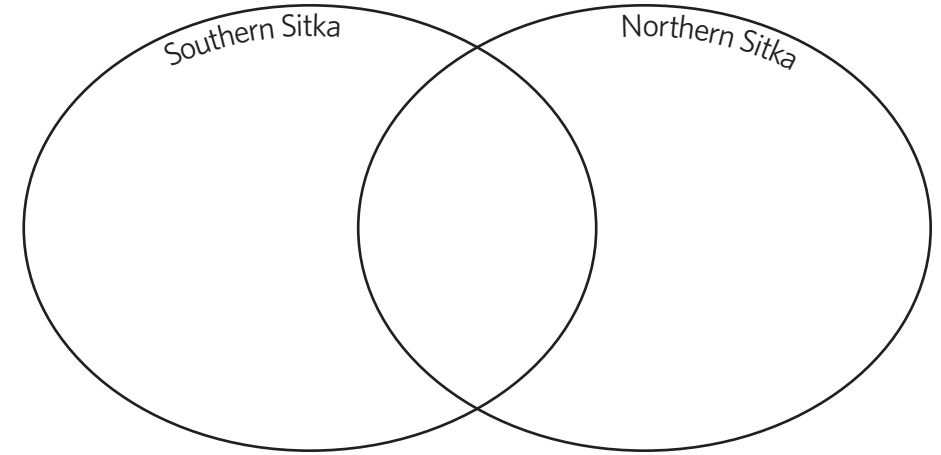
Name two ways that humans depend on forest biodiversity:

1: **Food**

2: **Shelter and building materials.**

Sitka spruce trees grow in Southern and Northern BC. Compare the two groups of Sitkas. Why do you think they are they different?

Helps them to live most effectively in very different habitats.



Fish:

Find the salmon on display.

Though salmon live in the water, they play a vital role in BC forests by fertilizing forest soil. How do they get into the forest from their streams?

After salmon spawn, they die. Many bears eat these fish (cabinet 41.09)

Fossils:

What type of plants made up forests in the Carboniferous time period?

Ferns (cabinet 51.24)

Find a fossil from a prehistoric forest. What is it?

Answers will vary

Discovery Zone:

Find the large tree cross-section on display. Before you read the labels, guess how old the tree was:

What is its actual age? **775 years old**